



AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS

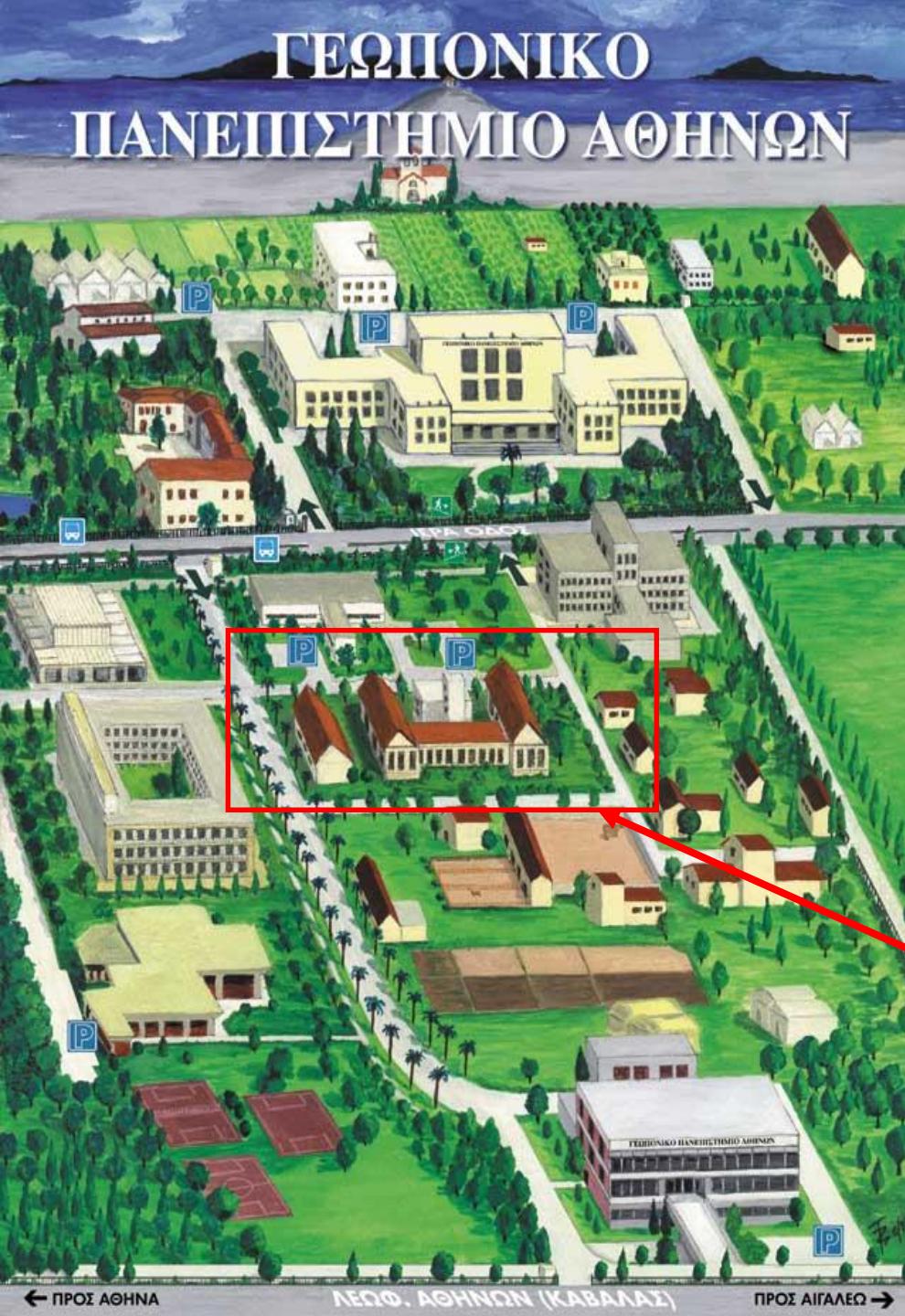
## **Assessing the safety of dairy streptococci beyond *Streptococcus thermophilus* based on recent genomic evidence for the *Streptococcus bovis/Streptococcus equinus* complex**

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# ΓΕΩΠΟΝΙΚΟ ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ



Agricultural University of Athens



Department of Food Science and  
Human Nutrition

Laboratory  
of Dairy Research

## **Laying the background: Fermented foods and Microorganisms**

- **Traditional Fermented products**
  - “**Spontaneous**” fermentation
  - “**Back-Slopping**”: Fermented product to fresh raw material
- **New Technology (Today’s industrial products)**
  - **Use of Starter Cultures** : well-defined, single or multi-species microbial populations added directly to the raw material to carry the necessary fermentation that would result in the “best” possible product

**BUT WHERE DO WE FIND STARTER CULTURES???**

# Laying the background: Fermented foods and Microorganisms



Fermenting ecosystem



Fermented dairies



Experimental dairy production

Selection of  
novel starter  
cultures

## Basic Research

- Taxonomy
- metabolism
- physiology
- genetics and genomics
- bioinformatics

## Technological properties

- flavour bio-generation
- bio-texturant molecule development
- bio-preservative molecule production (bacteriocins)
- probiotics

## **Laying the background: Fermented foods and Microorganisms**

- **The ACA-DC Collection of Microorganisms was established in 1987 by Prof. George Kalantzopoulos**

### **The Mission**

**...to systematically explore and preserve the microbial diversity  
of Greek traditional foods...**

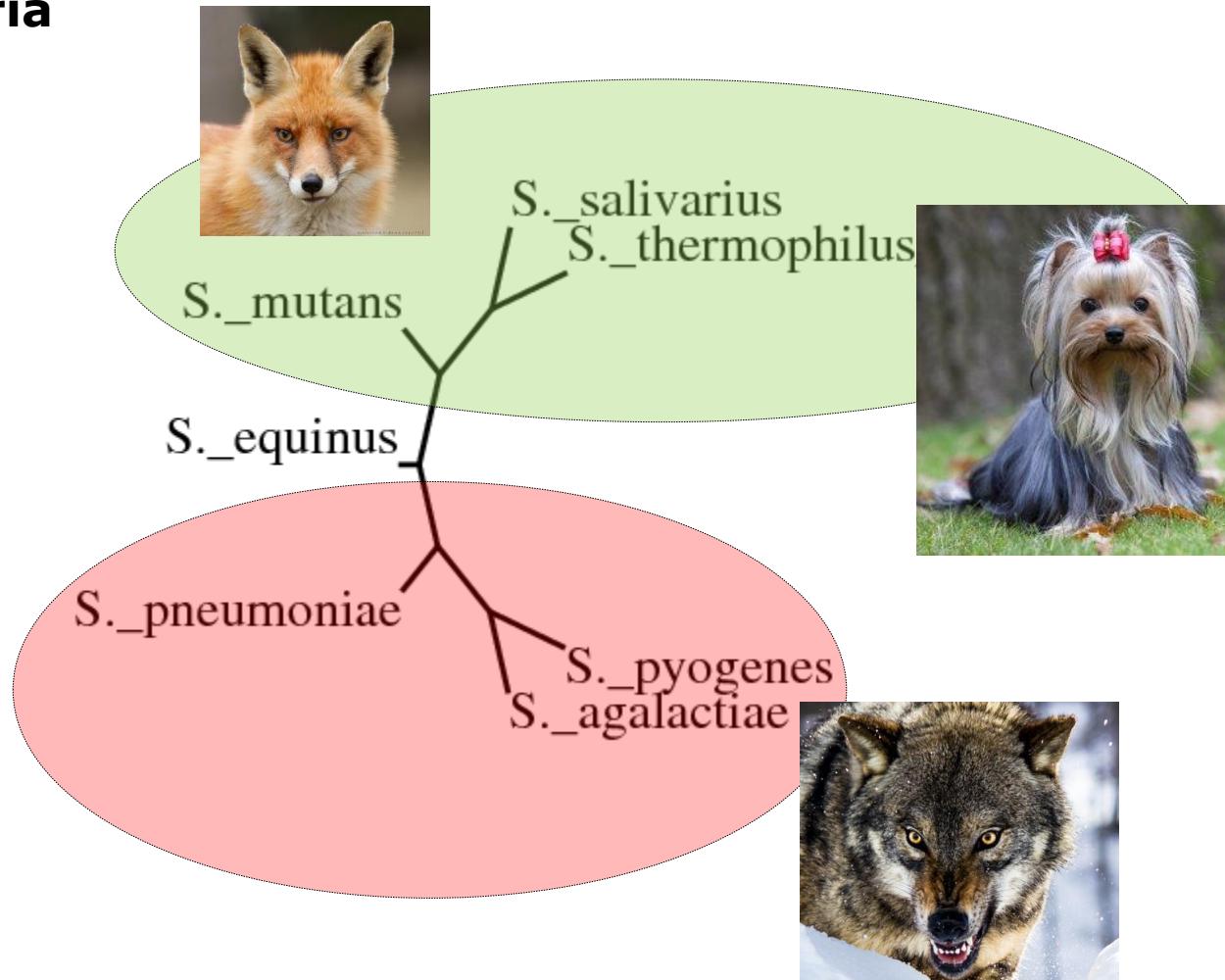
- **More than 1000 holdings,  
mainly lactic acid bacteria (LAB)  
mainly from dairy products**

## Laying the background: Fermented foods and Microorganisms

- **Lactic Acid Bacteria:** Gram-positive, low-GC, rods or cocci, non-sporulating, catalase-negative, aerotolerant but not aerophilic and they produce lactic acid as the major metabolic end-product of carbohydrate fermentation
  - **Carnobacterium**
  - **Enterococcus**
  - **Lactococcus**
  - **Lactobacillus**
  - **Lactosphaera**
  - **Leuconostoc**
  - **Oenococcus**
  - **Pediococcus**
  - **Streptococcus** ←
  - **Teragenococcus**
  - **Vagococcus**
  - **Weissella**

## Laying the background: Pathogenicity within the *Streptococcus* genus and *Streptococcus thermophilus*

- The *Streptococcus* genus is a food-related genus within lactic acid bacteria



# Laying the background: Pathogenicity within the *Streptococcus* genus and *Streptococcus thermophilus*

- Domestication of *S. thermophilus*



Ancestor A

???

→ →



Ancestor B



*S. thermophilus*



65-23x  $10^6$  B.C.  
Paleocene



10,000 B.C.  
Neolithic

Papadimitriou et al. COFS 2015

## Laying the background: Pathogenicity within the *Streptococcus* genus and *Streptococcus thermophilus*

- Evolutionary traits of adaptation in milk of *Streptococcus thermophilus*
  - i. 10% pseudogenes (degenerative evolution process)
  - ii. diminished number of biosynthetic capabilities
  - iii. loss of genes related to pathogenicity
  - iv. acquisition of genes related to technological traits

Bolotin et al. Nat Biotechnol 2004

Hols et al. FEMS Microbiol Rev 2005

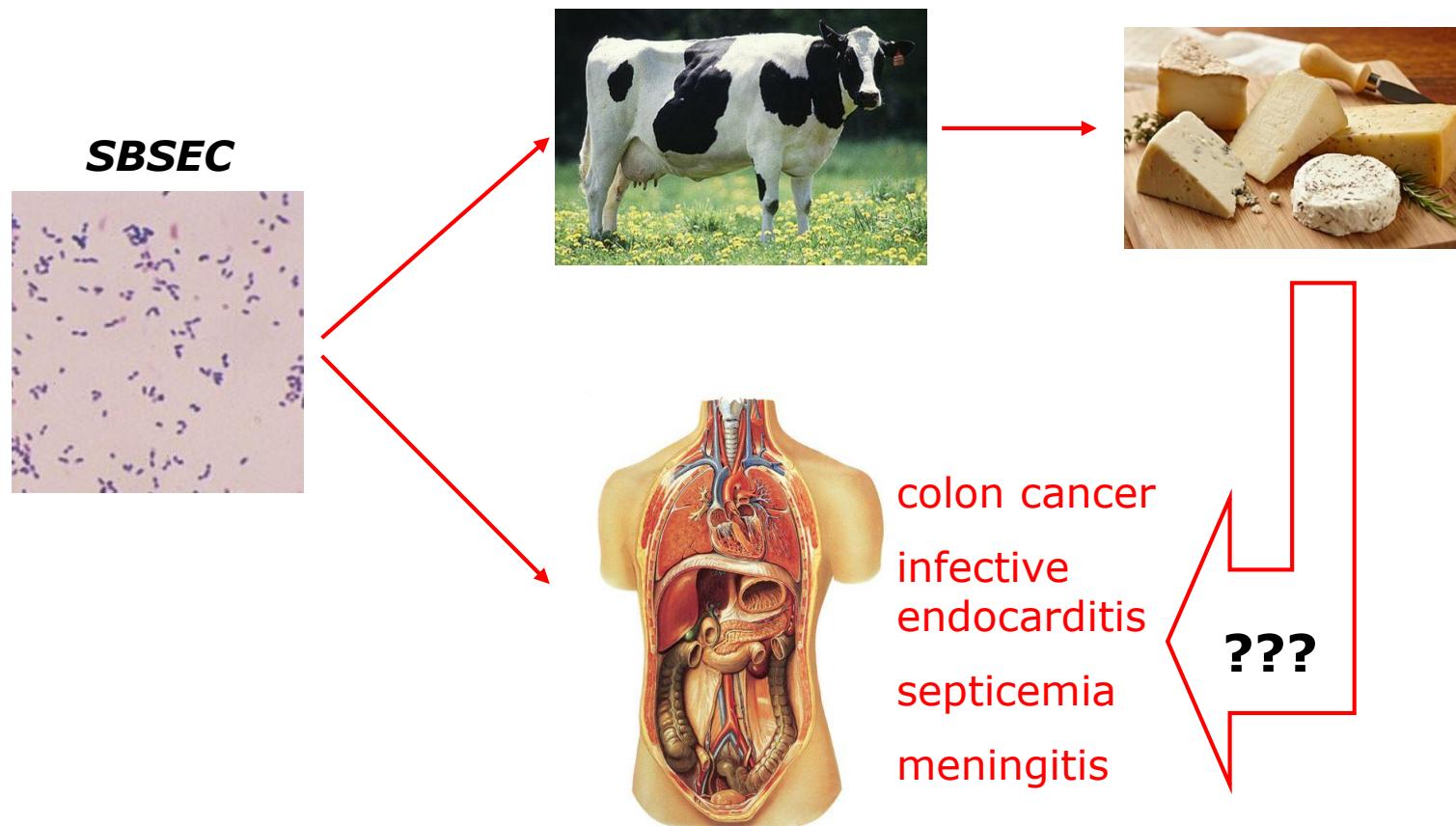
Papadimitriou et al. COFS 2015

- However, *S. thermophilus* is not the only streptococcal species found in fermented food especially of dairy origin...

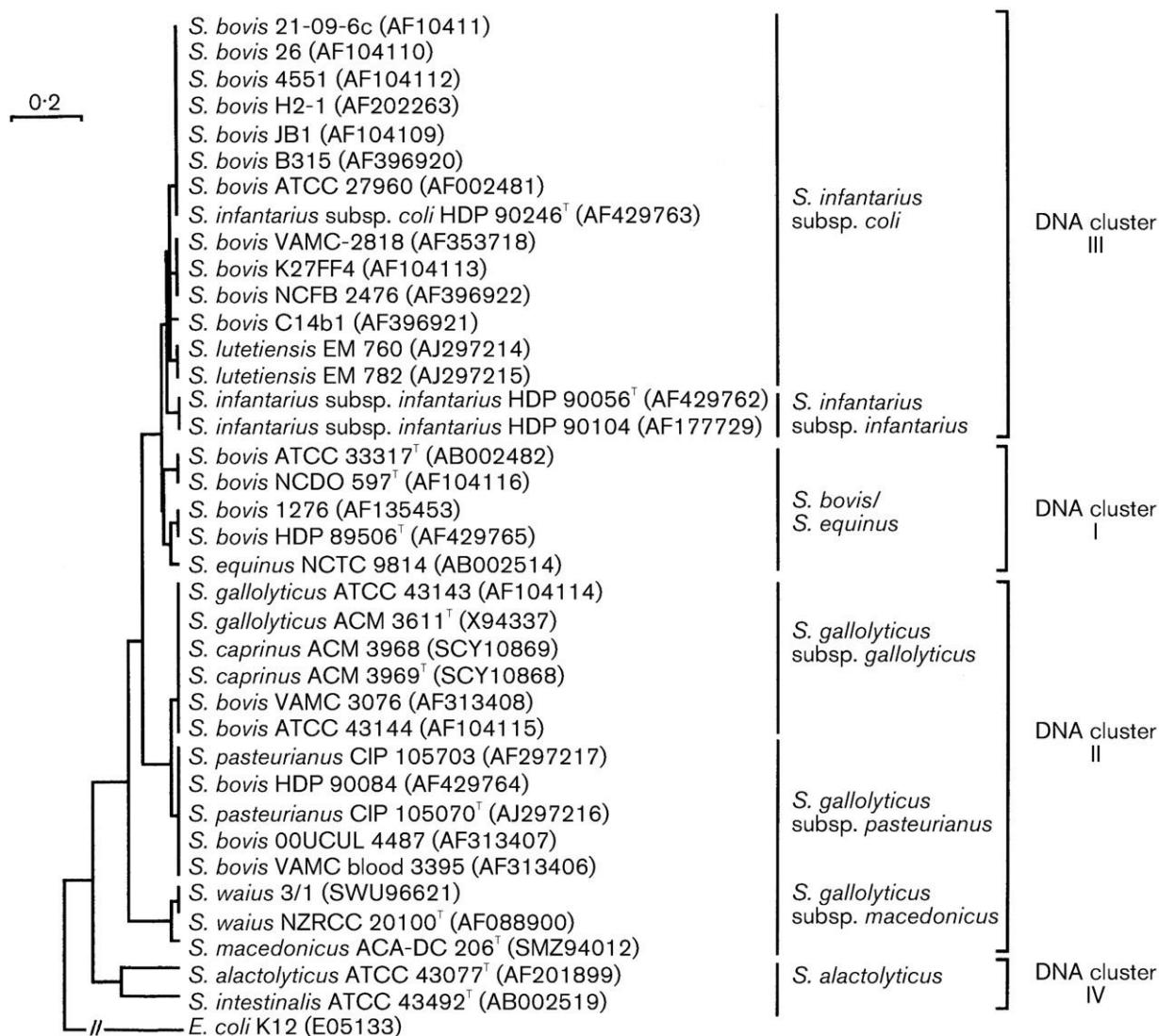


## Sequencing the genome of *S. macedonicus* ACA-DC 198

- Streptococci that can be found growing in milk belong to the *Streptococcus bovis/Streptococcus equinus* complex (SBSEC)



# Laying the background: The *S. bovis*/*S. equinus* (SBSEC) complex



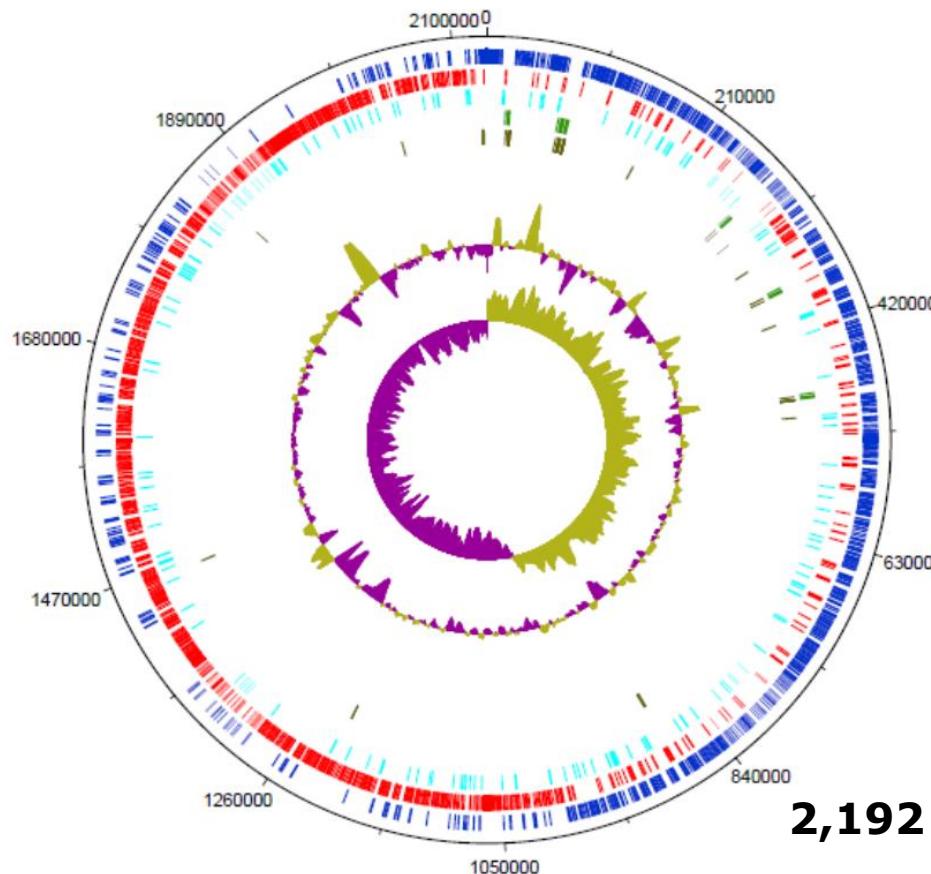
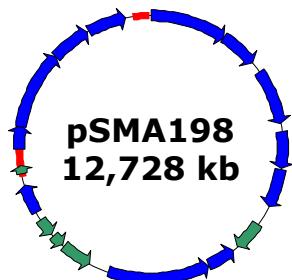
## Sequencing the genome of *S. macedonicus* ACA-DC 198

- *Streptococcus macedonicus* which was originally isolated and characterized from traditional Greek Kasseri cheese belongs to the SBSEC (Tsakalidou et al. Int J Syst Bacteriol. 1998) and seems to have milk and dairy products as its primary ecological niche (De Vuyst and Tsakalidou Int Dairy J. 2008).
- The close phylogenetic relationship of *S. macedonicus* with pathogenic species of the SBSEC like *S. gallolyticus* and *S. pasteurianus* according to current taxonomy raises concern about the safety of the species

The aim of this work was to sequence the complete genome of the dairy isolate *S. macedonicus* ACA-DC 198 in order to assess *in silico* the pathogenic potential of the species and its potential adaptation to the milk environment

# Sequencing the genome of *S. macedonicus* ACA-DC 198

- Genome map of *S. macedonicus*



**2,192 protein coding genes  
192 potential pseudogenes**

**18 rRNA genes**

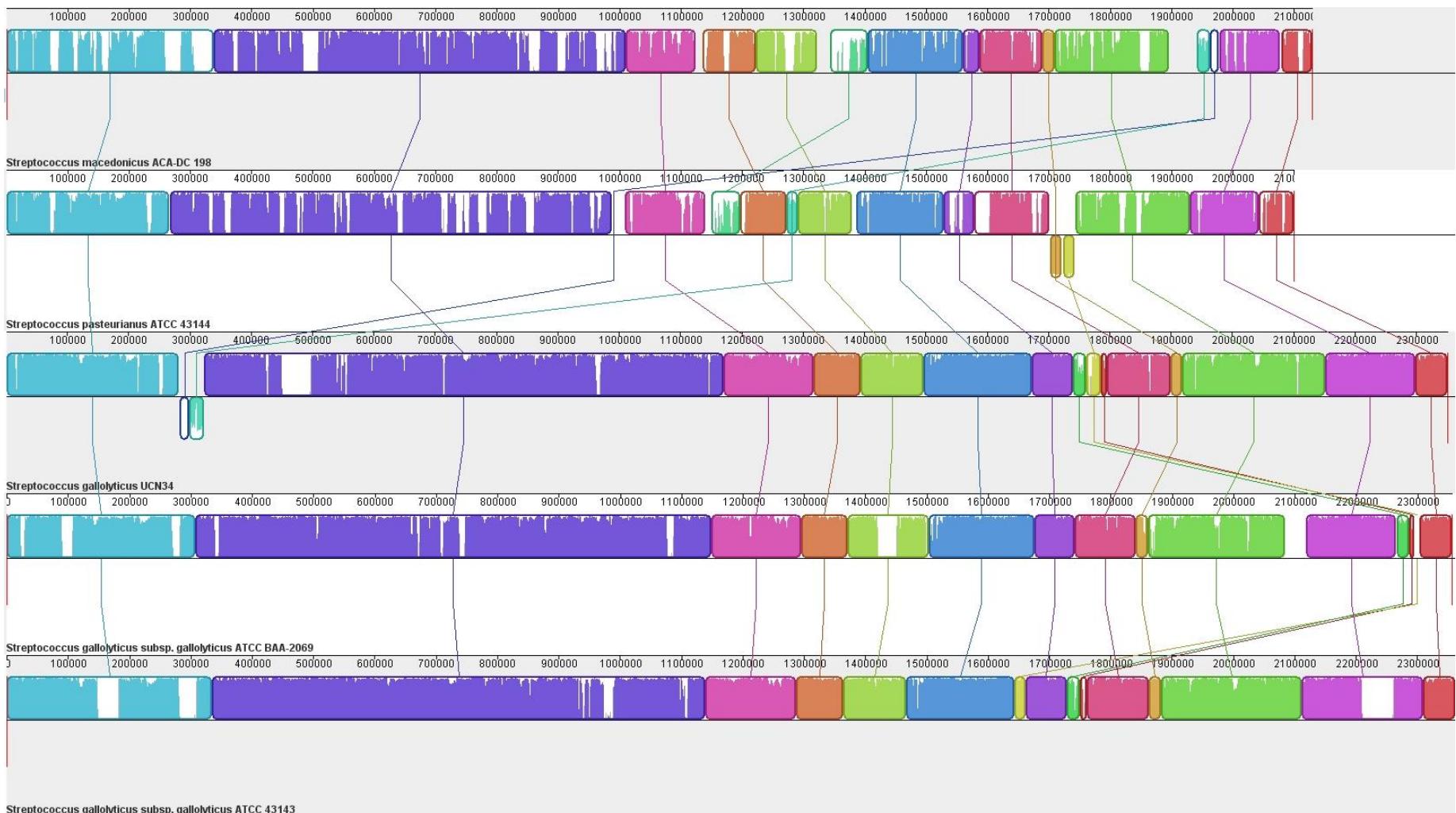
**70 tRNA genes**

## **Comparative genomics of *S. macedonicus* ACA-DC 198 against related species within the *S. bovis/S. equinus* complex**

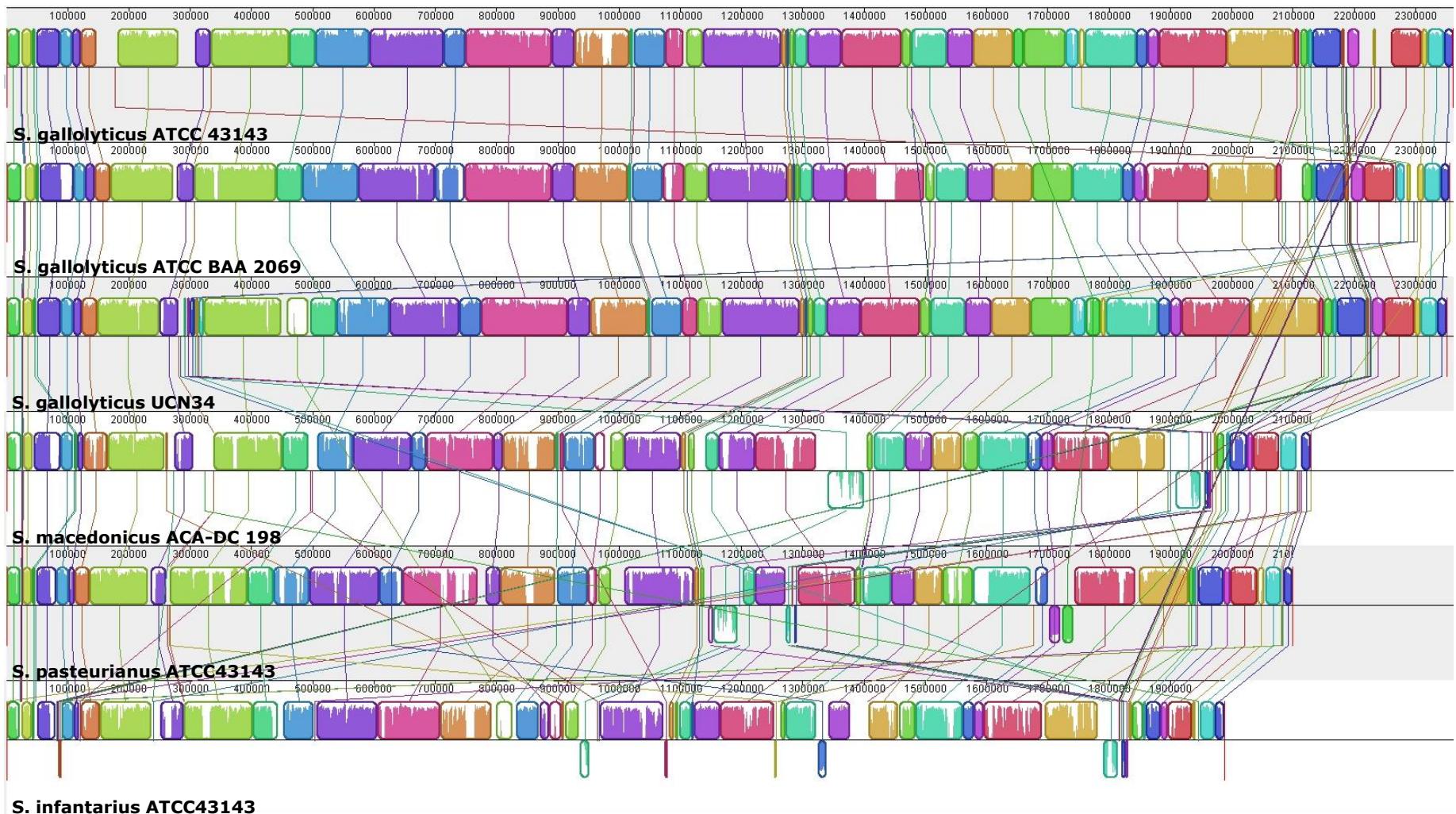
**In the SBSEC there are currently five additional complete genome sequences available:**

- S. gallolyticus* UCN34 (human blood)
- S. gallolyticus* ATCC BAA 2069 (human blood)
- S. gallolyticus* ATCC 43143 (human blood)
- S. pasteurianus* ATCC 43144 (human blood)
- S. infantarius* CJ18 (suusac fermented camel milk)

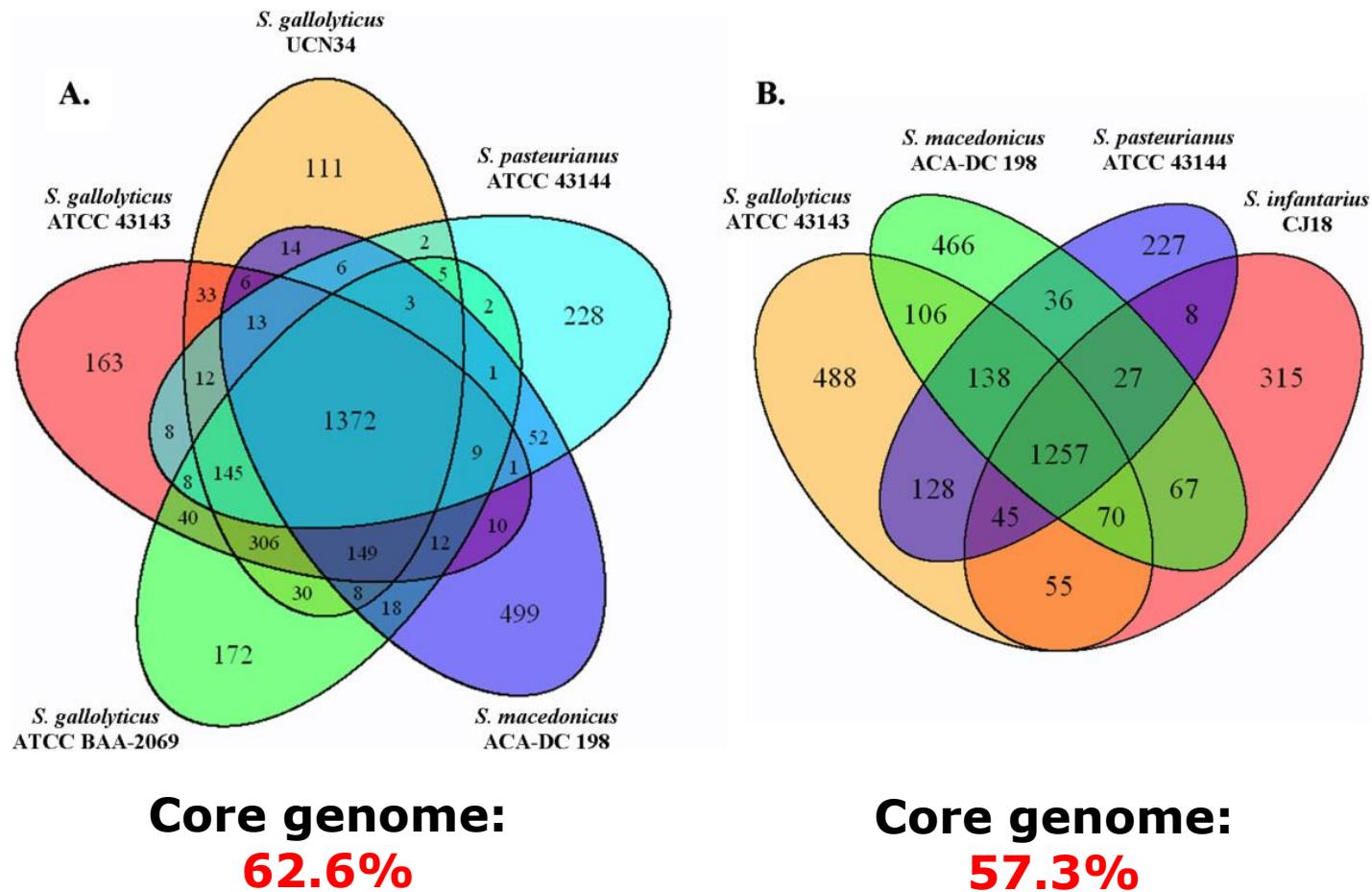
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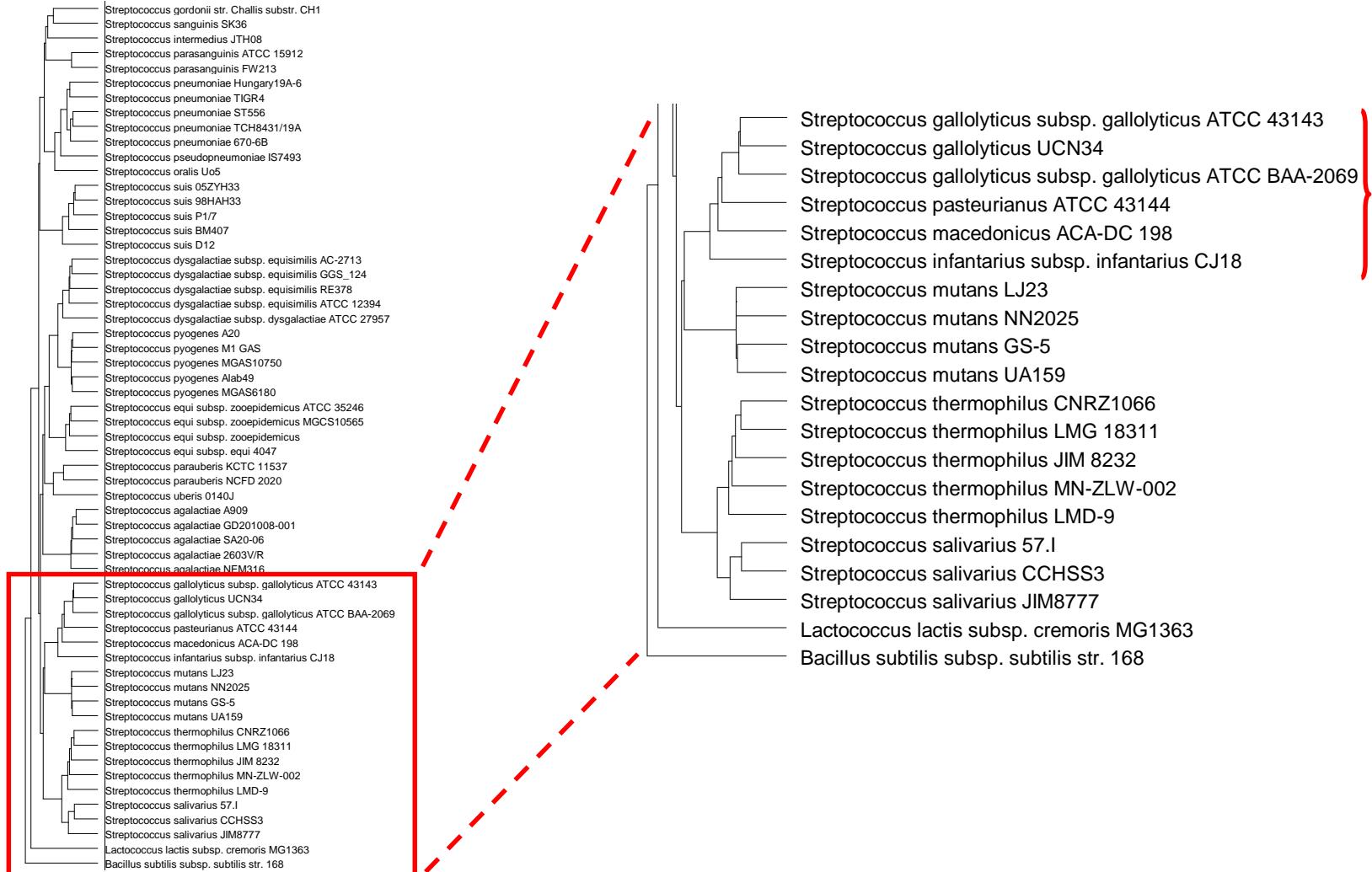
# Comparative genomics of *S. macedonicus* ACA-DC 198 against related species within the *S. bovis/S. equinus* complex



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# Comparative genomics of *S. macedonicus* ACA-DC 198 against related species within the *S. bovis/S. equinus* complex



# Comparative genomics of *S. macedonicus* ACA-DC 198 against related species within the *S. bovis/S. equinus* complex

- **Some additional characteristics of the genomes under investigation**

Species	Genome size (Mb)	No. of protein coding genes	No. of potential pseudogenes/ (% percentage)
<i>S. gallolyticus</i> ATCC BAA 2069	2.35	2329	nr*/(nr)
<i>S. gallolyticus</i> ATCC 43143	2.36	2287	41(1.8)
<i>S. gallolyticus</i> UCN34	2.35	2251	28/(1.2)
<i>S. macedonicus</i> ACA-DC 198	2.13	2192	192/(8.7)
<i>S. pasteurianus</i> ATCC 43144	2.10	1869	157/(7.7)
<i>S. infantarius</i> CJ18	1.98	1964	nr/(4.6)

\* not reported

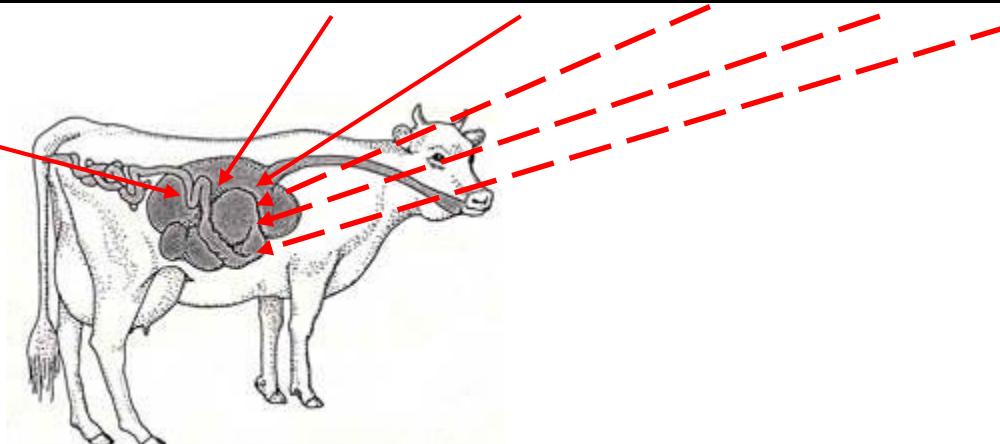
**1. *S. macedonicus*, *S. pasteurianus* and *S. infantarius* genomes are being shaped by selective pressures that favor extensive gene loss events and genome decay processes when compared to the *S. gallolyticus* genome**

**2. This property (i.e. genome decay) has been linked to the adaptation of bacteria to rich in nutrients environments as in the case of *S. thermophilus* adaptation to the milk environment**

# Comparative genomics of *S. macedonicus* ACA-DC 198 against related species within the *S. bovis/S. equinus* complex

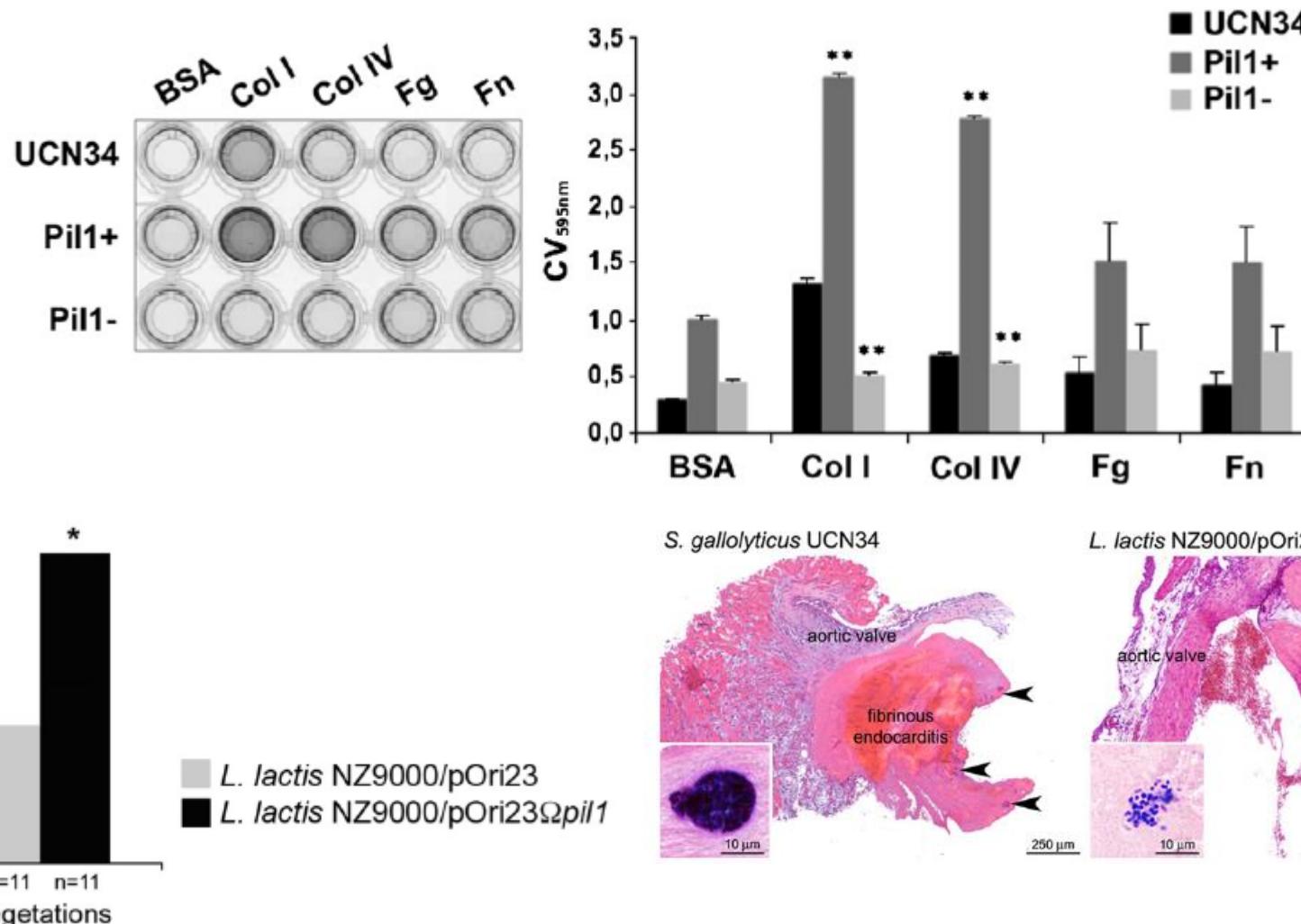
- Niche-specific genes presence/absence**

<i>S. gallolyticus</i> UCN 34 locus_tag	gene	function	<i>S. gallolyticus</i> ATCC BAA 2069	<i>S. gallolyticus</i> ATCC 43143	<i>S. macedonicus</i> ACA-DC 198	<i>S. pasteurianus</i> ATCC 43144	<i>S. infantarius</i> CJ18
gallo_0112	fruA	fructan hydrolase	✓	✓	-	-	-
gallo_0330	-	beta-1,4-endoglucanase (cellulase)	✓	✓	-	-	-
gallo_0757	-	$\alpha$ -amylase	✓	✓	-	-	-
gallo_0162	-	mannase	✓	✓	-	-	-
gallo_0189	-	endo-beta-1,4-galactanase	✓	✓	pseudo	✓	pseudo
gallo_1577	-	pectate lyase	✓	✓	✓	pseudo	✓
gallo_1578	-	pectate lyase	✓	✓	✓	pseudo	✓
gallo_1632	amyE	$\alpha$ -amylase	✓	✓	✓	pseudo	✓
gallo_0933	tanA	tanins degradation	✓	✓	-	-	-
gallo_1609	similar to tanA	tanins degradation	✓	✓	-	-	-
gallo_2106	padC	gallic acid decarboxylation	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
gallo_0906		gallic acid decarboxylation	✓	✓	-	✓	-
gallo_0818	bsh	bile salt hydrolase	✓	✓	pseudo	✓	✓



# Comparative genomics of *S. macedonicus* ACA-DC 198 against related species within the *S. bovis/S. equinus* complex

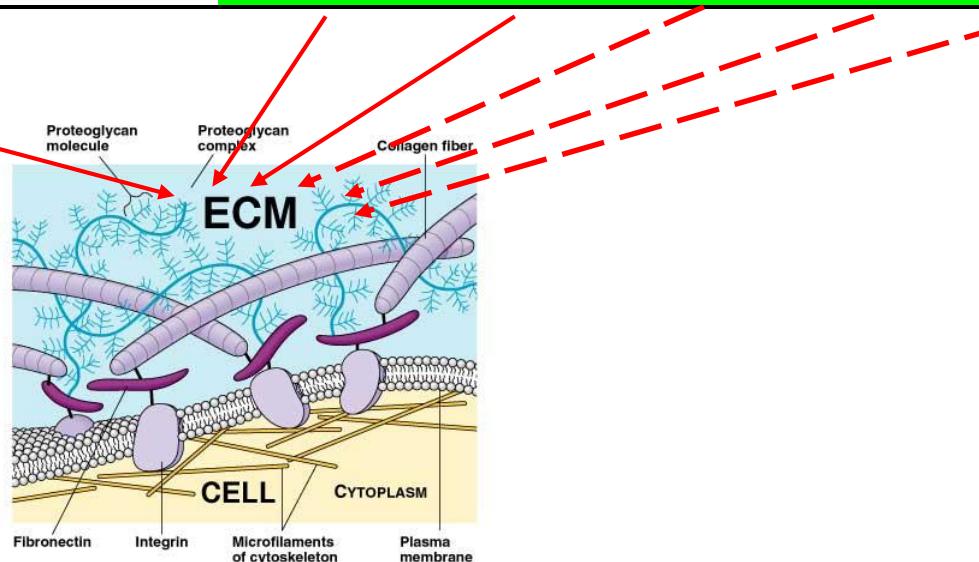
- **Pathogenicity genes presence/absence**



# Comparative genomics of *S. macedonicus* ACA-DC 198 against related species within the *S. bovis/S. equinus* complex

- Virulence genes presence/absence**

<i>S. gallolyticus</i> UCN 34 locus_tag	gene	function	<i>S. gallolyticus</i> ATCC BAA 2069	<i>S. gallolyticus</i> ATCC 43143	<i>S. macedonicus</i> ACA-DC 198	<i>S. pasteurianus</i> ATCC 43144	<i>S. infantarius</i> CJ18
gallo_2179	-	accessory pilin (pil1)	✓	✓	-	-	-
gallo_2178	-	major pilin (pil1)	✓	✓	-	-	-
gallo_2177	-	sortase C (pil1)	✓	✓	-	-	-
gallo_1570	-	accessory pilin (pil2)	✓	✓	-	-	-
gallo_1569	-	major pilin (pil2)	✓	✓	-	-	-
gallo_1568	-	sortase C (pil2)	✓	✓	-	-	-
gallo_2040	-	accessory pilin (pil3)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
gallo_2039	-	major pilin (pil3)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
gallo_2038	-	sortase C (pil3)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



# Comparative genomics of *S. macedonicus* ACA-DC 198 against related species within the *S. bovis/S. equinus* complex

- Virulence genes presence/absence

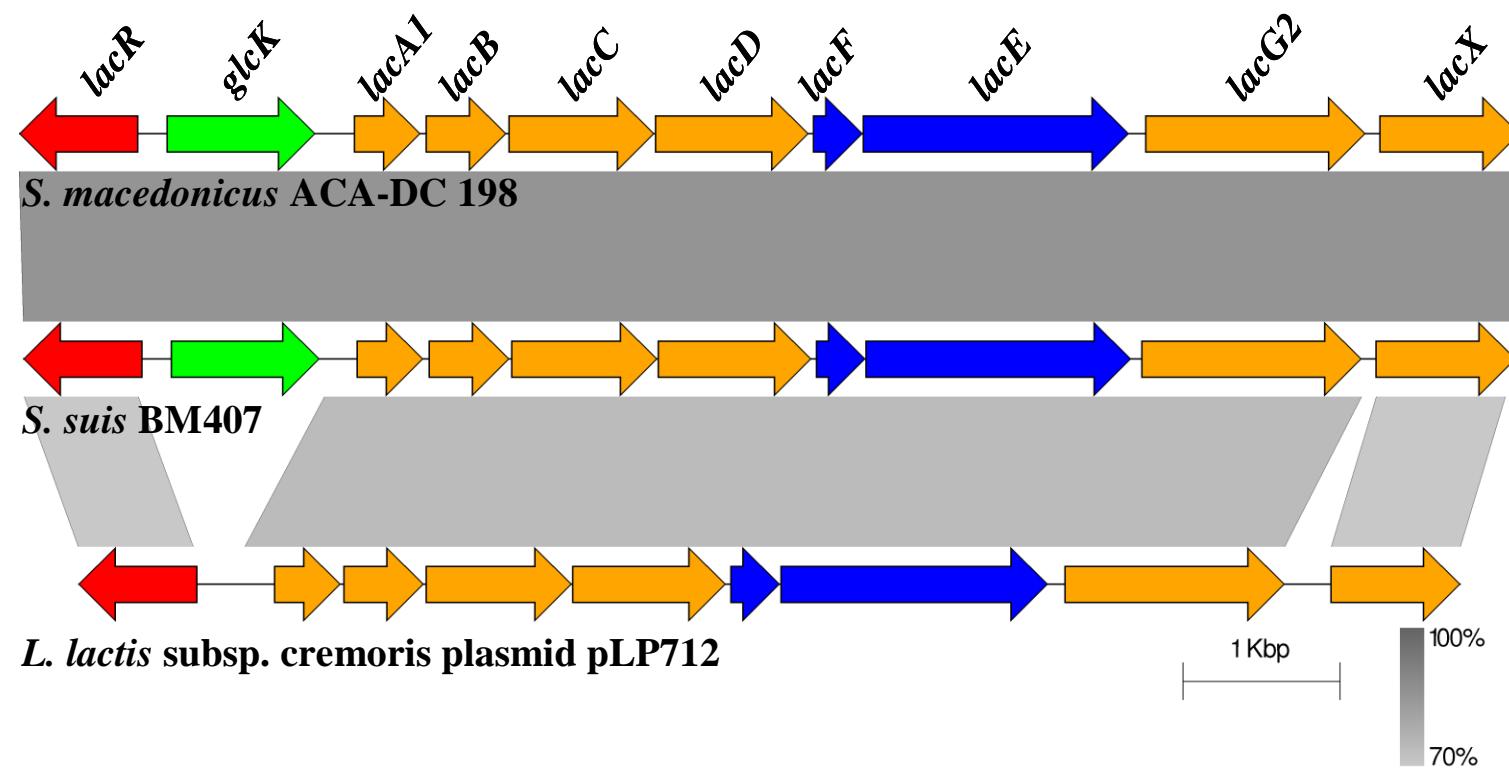
<i>S. gallolyticus</i> UCN 34 locus_tag	gene	function	<i>S. gallolyticus</i> ATCC BAA 2069	<i>S. gallolyticus</i> ATCC 43143	<i>S. macedonicus</i> ACA-DC 198	<i>S. pasteurianus</i> ATCC 43144	<i>S. infantarius</i> CJ18
gallo_0630	-	hemolysin TLY	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
gallo_1262	-	hemolysin III	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
gallo_1799	-	hemolysin A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



Hinse et al. BMC Genomics 2011  
Papadimitriou et al. BMC Genomics 2014

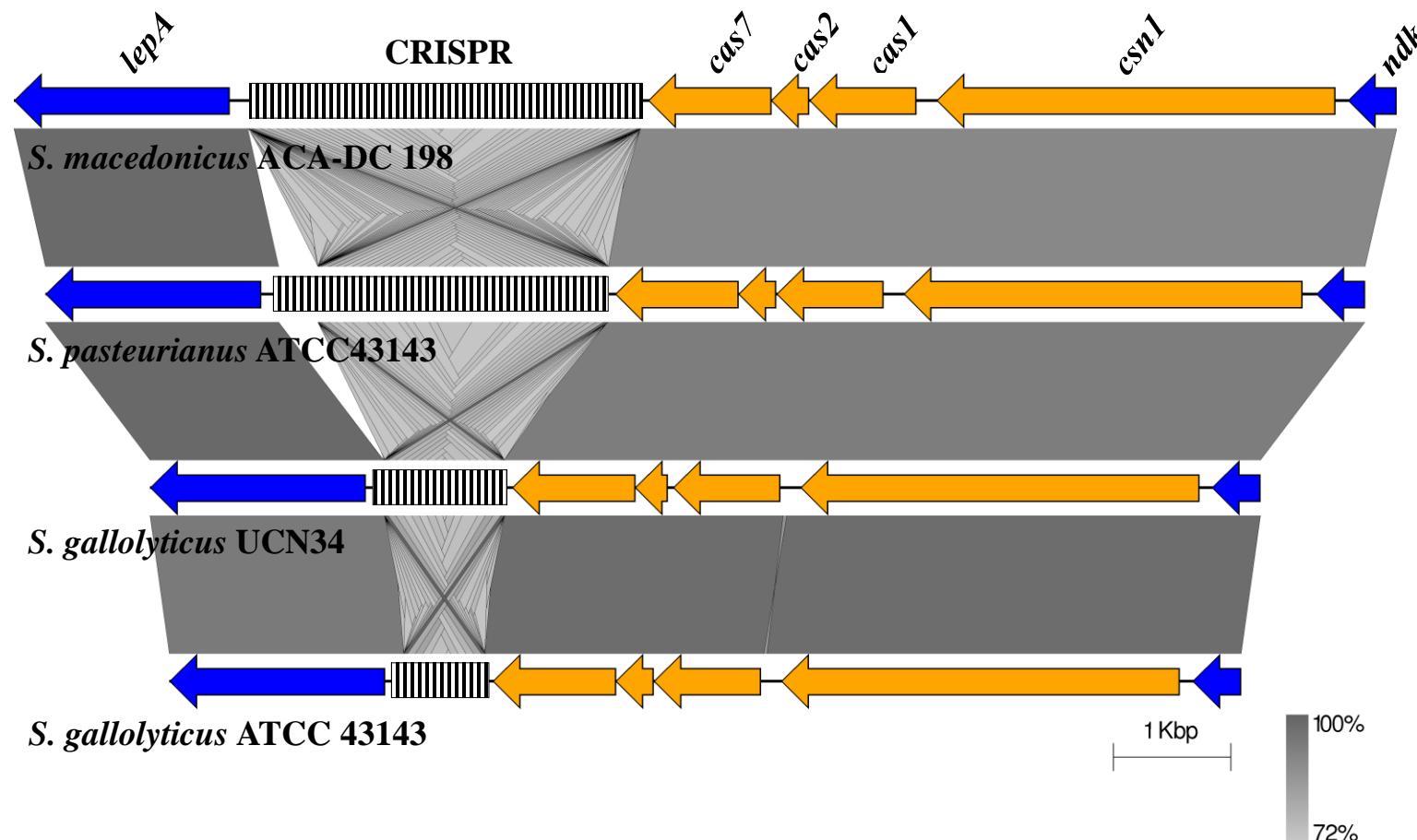
# Comparative genomics of *S. macedonicus* ACA-DC 198 against related species within the *S. bovis/S. equinus* complex

- Traits supporting adaptation to the milk environment



# Comparative genomics of *S. macedonicus* ACA-DC 198 against related species within the *S. bovis/S. equinus* complex

- Traits supporting adaptation to the milk environment

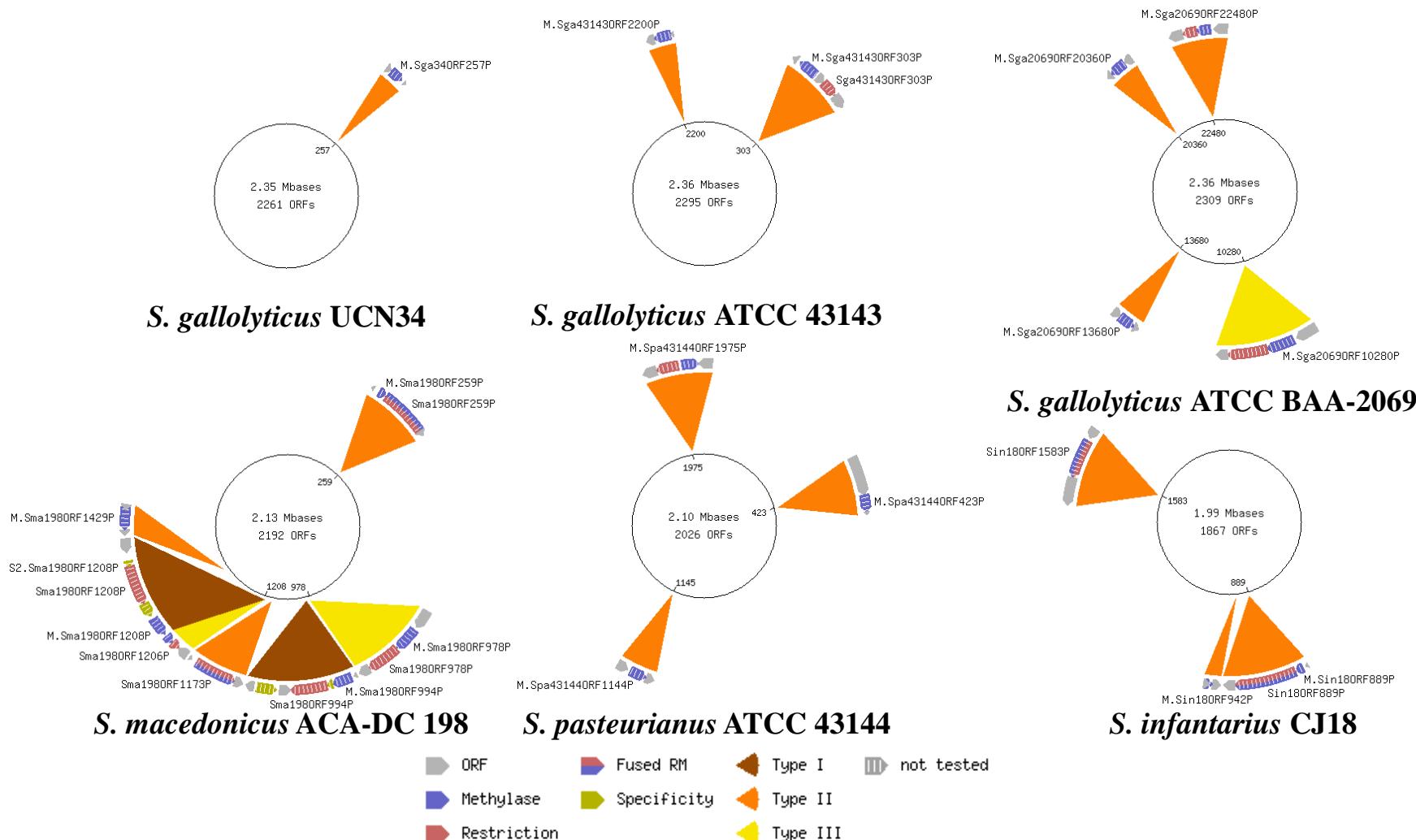


# **Comparative genomics of *S. macedonicus* ACA-DC 198 against related species within the *S. bovis/S. equinus* complex**

- **Traits supporting adaptation to the milk environment**
- **In *S. macedonicus* spacers 3, 5, 17, 46 provide immunity against phages of the dairy *S. thermophilus* and *L. lactis***

# Comparative genomics of *S. macedonicus* ACA-DC 198 against related species within the *S. bovis/S. equinus* complex

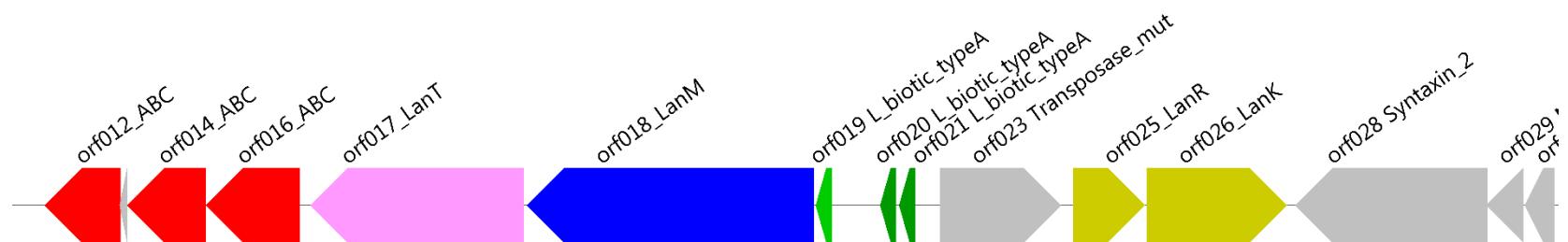
- Traits supporting adaptation to the milk environment



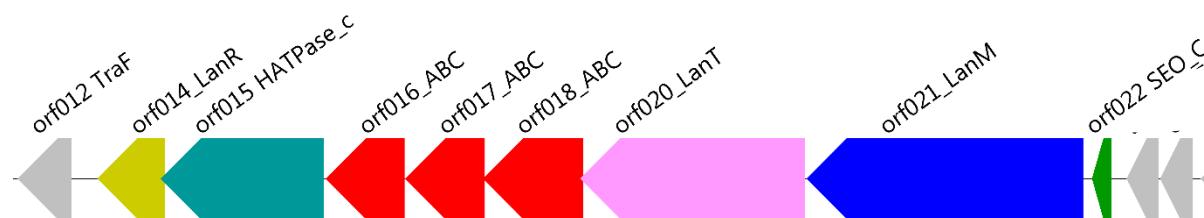
# Comparative genomics of *S. macedonicus* ACA-DC 198 against related species within the *S. bovis/S. equinus* complex

- Traits supporting adaptation to the milk environment

- Macedocin (Papadelli et al. FEMS Microbiol lett. 2007)



- Macedovicin (Georgalaki et al. Food Microbiol. 2013)



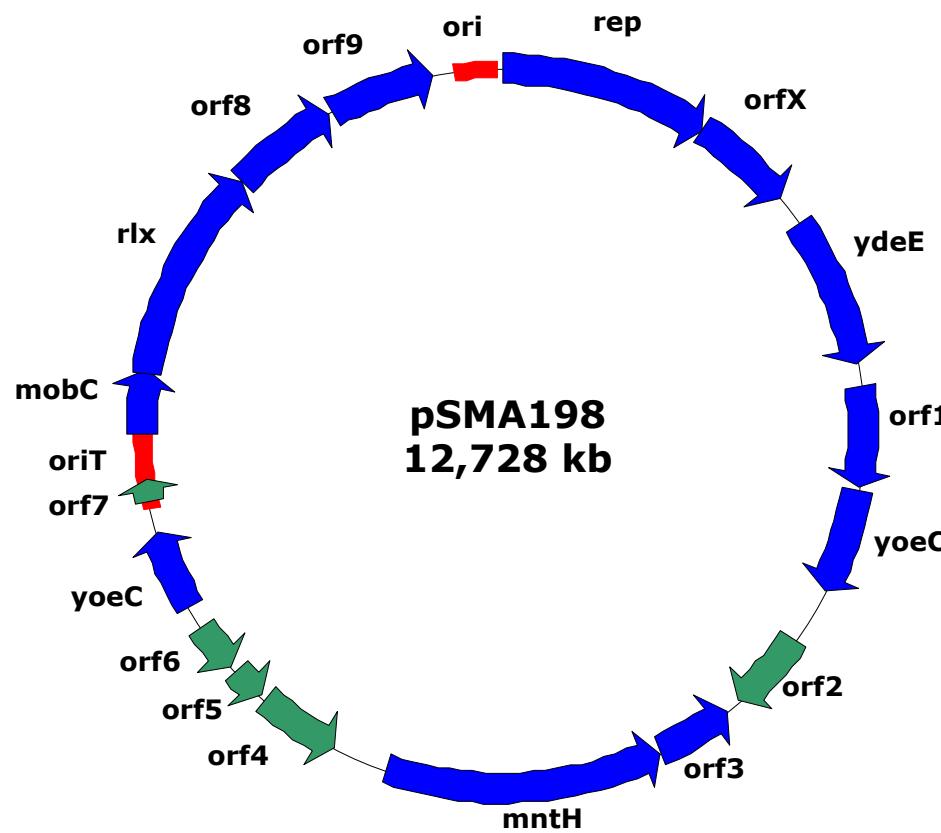
- OpuC (L-carnitine and choline) ABC transporter

# **Comparative genomics of *S. macedonicus* ACA-DC 198 against related species within the *S. bovis/S. equinus* complex**

- **Traits supporting adaptation to the milk environment**
  - **Proteolytic system (no CEP, PepE/PepG, PepI/PepR/PepL)**
  - **Vitamin auxotrophy (e.g. biotin, pantothenate and riboflavin)**

# Analysis of the lactococcal plasmid pSMA198 points towards the habituation of *Streptococcus macedonicus* ACA-DC 198 to the dairy environment

- The presence of plasmid pSMA198 in *Streptococcus macedonicus* provided us with unexpected clues about the habituation of the species to the milk environment!!!

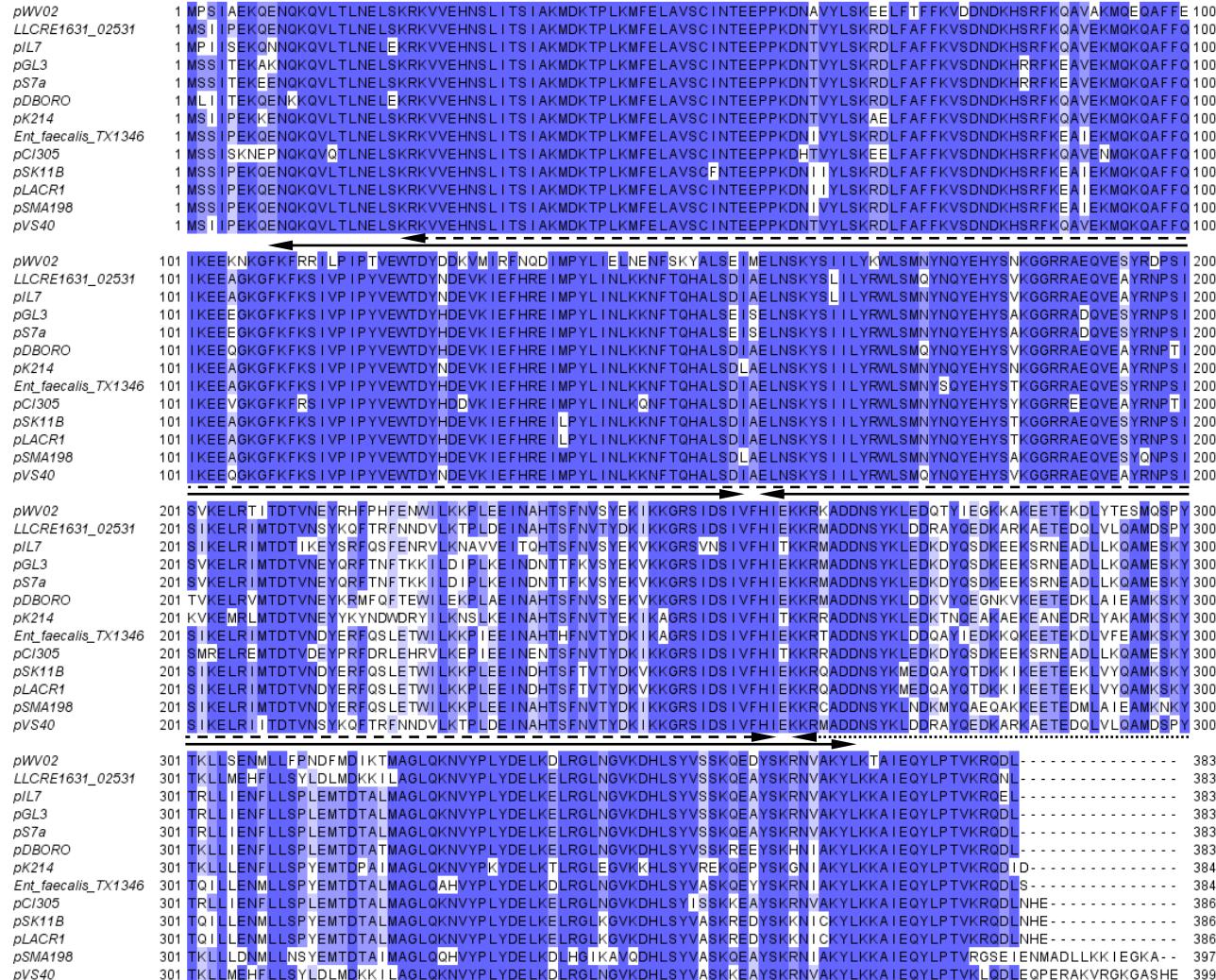


# Analysis of the lactococcal plasmid pSMA198 points towards the habituation of *Streptococcus macedonicus* ACA-DC 198 to the dairy environment

1. pSMA198 belongs to the narrow host range pCI305/pWVO2 family of lactococcal plasmids and it is the first such plasmid to be reported in *Streptococcus*

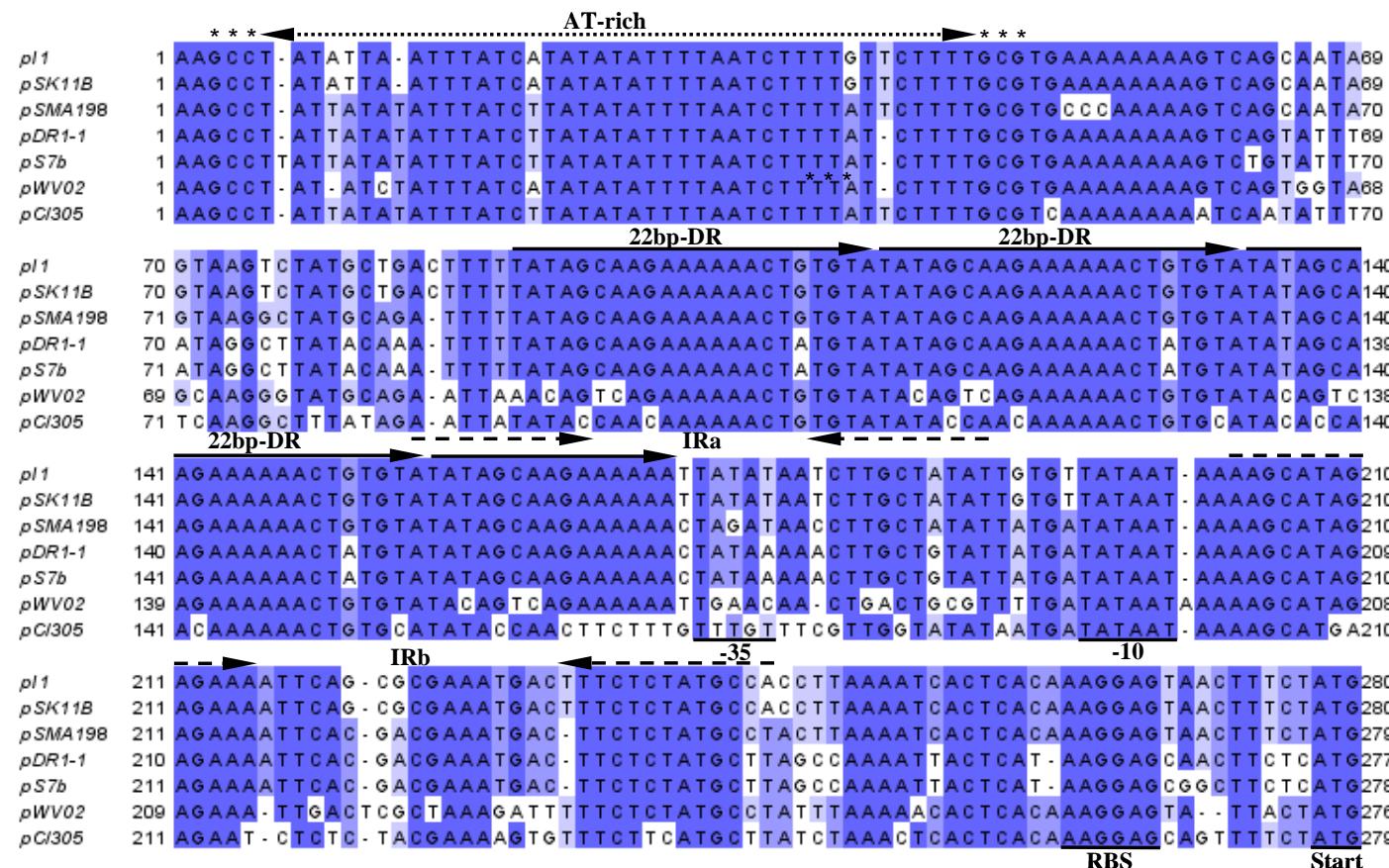
# Analysis of the lactococcal plasmid pSMA198 points towards the habituation of *Streptococcus macedonicus* ACA-DC 198 to the dairy environment

- Multiple sequence alignment of the pSMA198 Rep with RepB proteins of the pCI305 family**



# Analysis of the lactococcal plasmid pSMA198 points towards the habituation of *Streptococcus macedonicus* ACA-DC 198 to the dairy environment

- Multiple sequence alignment of the pSMA198 *ori* with the respective sequences of plasmids of the pCI305 family**

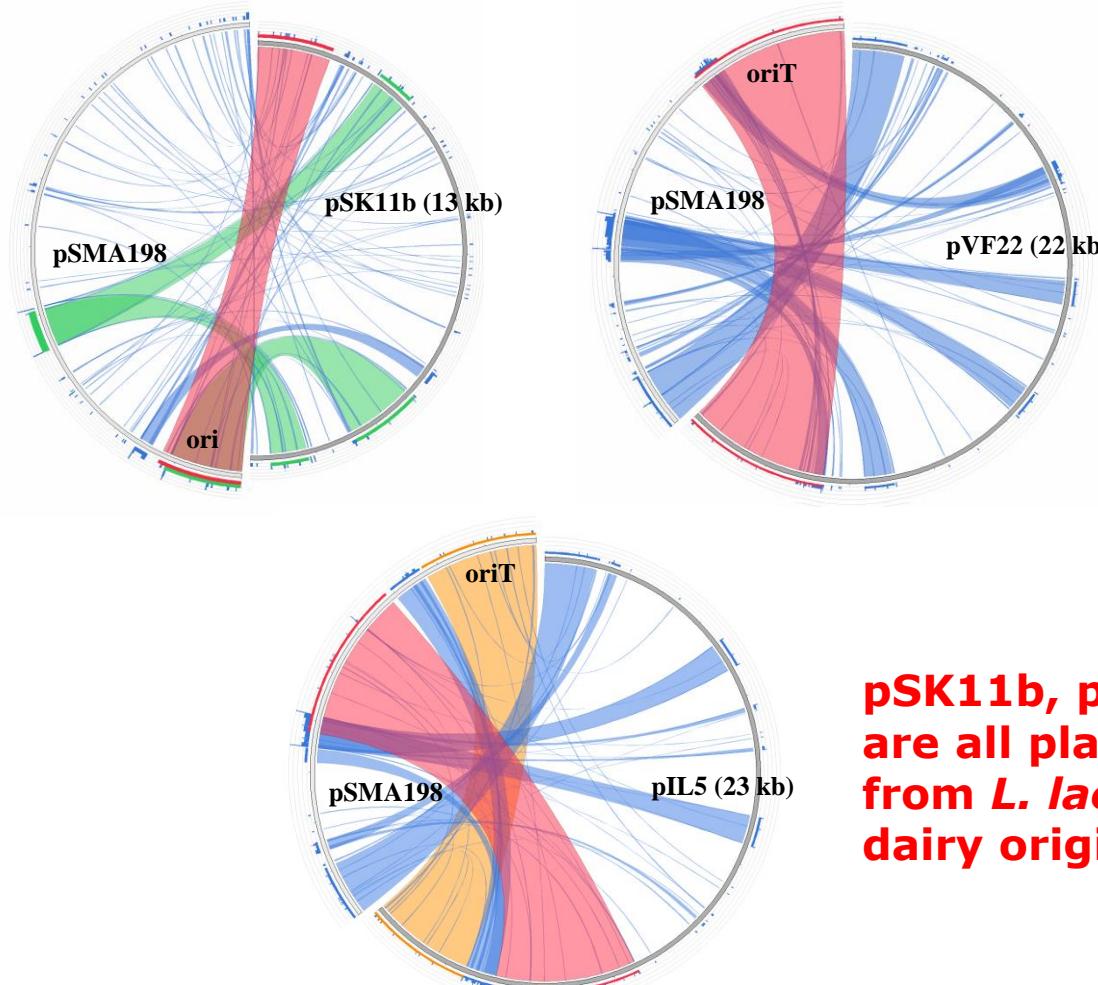


# **Analysis of the lactococcal plasmid pSMA198 points towards the habituation of *Streptococcus macedonicus* ACA-DC 198 to the dairy environment**

- 1. pSMA198 belongs to the narrow host range pCI305 family of lactococcal plasmids and it is the first such plasmid to be reported in *Streptococcus***
- 2. *S. macedonicus* acquired pSMA198 from *L. lactis* and this acquisition took place most probably in the dairy environment**

# Analysis of the lactococcal plasmid pSMA198 points towards the habituation of *Streptococcus macedonicus* ACA-DC 198 to the dairy environment

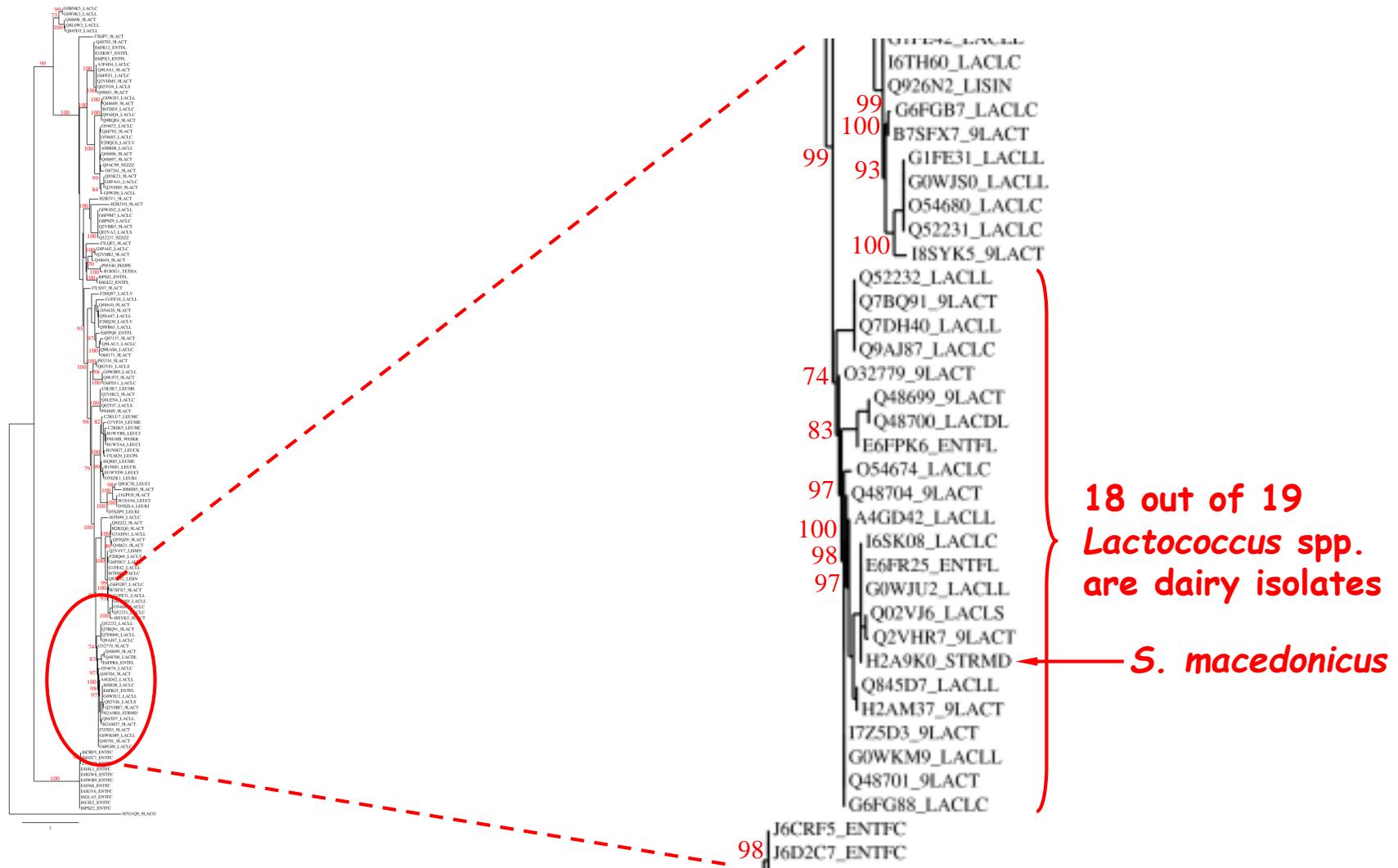
- Comparative analysis of pSMA198 with its related plasmids



pSK11b, pVF22 and pIL5 are all plasmids isolated from *L. lactis* strains of dairy origin

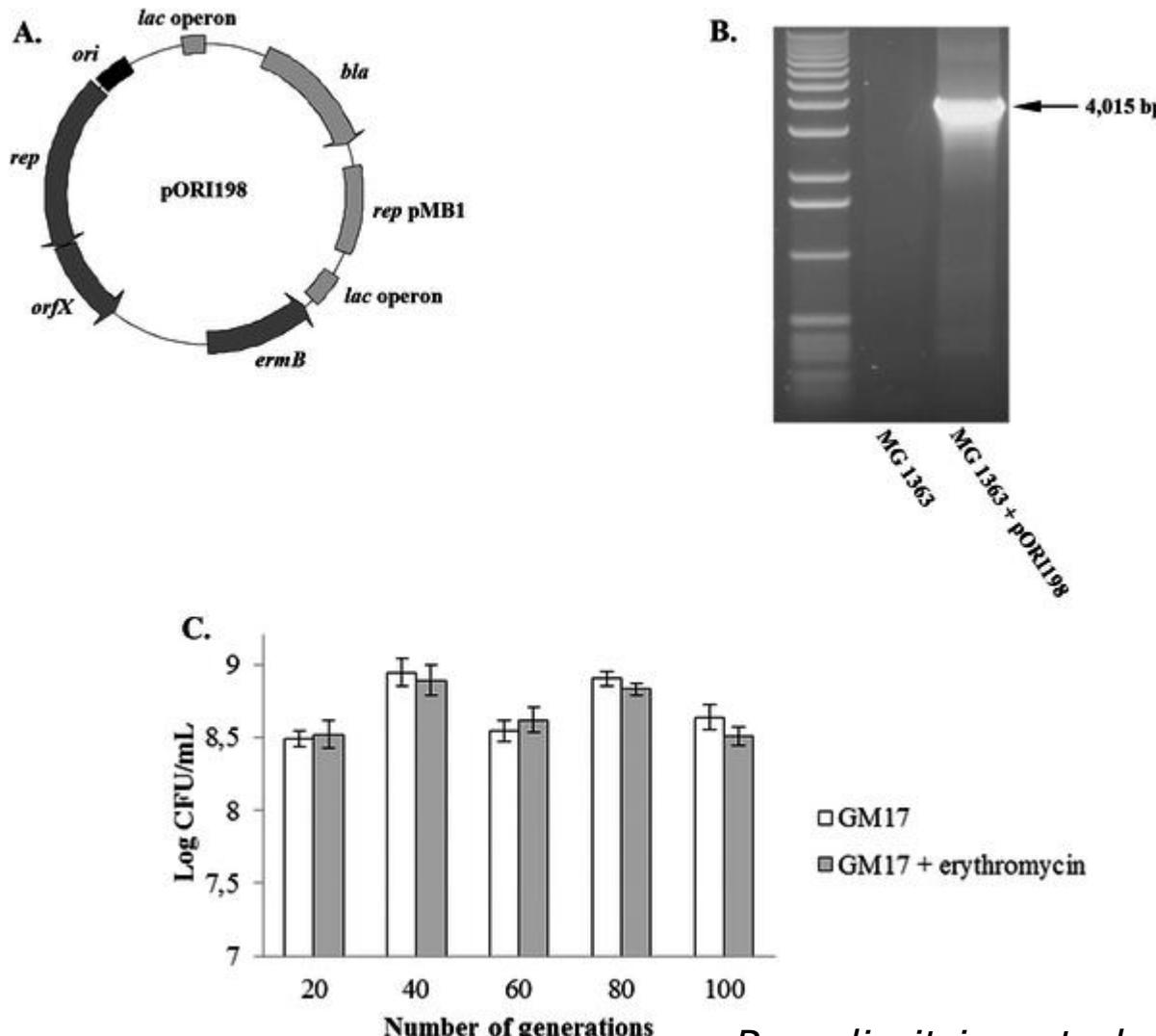
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- Phylogenetic analysis of the pSMA198 Rep with its related proteins



# Analysis of the lactococcal plasmid pSMA198 points towards the habituation of *Streptococcus macedonicus* ACA-DC 198 to the dairy environment

- Cloning and stability of the pSMA198 *ori* in *L. lactis* MG1363



# **Analysis of the lactococcal plasmid pSMA198 points towards the habituation of *Streptococcus macedonicus* ACA-DC 198 to the dairy environment**

- 1. pSMA198 belongs to the narrow host range pCI305 family of lactococcal plasmids and it is the first such plasmid to be reported in *Streptococcus***
- 2. *S. macedonicus* acquired pSMA198 from *L. lactis* and this acquisition took place most probably in the dairy environment**
- 3. The acquisition of pSMA198 is most probably not a recent event**

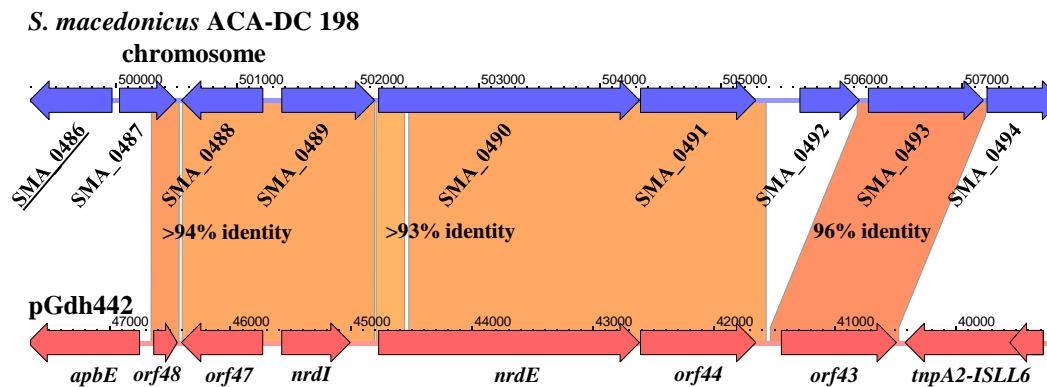
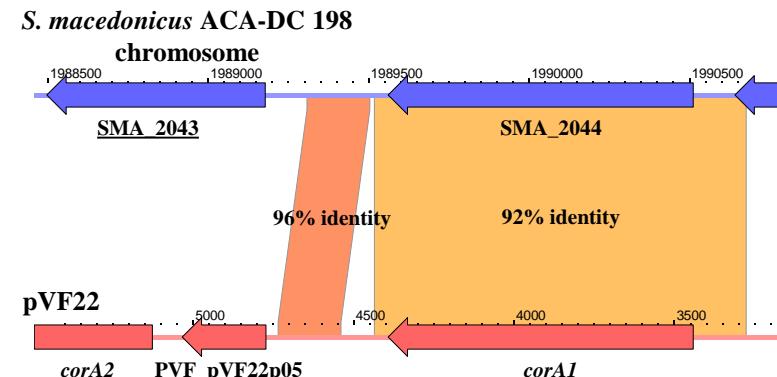
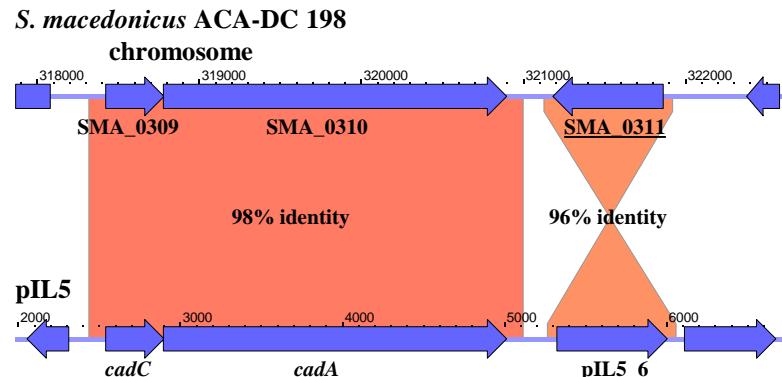
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- Increased percentage of pseudogenes (5 out of 17) found in pSMA198

locus_tag	gene	size nt	Best WU-Blastn hit (locus or locus_tag/ organism/ identity/ e-value)	Protein function
SMA_p0001	<i>rep</i>	1194	LACR_A06/ <i>Lactococcus lactis</i> subsp. <i>cremoris</i> SK11 plasmid 1/ 87% / 1.8e <sup>-196</sup>	Initiator RepB protein
SMA_p0002	<i>orfX</i>	585	BN193_11490/ <i>Lactococcus raffinolactis</i> 4877/ 91% / 2.3e <sup>-101</sup>	Replication associated protein
SMA_p0003	<i>ydeE</i>	858	ENT_30280/ <i>Enterococcus</i> sp. 7L76 / 99% / 2.3e <sup>-184</sup>	AraC family transcriptional regulator
SMA_p0004	<i>orfI</i>	582	EfmE1039_1841/ <i>Enterococcus faecium</i> E1039/ 99% / 4.7e <sup>-121</sup>	Integral membrane protein
SMA_p0005	<i>yoeC</i>	591	AF179848/ <i>Lactococcus lactis</i> subsp. <i>lactis</i> UC317 pCI305/ 88% / 1.4e <sup>-97</sup>	Integrase/recombinase plasmid associated
SMA_p0006	<i>orf2</i>	459	CAC42047/ <i>Listeria innocua</i> Clip11262 pLI100/ 99% / 3.7e <sup>-94</sup>	Putative pseudo 
SMA_p0007	<i>orf3</i>	438	LACR_D31/ <i>Lactococcus lactis</i> subsp. <i>cremoris</i> SK11 plasmid 4/ 99% / 4.9e <sup>-90</sup>	Universal stress protein family
SMA_p0008	<i>mntH</i>	1578	HMPREF0848_00725/ <i>Streptococcus</i> sp. C150/ 99% / 0.0	Manganese transport protein MntH
SMA_p0009	<i>orf4</i>	480	llmg_pseudo_13/ <i>Lactococcus lactis</i> subsp. <i>cremoris</i> MG1363 pseudogene/ 97% / 3.3e <sup>-214</sup>	Putative pseudo 
SMA_p0010	<i>orf5</i>	195	llmg_pseudo_13/ <i>Lactococcus lactis</i> subsp. <i>cremoris</i> MG1363 pseudogene/ 97% / 3.3e <sup>-214</sup>	Putative pseudo 
SMA_p0011	<i>orf6</i>	276	llmg_pseudo_13/ <i>Lactococcus lactis</i> subsp. <i>cremoris</i> MG1363 pseudogene/ 97% / 3.3e <sup>-214</sup>	Putative pseudo 
SMA_p0012	<i>yoeC</i>	465	GMD1E_00300/ <i>Enterococcus</i> sp. GMD1E / 98% / 2.2e <sup>-93</sup>	Integrase/recombinase plasmid associated
SMA_p0013	<i>orf7</i>	132	pIL7_28/ <i>Lactococcus lactis</i> subsp. <i>lactis</i> IL594 plasmid pIL7/ 84% / 1.3e <sup>-13</sup>	Putative pseudo 
SMA_p0014	<i>mobC</i>	366	HMPREF9519_01999/ <i>Enterococcus faecalis</i> TX1346/ 89% / 5.9e <sup>-61</sup>	Mobilization protein
SMA_p0015	<i>rlx</i>	1233	CI5MOBPRO/ <i>Lactococcus lactis</i> subsp. <i>cremoris</i> UC503 pCI528/ 99% / 3.4e <sup>-268</sup>	Mobilization protein
SMA_p0016	<i>orf8</i>	627	ENT_30400/ <i>Enterococcus</i> sp. 7L76/ 96% / 6.3e <sup>-124</sup>	Conserved hypothetical protein
SMA_p0017	<i>orf9</i>	603	BN193_11500/ <i>Lactococcus raffinolactis</i> 4877/ 99% / 3.5e <sup>-125</sup>	Fic family protein

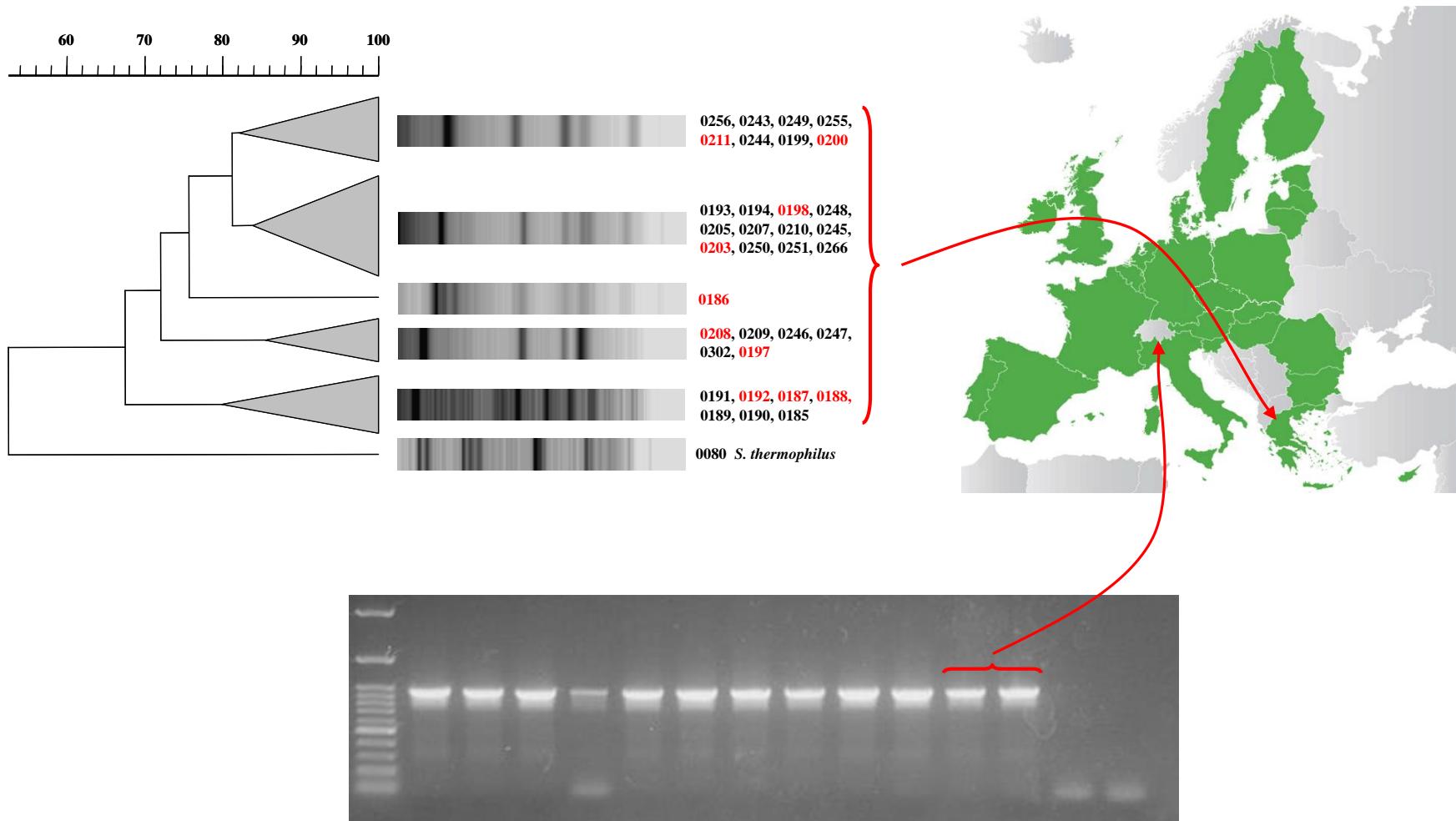
# Analysis of the lactococcal plasmid pSMA198 points towards the habituation of *Streptococcus macedonicus* ACA-DC 198 to the dairy environment

- *S. macedonicus* chromosomal loci potentially originating from pSMA198

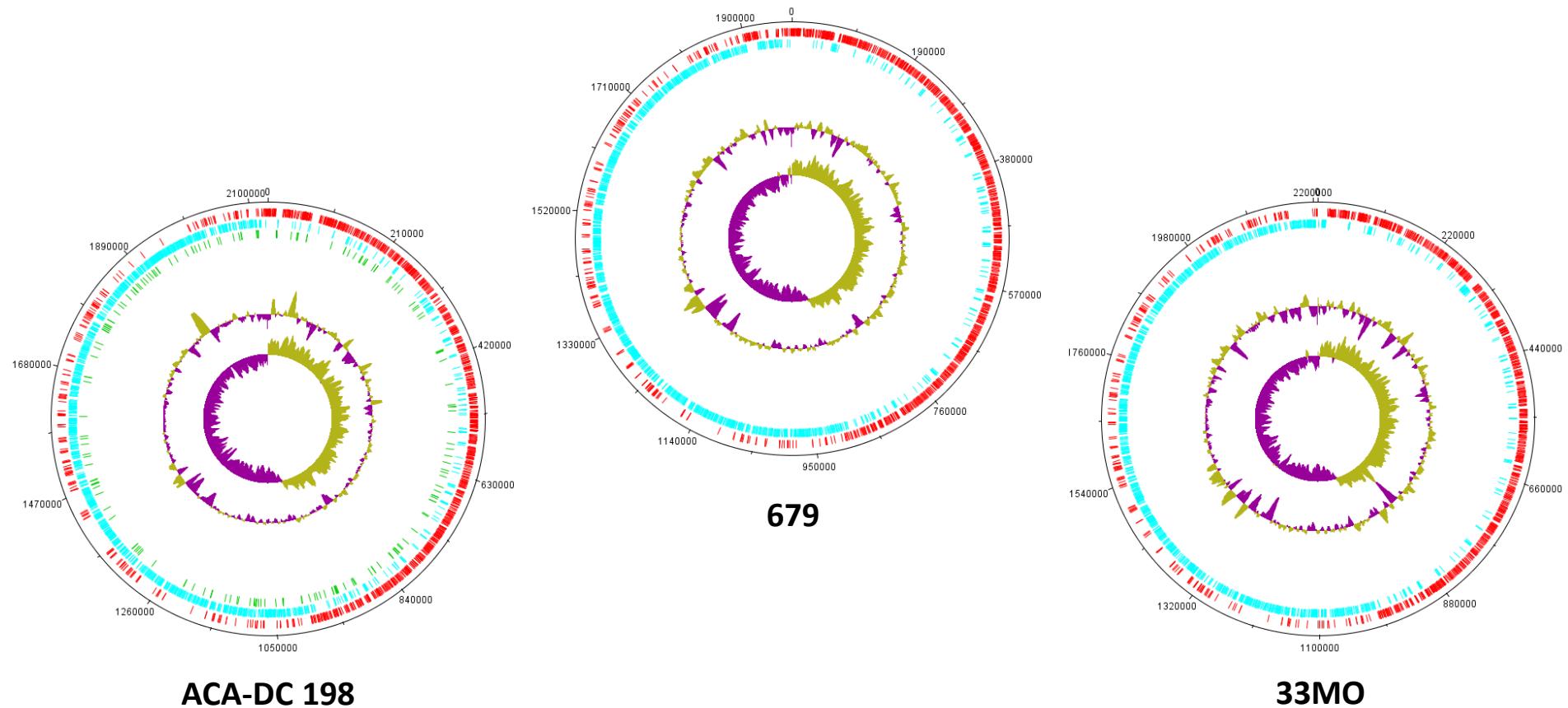


# Analysis of the lactococcal plasmid pSMA198 points towards the habituation of *Streptococcus macedonicus* ACA-DC 198 to the dairy environment

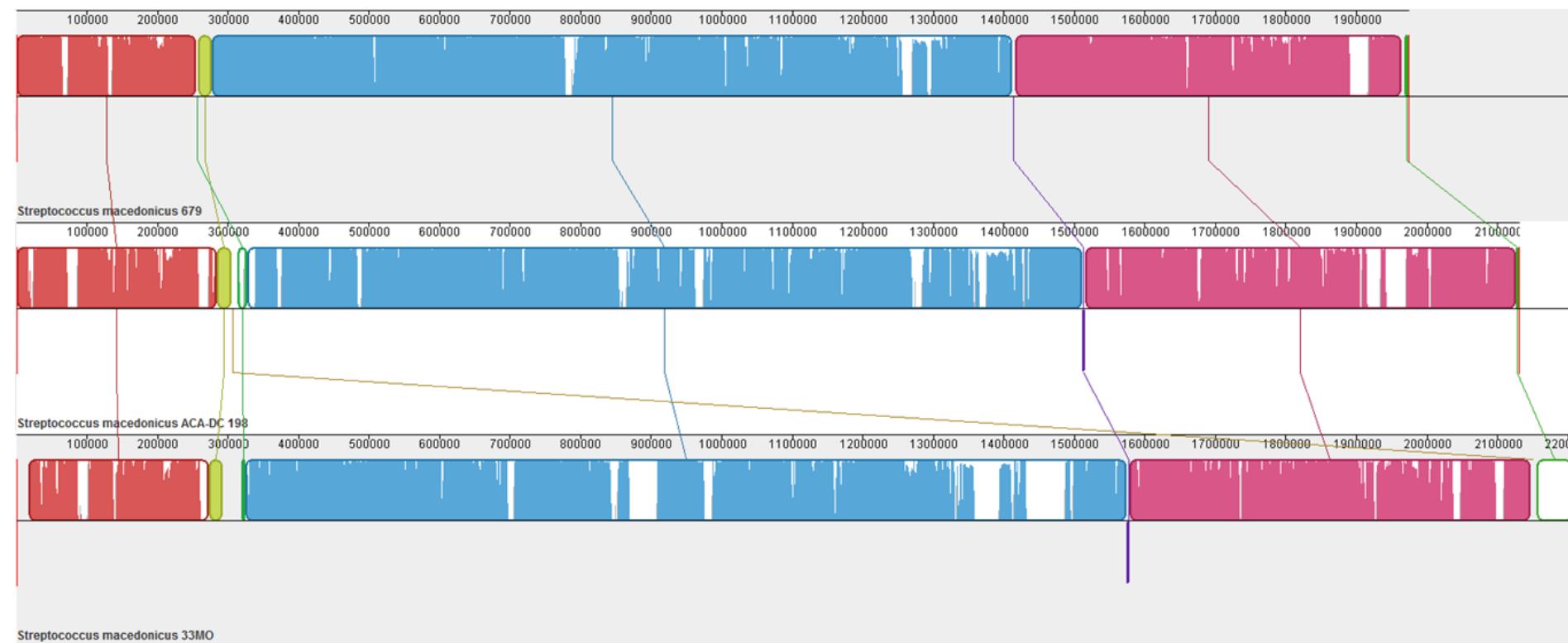
- The distribution of pSMA198 in different strains of *S. macedonicus*



# Comparative genomics of three *Streptococcus macedonicus* strains



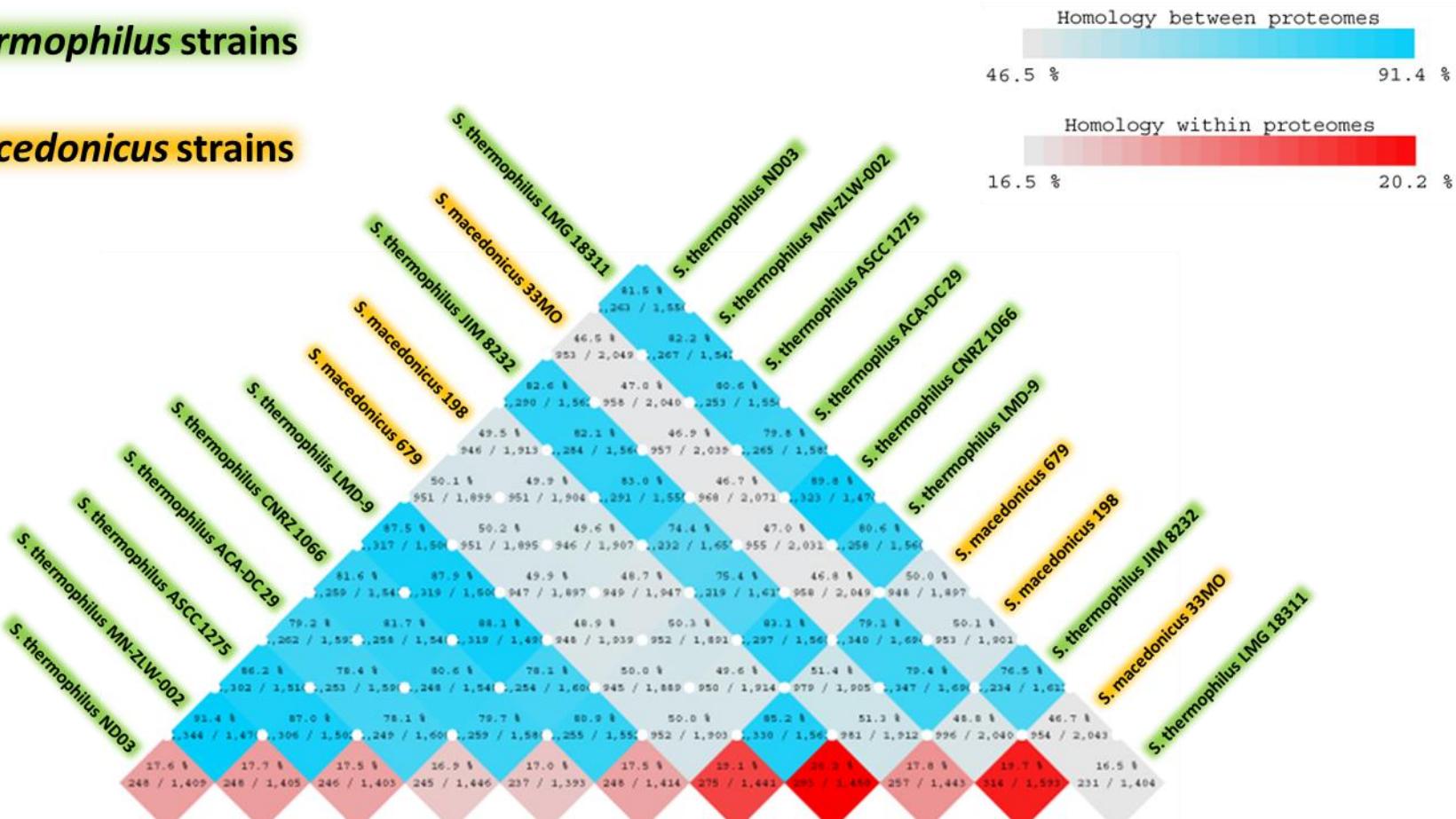
# Comparative genomics of three *Streptococcus macedonicus* strains



# Comparative genomics between strains of *S. thermophilus* and *S. macedonicus*

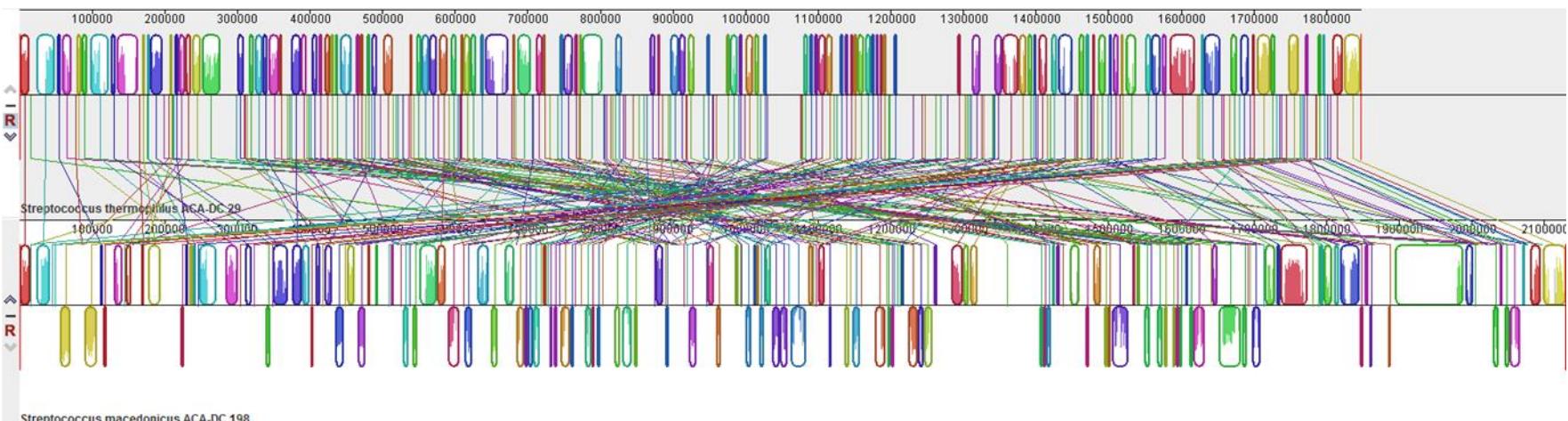
*S. thermophilus* strains

*S. macedonicus* strains



# Comparative genomics between strains of *S. thermophilus* and *S. macedonicus*

*S. thermophilus* ACA-DC 29



*S. macedonicus* ACA-DC 198

## Conclusions

- 1. There are streptococci beyond *S. thermophilus* that can be found in milk and dairy products**
- 2. *In silico* analysis of *S. macedonicus* ACA-DC 198 suggests that:**
  - It shows a diminished capacity to live and survive in the GI tract of herbivores**
  - It has a diminished pathogenic potential compared to *S. gallolyticus***
- 3. There are concrete genetic traits supporting that the species is habituated in the dairy environment**
- 4. *S. thermophilus* and *S. macedonicus* are diverge species but they both present traits of adaptation to the milk environment**

**Functional analysis needed!!!**

**This work was performed in collaboration with:**

- **Dr. Bruno Pot (Institute Pasteur in Lille, Lille, FR)**
- **Dr. Pierre Renault (Micalis Institute, INRA-CRJ, Jouy-en-Josas, FR)**
- **Prof. Stavros Hamodrakas (Department of Biology, UOA, GR)**
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**Thank you for your attention!!!**

