

The Discovery and Analysis of Mycobacteriophage Maravista

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Introduction

Mycobacteriophage Maravista targets host bacterium Mycobacterium smegmatis mc²155 and was isolated from this host using an enriched soil sample from Maravista Avenue in Teaticket of Falmouth. Massachusetts, after which the phage is named. As Maravista infects Mycobacterium smegmatis, it may have potential in being utilized in phage therapy treatment for infections caused by similar pathogenic mycobacteria, such as Mycobacterium tuberculosis, the causative agent of tuberculosis. Bioinformatic analysis of this phage yields insight into Maravista's genomic character and features.

Figure 1: Purification

Mycobacteriophage Maravista was isolated from an enrichment culture and purified by four rounds of purification. The phage forms small, clear 1 mm plaques.



Figure 2: Electron Microscopy
Image of the phage particle shows that
Maravista is a Siphoviridae with a long

Figure 3: SequencingSequencing confirms assignment to the F1 cluster.

Isolation Temperature	37°C
Genome Length (bp)	60,140
Overhang Sequence	CGGAAGGCGC
GC Content	61.3%
Sequencing Facility	Pittsburgh Bacteriophage
	Institute
Shotgun Sequencing Method	Illumina Sequencing

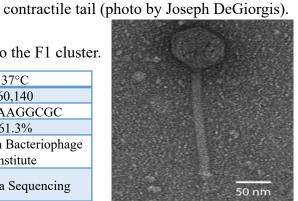


Figure 4: Isolated DNA

Analysis of Maravista DNA, isolated by phenolchloroform extraction. Depicted on the right is the Nanodrop absorbance spectrum of the DNA. Note the peak at 260 nm, which is the wavelength of light that DNA absorbs, indicating a pure solution of DNA.

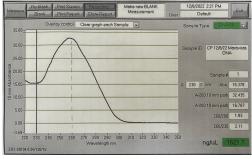


Figure 5: Phamerator Map

This genome map displays the first 15 genes of Maravista and those of the closely related phages PMC and Fruitloop, both part of the same F1 cluster.

Figure 6: Annotation

Bioinformatics tools DNA Master, PECAAN, Starterator, and Phamerator were utilized to complete the genome annotation of Maravista. Below is an example annotation for a single gene of the phage on DNA Master.

