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1 **Title:** Identification of two distinct phylogenomic lineages and model strains for the
2 understudied cystic fibrosis lung pathogen *Burkholderia multivorans*

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19 Genome sequencing data obtained for *B. multivorans* strains in this study have been
20 submitted to the European Nucleotide Archive under project number [PRJEB39297](https://www.ebi.ac.uk/ena/record/PRJEB39297)
21 (Secondary Study Accession: ERP122797).

22 **Abstract**

23 *Burkholderia multivorans* is the dominant *Burkholderia* pathogen recovered from lung
24 infection in people with cystic fibrosis. However, as an understudied pathogen there are
25 knowledge gaps in relation to its population biology, phenotypic traits and useful model
26 strains. A phylogenomic study of *B. multivorans* was undertaken using a total of 283
27 genomes, of which 73 were sequenced and 49 phenotypically characterized as part of this
28 study. Average nucleotide identity analysis (ANI) and phylogenetic alignment of core genes
29 demonstrated that the *B. multivorans* population separated into two distinct evolutionary
30 clades, defined as lineage 1 ($n = 58$ genomes) and lineage 2 ($n = 221$ genomes). To
31 examine the population biology of *B. multivorans*, a representative subgroup of 77 *B.*
32 *multivorans* genomes (28 from the reference databases and the 49-novel short-read genome
33 sequences) were selected based on multilocus sequence typing (MLST), isolation source
34 and phylogenetic placement criteria. Comparative genomics was used to identify *B.*
35 *multivorans* lineage-specific genes: *ghrB_1* in lineage 1, and *glnM_2* in lineage 2, and
36 diagnostic PCRs targeting them successfully developed. Phenotypic analysis of 49
37 representative *B. multivorans* strains showed considerable inter-strain variance, but the
38 majority of isolates tested were motile and capable of biofilm formation. A striking absence of
39 *B. multivorans* protease activity *in vitro* was observed, but no lineage-specific phenotypic
40 differences demonstrated. Using phylogenomic and phenotypic criteria, three model *B.*
41 *multivorans* CF strains were identified, BCC0084 (lineage 1), BCC1272 (lineage 2a) and
42 BCC0033 lineage 2b, and their complete genome sequences determined. *B. multivorans* CF
43 strains BCC0033 and BCC0084, and the environmental reference strain, ATCC 17616, were
44 all capable of short-term survival within a murine lung infection model. By mapping the
45 population biology, identifying lineage-specific PCRs and model strains, we provide much
46 needed baseline resources for future studies of *B. multivorans*.

47 **Introduction**

48 Cystic fibrosis (CF) is a hereditary genetic disorder affecting over 10,500 people in the UK
49 [1]. Mutations in the CF transmembrane conductance regulator gene of people with CF
50 results in several pathological features, with abnormal lung clearance, chronic respiratory
51 infection and severe lung disease being major contributors to morbidity. Although
52 *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* is the most prevalent CF pathogen, *Burkholderia cepacia*
53 complex (Bcc) bacteria, a taxonomic group of closely related *Burkholderia*, emerged as
54 virulent and transmissible CF lung infections in the 1990s [2]. For people with CF, infection
55 with Bcc pathogens can contribute to severe lung function decline and the development of
56 'cepacia syndrome' [3], and those infected also have a lower survival rate after lung

57 transplantation [4]. Whilst the Bcc have been reported at relatively low in prevalence in CF
58 populations (<5%) [4-6], they are of significant clinical consequence because they are hard
59 to eradicate due to their intrinsic resistance to antibiotics, with certain strains being resistant
60 to the 10 most administered antibiotics [7].

61 *Burkholderia multivorans* is a member of Bcc and is the most isolated *Burkholderia* species
62 in the UK, with 56% of all *Burkholderia* CF lung infection cases (n=361) attributed to the
63 pathogen in 2017 [5]. Earlier surveys of the US showed *B. multivorans* accounted for 37% of
64 *Burkholderia* CF infections at the time [6] and the same dominance was observed in a
65 Canadian study with 45% of 122 *Burkholderia* CF lung infection cases cause by this Bcc
66 species [4]. The epidemiology of *Burkholderia* CF infections also shows that *B. multivorans*
67 has become dominant due to reduced rates of *B. cenocepacia* infection, which is now the
68 second most common Bcc species in multiple CF populations [4-6]. With strict infection
69 control and the resulting absence of patient-patient transmission, the continuing emergence
70 of *B. multivorans* in people with CF suggests that current infections arise sporadically from
71 natural sources such as soil, the rhizosphere and water [2, 6, 8]. However, specific
72 environmental reservoirs of *B. multivorans* remain elusive, with isolates rarely recovered
73 from the natural environment [6, 8].

74 In contrast to this current epidemiological prevalence of *B. multivorans*, *B. cenocepacia* has
75 been the most widely studied CF *Burkholderia* [9]. *B. cenocepacia*, is generally considered
76 to be the hyper virulent species within the Bcc [2] and can be separated into two genetic
77 lineages (III-A and III-B) based on the *recA* gene [10, 11]. Recent genomic analysis of *B.*
78 *cenocepacia* provided further evidence to show that the species should be split into at least
79 two different species based on average nucleotide identity (ANI) differences [12]. The latter
80 studied argued for the name "*Burkholderia servocepacia*" to be attributed to strains falling
81 into the *recA* III-B grouping, but this proposition was invalid based on taxonomic and naming
82 criteria. *Burkholderia orbicola* sp. nov. [13] has now been validly proposed as the species
83 name for the genomic taxa represented by "*Burkholderia servocepacia*." Overall, multiple
84 studies have shown that epidemic and transmissible CF strains can be found in both *B.*
85 *cenocepacia* and *B. orbicola* sp. nov. [9]. For example, *B. cenocepacia* III-A strains are
86 associated with poor clinical outcome and major morbidity in several CF populations [2, 6],
87 with the ET-12 strain being notable in virulence and prevalence, together with multiple other
88 intercontinentally dispersed multilocus sequence types (MLST) [9]. Virulence factors such as
89 the cable pilus, *cenocepacia* pathogenicity island and multiple quorum sensing-dependent
90 pathogenicity traits, have also been characterised for *B. cenocepacia* [9].

91 In comparison, much less is known about the pathogenicity of *B. multivorans* in CF. The
92 presence of non-mucoid isolates of Bcc bacteria have been shown to be correlated with
93 greater decrease in lung function of infected individuals [14], and this mucoid variation in *B.*
94 *multivorans* was associated with changes in metabolism, motility, biofilm formation and
95 virulence [15]. Within-strain genomic evolution has been studied for multiple isolates
96 recovered over 20 years from an individual with CF [16]. The average evolutionary
97 substitution mutation rate for this single *B. multivorans* strain was low overall, at 2.4
98 mutations per year, with one intra-strain lineage evolving more rapidly than the others
99 through non-synonymous mutations [16]. Alterations in the *B. multivorans* phenotype during
100 chronic infection were linked to mutational changes in antimicrobial resistance, biofilm
101 formation and LPS O-antigen presentation gene pathways [16]. Another study obtained
102 genome sequences from 111 clonal isolates of *B. multivorans* from a single person with CF,
103 as their lung disease progressed [17]. Statistically significant accumulations of mutations in
104 loci contributing to increased antimicrobial resistance were seen in this single-strain
105 evolutionary study [17]. Genomic comparison of *B. multivorans* isolates isogenic by MLST,
106 but from CF infection and natural environmental sources, demonstrated that the same
107 genomic lineages occur in these different niches and across different continents [18].

108 A comparison of multiple genetically distinct *B. multivorans* strains that includes both
109 phenotypic and genomic characterisation of the species has not yet been made. Our study
110 aimed to unpick the phylogenomics and basic pathobiology of *B. multivorans*, as both a
111 species and an understudied CF lung pathogen. Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) was
112 used to characterise 73 genetically diverse *B. multivorans* strains drawn from multiple
113 sources, MLST strain types, and geographic regions. A further 210 *B. multivorans* genomes
114 were obtained from publicly accessible databases and analysed phylogenetically. Twenty-
115 eight of the database sequences were combined with 49 of the *de novo* genome sequenced
116 strains to produce a representative strain panel ($n = 77$). The *B. multivorans* strain panel
117 encompassed 61 unique MLST sequence types (STs; 5 novel), focussing on CF isolates (n
118 = 60) and including strains from the environment ($n = 8$), non-CF infection ($n = 8$), and one
119 isolate of an undetermined source. The phenotypic features of 49 representative strains
120 selected from this panel were investigated by swimming and swarming motilities, biofilm
121 formation, exopolysaccharide production and protease production, and three strains were
122 also tested for survival in a mammalian respiratory inhalation lung infection model [19, 20].
123 From this analysis, an evolutionary split into 2 genetic lineages was shown for *B. multivorans*
124 as a CF pathogen.

125

126 **Methods**

127 **Bacterial strains and incubation conditions**

128 The bacterial strains phenotypically studied, and genome sequenced in this study were drawn
129 from the *Burkholderia* strain collection at Cardiff University and additional recognised strain
130 repositories [20, 21] (Table 1). A complete list of the 283 isolates and their genomes analysed
131 within the study is provided in Supplementary Table S1. The isolates studied were recovered
132 from a range of sources including CF, Chronic Granulomatous Disease (CGD), non-CF clinical
133 infections (NON-CF), the natural environment (ENV) and healthcare environments (ENVH).
134 Stock cultures were stored at -80°C in cryogenic vials by resuspension of fresh growth in
135 Tryptic Soya Broth (TSB; Oxoid) containing 8% (v/v) dimethyl sulfoxide (Sigma Aldrich).
136 Culture purity was determined by plating frozen stocks onto Tryptic Soy Agar (TSA) (Oxoid)
137 and incubating plates for 24 - 48 h at 37°C. Overnight cultures were made by taking a swab
138 from a fresh TSA plate and transferring into 3 ml of TSB. Cultures were grown for 18-20 h at
139 37°C using continuous shaking on a rotating platform set to 150 r.p.m.

140 **Genome sequencing of *B. multivorans***

141 *B. multivorans* strains for genome sequence were selected based on their source, geographic
142 distribution, and MLST-based genetic diversity [22, 23] (Table 1 and Table S1). After revival
143 and purity checking, 3 ml overnight cultures were subjected to DNA extraction using an
144 automated Maxwell® 16 Tissue DNA purification kit and following the manufacturer's
145 instructions (Promega, UK). For long-read complete genome analysis, DNA was extracted
146 using a DNA Wizard Kit (Promega, UK). Upon extraction, each DNA sample was transferred
147 into non-stick 1.5 ml microtubes and stored at -20°C. DNA samples were checked for purity
148 using the *B. multivorans* specific *recA* primers, BCRBM1 and BCRBM2 [10], with PCR
149 amplicons visualised on a 1.5% (w/v) agarose gels, prior to Sanger sequence analysis to
150 confirm they were *B. multivorans*.

151 A total of 73 *B. multivorans* strains were subjected to short-read WGS using an Illumina MiSeq
152 V2 platform within the Genome Hub at Cardiff School of Biosciences. Genomic reads were
153 assembled and annotated using the shared Cloud Infrastructure for Microbial Genomics
154 (CLIMB) computing facility [24]. Illumina reads were subjected to the Trim Galore v0.4.4 [25]
155 wrapper script. This utilises Cutadapt v1.9.1 [26] for automated quality and adapter trimming
156 and FastQC v0.11.4 [27] for quality control. MultiQC v1.7 [28] Python package was used to
157 compile a single file report and interactive report for the samples, helping to streamline quality

158 control screening. All genomes possessed sufficient quality to take forward for phylogenomic
159 analyses (Table S2).

160 To assemble the bacterial genomes, we used the Unicycler v0.4.7 [29] assembly pipeline,
161 which utilizes SPAdes [30] for optimizing and streamlining *de novo* assembly of the genome
162 contigs. Complete genome sequence analysis was performed for the three selected model
163 strains (BCC0033, BCC0084 and BCC1272) using long read PacBio technology (carried out
164 by Novogene, UK). The PacBio FASTQ reads were subjected to the Tricycler pipeline (v0.4.1)
165 [29] and provide complete assemblies of four contigs (the 3 genomic replicons and a large
166 plasmid in each strain). DNA sequence reads from the selected database genomes were also
167 re-assembled and all 283 *B. multivorans* genomes were subjected to Prokka v1.14.0 [31] to
168 annotate the sequences and provide output files suitable for phylogenomic analysis.
169 Accession numbers for the genome sequences obtained in this study are provided in Table 1.

170 **Genomic taxonomy, phylogenomic and MLST analysis**

171 To confirm the taxonomic identity of the *B. multivorans* genomes and filter out contaminating
172 DNA, the Minikraken database from Kraken2 v2.08-beta [32] was used. QUAST v5.0 [33]
173 was used to assess quality and respective statistics for the genomic assemblies. To confirm
174 species taxonomy, the pairwise ANI was calculated for the *B. multivorans* genomes using
175 the Python3 module and script PyANI v0.2.9 [34]. A 95% threshold was used as an accepted
176 standard to confirm that all strains were the same species in accordance with the Genomic
177 Taxonomy database [35] and recent taxonomic analysis of *Burkholderia* genomes [36].

178 Phylogenomic and pan genome analysis was performed as follows. The GFF annotated
179 genome-file outputs from Prokka [31] were evaluated in the Roary v3.12.0 pan genome
180 pipeline [37] to assess the core and accessory genome of all 283 *B. multivorans* genomes.
181 The command was performed using the default settings. MAFFT [38] was used to create the
182 Roary core gene alignment output file. Phylogenetic trees were built using maximum
183 likelihood (GTRGAMMA model) Randomized Accelerated Maximum Likelihood (RAxML v8)
184 [39], supported by 100 bootstraps. The *B. dolosa* AU0158 complete genome was initially
185 used to root phylogenetic trees as a closely related Bcc species; subsequent trees were
186 rooted with the *B. multivorans* BCC1638 genome (Table 1). Sequence types were
187 determined for all *B. multivorans* strains using MLSTcheck, utilizing PubMLST blast
188 schemes [40] (Table 2).

189

190 **Assessment of swimming and swarming motilities**

191 Motility of *B. multivorans* was measured using a modified method from Rashid and Kornberg
192 [41]. Agar plates were prepared and dried on an even surface 24 hours before use to ensure
193 consistent moisture content, with each plate containing 20 ml. Agar concentrations were made
194 using 0.3% (w/v) LB for swimming assays and 0.5% (w/v) LB and 0.5% (w/v) basal salts
195 medium supplemented with 0.4% (w/v) glucose (BSM-G) for swarming assays. Swimming
196 motility was assessed by inoculating the agar, through to the base, with a sterile toothpick.
197 Swarming motility was assessed by surface inoculation with a sterile toothpick. Plates were
198 inverted and wrapped in sealed Petri-dish bags to prevent drying. Plates were incubated at
199 37°C and zones were measured at 24 h, averaging two perpendicular measurements. Each
200 isolate was assigned a category: non-motile ≤ 5 mm, low motility 5-25 mm, intermediate
201 motility 25-50 mm, and high motility ≥ 50.0 mm.

202 **Biofilm formation of *B. multivorans***

203 A crystal violet and 96-well PVC plate growth assay [42] was used to determine the biofilm
204 mass formation of *B. multivorans* isolates. Overnight cultures were diluted to roughly 10^5 c.f.u
205 ml^{-1} in TSB in Falcon tubes. These were gently mixed using a vortex before transferring 100
206 μl into 96-well plates. The outer wells were left empty to prevent drying and *B. multivorans*
207 biofilms left to form over 24 h by static incubation of the plates at 37°C. After removal of growth
208 media and washing as described [42], biofilm biomass was stained with a solution of 0.1%
209 (w/v) crystal violet for 20 mins. The plates were washed, allowed to dry and the absorbance
210 at 570 nm read for a 200 μl solubilization of the biomass stain in each well using 70% ethanol.

211 **Growth rate of *B. multivorans***

212 A Bioscreen C instrument (Labsystems, Finland) was used to determine the bacterial growth
213 dynamics of *B. multivorans* isolates. Cultures (200 μl in TSB) were inoculated with
214 approximately 10^6 c.f.u. ml^{-1} using an optical density-based standardization of fresh overnight
215 liquid growth. Growth was monitored over 48 h with incubation at 37°C. Well absorbance
216 readings using a wideband filter (450-580 nm) were performed every 15 minutes after 10
217 seconds of medium shaking. A scatterplot analysis was performed in Microsoft Excel to
218 visualize the growth curves. The data was further analysed using the GcFit function of the
219 grofit package [43] which utilizes R statistical software [44] to output specific parameters of
220 lag phase, maximum growth rate and maximum culture density.

221

222 **Exopolysaccharide and protease production by *B. multivorans***

223 Exopolysaccharide (EPS) production of the *B. multivorans* strains was determined using yeast
224 extract medium (YEM) agar as described by Zlosnik, Hird [45]. The original protocol was used
225 for the agar preparation, with no adaptations. *B. multivorans* was streaked for single colonies
226 from freezer stocks onto the agar plates before incubating for 48 hours at 37 °C. EPS was
227 visually categorized into the following five groups based on the literature [45]: - (non-EPS
228 producing), + (partially mucoid), ++ (low mucoidicity), +++ (medium-high mucoidicity) and
229 ++++ (very high mucoidicity). *B. multivorans* protease production was assessed using a
230 modified protocol from Morris, Evans [46]. The lactose-free skimmed-milk agar was prepared
231 as per the original protocol. Overnight cultures were diluted to $\sim 10^7$ c.f.u. ml⁻¹. Aliquots of 10
232 μ l culture were placed onto the protease media in triplicate. Plates were left to completely dry
233 before being inverted and incubated at 37°C for 24 h. Protease production was measured by
234 taking the average of two perpendicular measurements of resulting colony and the zone of
235 clearing around it (mm). A final protease production value was obtained by subtraction of
236 colony size from the zone of clearing. *P. aeruginosa* LESB58 was used as a positive control
237 for every protease assay.

238 **Construction of *B. multivorans* fluorescent reporter strains**

239 Electroporation was used to introduce the plasmid vector pIN301-eGFP [47] into the selected
240 *B. multivorans* model strains as follows. Overnight cultures of *B. multivorans* (strains
241 BCC0033, BCC0084, BCC1272, and ATCC 17616) were grown in TSB. These were diluted
242 to an OD_{600 nm} 0.1 ($\sim 10^7$ c.f.u. ml⁻¹) in 3 ml TSB before incubating for approximately 4 hours at
243 37°C, shaking at 150 rpm. This incubation step enabled the *B. multivorans* cultures to reach
244 OD_{600nm} of ~ 1 and a 2 ml aliquot of culture was spun down in a centrifuge for 5 minutes at
245 4000 r.p.m. The pellet was twice washed with 2 ml sterile ddH₂O before re-suspending 30 μ l
246 of ddH₂O. 10 ng of room temperature pIN301-eGFP DNA was added to the suspension, and
247 the suspension transferred to sterile 2 mm electroporation cuvette (Thermo Fisher). After
248 electroporation using 2500V, with a field capacity of 12.5 kV/cm, 1 ml sterile TSB was used to
249 recover the electroporated cells for 1 hour at 37°C with shaking at 150 r.p.m. The revived
250 cultures were plated on TSA supplemented with 50 μ g/ml chloramphenicol and incubated for
251 24 h at 37°C before examining under UV light to confirm eGFP::pIN301 plasmid uptake. To
252 confirm that the eGFP::pIN301 derivative was the same as the parental strain, genotyping
253 using by Random Amplification of Polymorphic DNA (RAPD) PCR and primers 270 and 272,
254 was performed as described [48].

255

256 ***B. multivorans* lineage-specific PCR primer design**

257 A pan-genome wide association study (GWAS) approach [49] against gene presence-
258 absence output file determined via Roary analysis [37] was used to identify genes unique to
259 each lineage. The GWAS traits were based solely on lineage grouping to identify the
260 lineage-specific genes, and did not factor in other genomic or phenotypic variables. Four
261 target genes were identified, and PCR primers designed for each as follows (Table S3). The
262 genes were extracted from the *B. multivorans* strain panel genomes (Table 1) using
263 Bedtools [50] and aligned using MAFFT [38]. Regions of within-lineage similarity were
264 selected for primer design, and the resulting primer sequences checked for basic specificity
265 using NCBI primer BLAST, and hairpin structures using the Oligoanalyzer tool (Integrated
266 DNA Technologies). Forward and reverse primers for each gene, together with their
267 genomic location are provided in Table S3; the information of the PCRs selected for testing
268 are provided in Table 3. The PCR primers were synthesised (Eurofins Genomics) and
269 optimised on the 4 *B. multivorans* model strains using a gradient PCR. Thermal cycling
270 conditions of an initial denaturation (95°C, 5 min), 30 cycles of denaturation (95°C, 30 s),
271 annealing (30 s; see Table 3 for temperature) and extension (72°C, 30 s), followed by a final
272 extension (72°C, 10 min) were used. The PCRs were evaluated on the DNA from the 49
273 phenotypically characterised *B. multivorans* strain panel isolates (Table 1), with *B. ambifaria*
274 and *B. cenocepacia* DNA used as negative controls. PCR products were separated by
275 electrophoresis on a 1.2% agarose gel and visualised using a UV transilluminator.

276 **Murine lung infection modelling**

277 A murine chronic lung infection model successfully applied to *P. aeruginosa* [19, 51] and
278 *Burkholderia ambifaria* [20] was used to evaluate basic infection traits of 3 model *B.*
279 *multivorans* strains. These included wild-type BCC0033 and ATCC 17616, and GFP-tagged
280 derivatives BCC0084 eGFP::pIN301 and BCC0033 eGFP::pIN301. BALB/c female 6–8-
281 week-old mice (Charles River, Margate, UK), were used for all experiments and randomly
282 assigned to a cage of four mice by staff independent of the study. Mice were then housed in
283 individually-ventilated cages for 7 days before *B. multivorans* infection, to allow
284 acclimatisation. Overnight cultures of each *B. multivorans* strain were grown in TSB using a
285 single colony inoculation, and subcultured in fresh TSB supplemented with 20% foetal
286 bovine serum (FBS) for ~6 hours to allow them to reach mid-exponential phase.
287 Standardised suspensions of each *B. multivorans* strain were prepared, plated to determine
288 viability, and were stored at -80°C.

289 Murine infections were performed using a protocol from Green *et al.* [52], whereby the frozen
290 *B. multivorans* stock suspensions were thawed at room temperature, were harvested by

291 centrifugation and resuspended in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS). For each *B. multivorans*
292 strain, 24 mice were intranasally infected with $\sim 10^7$ c.f.u ml⁻¹ within a 50 μ l suspension. This
293 was performed under light anaesthesia using O2/isoflurane. The nasopharynx and lungs
294 were removed, post-mortem at 1-, 3-, and 5-days post-infection, before homogenizing in 2
295 ml sterile PBS using a hand-held tissue homogeniser (VWR). Ten-fold serial dilutions of
296 tissue homogenates were then prepared and plated onto *B. cepacia* selective agar (BCSA)
297 (Oxoid, UK). *B. multivorans* viable cell counts were enumerated after incubation for up to 48
298 h at 37°C. For each infection strain, the isolates at day 3 and 5-post infection were pooled
299 from the 8 mouse replicate plates into one stock for the nasopharynx and one for the lungs.
300 Genomic DNA was extracted from the post-infection isolate pools as described above and
301 subjected to short-read Illumina sequencing (Novogene; Cambridge, UK). Genome
302 sequences were then checked for quality and assembled as above. Snippy V3.2-dev was
303 then used for SNP analysis [53].

304 **Statistical analysis**

305 The phenotypic analysis experiments were performed as 3 biological replicates unless
306 stated otherwise. All statistical analysis was performed in R [44]. The data generated from
307 the analyses within the study was considered to have non-normal distribution. This was
308 checked using a q-q plot and Shapiro test in R. Therefore, the Kruskal-Wallis chi-squared
309 test (2 comparisons) or Dunn Test with Benjamini-Hochberg correction (3 or more
310 comparisons) were used for statistical evaluation as stated.

311 **Results**

312 **De novo genomic analysis of *B. multivorans* as a Bcc species**

313 A total of 73 *B. multivorans* genomes were short-read sequenced as part of this study (49
314 shown in Table 1; additional strains in Table S2) and all possessed high quality draft
315 genome sequences (Table S2). The assembled contigs produced genomes which ranged in
316 size from 6.02 Mb to 7.1 Mb, with an average of 6.514 Mb and mean G+C content of
317 67.14%. The number of predicted coding sequences (CDS) ranged between 5975 and 7374
318 CDS, and between 43 and 67 RNA encoding loci were identified per genome (Table S2).
319 When the 73 strain genomes were combined with publicly available sequences to form the
320 283 master genome panel (Table S1), the genome metrics remained consistent with a mean
321 GC content of 67.04%, sequence length of 6.5 Mb, N50 value of 338304, and mean CDS of
322 5814 found for *B. multivorans*.

323 *Burkholderiales* taxonomy has been extensively reclassified and continues to expand in
324 terms of novel taxa. For example, recent phylogenomic analysis of 7 *Burkholderiales* genus
325 clades (*Burkholderia*, *Paraburkholderia*, *Trinickia*, *Caballeronia*, *Mycetohabitans*, *Robbsia*,
326 and *Pararobbsia*) predicted that 235 genomic species groups existed within a set of 4000+
327 genomes that encompassed 129 validly named species [36]. To gain insights into the *B.*
328 *multivorans* species population biology and confirm the taxonomic classification of strains,
329 ANI analysis was used as the current gold-standard in bacterial genomic taxonomy [35].
330 Analysis was initially performed on the large dataset of 283 *B. multivorans* genomes (Table
331 S1), with a sub-set of 77 strains representative of the genomic diversity selected for further
332 analysis (Table 1; environmental, $n = 8$; non-CF infection, $n = 8$; CF, $n = 60$; and 1
333 undetermined source).

334 Using the species threshold of 95% ANI [54] which has also proven appropriate for the
335 majority of *Burkholderia* sensu lato genomic species [36], the *B. multivorans* isolate
336 genomes (all 283 and the 77 strain panel) comprised a single genomic taxa (Figure 1). The
337 mean ANI for the 77 *B. multivorans* examined was 98.59% and ranged from 97.24% to
338 100.00% identity. An ANI heatmap of the 77 strains demonstrated the presence of two
339 prominent groups within the *B. multivorans* population that had further evolved towards more
340 restricted identity (Figure 1). These were designated ANI group 1 ($n = 28$; mean ANI of 99%)
341 and ANI group 2 ($n = 49$; mean ANI of 98%). Further ANI sub-groupings were apparent
342 within ANI group 2, designated 2a and 2b. The *B. multivorans* CF strain BCC1368 formed an
343 outlying ANI group and was designated as “other,” but was still above the 95% ANI threshold
344 of the species (Figure 1).

345 Pan genome analysis [37] of the 283 *B. multivorans* genome dataset identified a total of
346 37462 predicted genes. Within this were 30738 were accessory cloud genes and 6724 core
347 genes (genes present in $\geq 95\%$ of the population and comprising 2476 shell-genes, 1250
348 soft-core genes and 2998 predicted core genes).

349 **Core gene phylogenomics corroborates that *B. multivorans* has two major** 350 **evolutionary lineages**

351 To reconcile an evolutionary basis for the *B. multivorans* ANI population biology (Figure 1),
352 core gene phylogenies were analysed (Figure 2). A master phylogeny was created from the
353 283 *B. multivorans* genomes using RAxML v8 [39] and alignment of 4319 core genes
354 present in all samples (Figure 2). The phylogenomic tree confirmed the *B. multivorans*
355 population structure was comprised of two major evolutionary lineages, with the greatest
356 diversity and further sub-groupings apparent in lineage 2. The isolate source distribution for
357 the 283 genomes was as follows (Table S1): CF, $n = 248$; CGD, $n = 6$; non-CF clinical

358 infection ($n = 11$); ENV, $n = 23$; ENVH, $n = 1$ and isolates of unknown source, $n = 2$. CF
359 strains were distributed throughout the phylogeny, with lineage 2 containing the majority of
360 the CF strains ($n=193$) compared to lineage 1 ($n = 45$); four CF strains, including the
361 BCC1368 ANI outlier (Figure 1), clustered within the 'other' *B. multivorans* lineage (Figure
362 2a).

363 The selected sub-panel of 77 *B. multivorans* strains demonstrated the same phylogenomic
364 population biology and 2 lineage split (Figure 2b). The greater diversity within lineage 2
365 strains was characterised by the longer branch length compared to lineage 1 strains, with
366 the split into 2a and 2b sub-groups clearly observed (Figure 2b). The total number of
367 environmental isolates of *B. multivorans* was low in the larger 283 genome dataset ($n = 23$;
368 including $n = 2$ ENVH strains) and a total of 20 environmental isolates clustered within
369 lineage 2 (16 within the 2a subgroup and 4 in 2b; Table S1). The localisation of six of these
370 ENV lineage 2 genomes, and one lineage 1 ENV strain is shown in the core gene sub-panel
371 phylogeny (Figure 2b). Since lineage 2 isolates dominate the master genome collection (221
372 of 283; Table S1), finding 20 environmental isolate genomes within lineage 2 is not
373 unexpected. Overall, these data corroborate previous findings that *B. multivorans* is a Bcc
374 species that is rarely isolated from the natural environment [8] and further systematic study
375 is required to identify sources for each lineage.

376 Multilocus sequencing typing has been a key epidemiological resource from which to
377 understand *Burkholderia* infection on a global scale [55], with the Bcc MLST [23] database
378 currently comprising over 4000 *B. multivorans* isolate profiles. Therefore, the phylogenomic
379 divisions based on 4319 core genes were evaluated against the 7-gene phylogenies from
380 Bcc MLST strain typing scheme [23]. The MLSTcheck program [40] was implemented to
381 derive an MLST allele profile and ST for the strain panel genomes (Table 2). Within the
382 newly sequenced strains, this revealed four novel alleles (BCC0082 [2 alleles], BCC0266,
383 and BCC0737) and four novel STs, with a total of 43 unique STs within the 77-strain panel
384 (Table 2). There were six different clonal complexes (CC) observed within the strain panel,
385 with six strains part of CC1. This CC encompassed ST15 and ST16 *B. multivorans* strains
386 which had caused outbreaks of CF infection in several countries [22]. While phylogenetic
387 analysis of the seven concatenated MLST alleles was able to resolve a two-lineage split
388 within *B. multivorans*, a subset of strains clustered differently and flipped between the 2a and
389 2b subgroups (Figure S1) that had been assigned by the core gene analysis (Figure 2a).
390 This demonstrated that the limited resolution of MLST would not be able to accurately cluster
391 within lineage 2 strains but could assign them to the overall group. It also confirmed that
392 recombination observed within the seven MLST loci [22] is a feature of *B. multivorans*.

393 **Design and testing of *B. multivorans* lineage-specific PCRs**

394 To enable rapid identification and future epidemiological surveillance of the *B. multivorans*
395 lineages, PCR diagnostics were designed and evaluated as follows. Following a pan-GWAS
396 analysis [49], three genes were identified as 100% present and specific to lineage 1 strains:
397 *yiaJ_1*, a predicted DNA-binding transcriptional repressor, *ghrB_1*, a putative
398 glyoxylate/hydroxypyruvate reductase B, and *naiP_3*, a predicted niacin/nicotinamide
399 transporter (Table S3). All three genes were encoded on the second chromosomal replicon
400 when compared to the complete genome of the lineage 2 CF strain *B. multivorans*
401 BCC0084. A single target gene, *glnM_2*, a putative glutamine ABC transporter permease,
402 was specific to lineage 2 *B. multivorans* genomes and encoded on replicon 1, when
403 correlated to the complete genome of strain ATCC 1716 (Table S3). After BLAST analysis of
404 *in silico* primer specificity and consideration of mismatches in the primer designs (Table S3),
405 the *ghrB_1* and *glnM_2* PCRs (Table 3) were tested against the panel of 49 phenotypically
406 analysed strains (Table 1). Each PCR demonstrated specificity, with the correct amplicon
407 size produced for strains of the target lineage, and they did not amplify the opposing *B.*
408 *multivorans* lineage or control *B. ambifaria* and *B. cenocepacia* DNA (Figure 3; a *ghrB_1*
409 PCR example).

410 **The *B. multivorans* phenotype is variable between strains**

411 To examine the extent that the genomic lineages correlated to phenotypic differences *in*
412 *vitro*, 49 representative strains (Table 1) were examined for growth kinetics, motility, biofilm
413 formation, exopolysaccharide production and protease production. This collection comprised
414 18 lineage 1 strains, 30 lineage 2 strains (2a, n = 9; 2b, n = 21), and the outlier *B.*
415 *multivorans* BCC1368. Analysis of growth kinetics demonstrated that all *B. multivorans*
416 strains produced typical sigmoidal growth curves in TSB but varied in their growth
417 characteristics (Figure 4a). In terms of maximum growth rate (collection mean = 0.032 h⁻¹),
418 11 strains (BCC0032, BCC0068, BCC0075, BCC0188, BCC0225, BCC0247, BCC0375,
419 BCC00497, BCC0702, BCC0814 and BCC0865; 22%) fell below the first quartile were
420 designated as slow growing (Table S4). Outliers for lag phase (collection mean = 5.02 h)
421 were BCC0303, BCC0269, BCC1185, BCC0493 and BCC0921 (mean = 11.16 h) which
422 possessed prolonged lag phases and small colony phenotypes on TSA (except for
423 BCC0269) (Table S4). No statistically significant differences between *B. multivorans*
424 lineages were identified for growth rate, maximal growth or lag phase (Figure S2).

425 Motility on nutrient (TSA) versus minimal medium (BSM-G) was examined for swimming and
426 swarming phenotype. A consistent finding was that the majority of *B. multivorans* strains
427 were motile on at least one type of agar (96%; 47 of 49; Figure 4b), but BCC0068 (a CF

428 isolate) and BCC0904 (a non-CF infection isolate) were non-motile on all agar types (Table
429 S5). Overall, a greater number of *B. multivorans* strains had the ability to swim (87%) rather
430 than swarm (80%) on at least one medium type (Table S5). No statistically supported
431 phenotypic differences were found between lineages in relation to motility (Figure S3). The
432 majority of *B. multivorans* strains (42 of 49; 86%) were able to form biofilms *in vitro* within the
433 96-well PVC-plate binding assay. A previous study [56] had shown strain ATCC 17616 to be
434 a high biofilm former and BCC0010 (also known as strain C1962) to be a weak biofilm
435 former. Three strains formed more biofilm than ATCC 17616 (BCC0047, BCC1147 and
436 BCC1272), while 7 *B. multivorans* strains had an average biofilm formation less than
437 BCC0010 (BCC0068, BCC0075, BCC0264, BCC0493, BCC0814, BCC0865 and BCC0921).
438 The ability to form biofilms *in vitro* was not statistically linked to each lineage (Figure S5).

439 Using the semi-quantitative YEM agar assay to determine exopolysaccharide production
440 [45], the majority of *B. multivorans* tested (79 of 84; including all the 49 panel strains in Table
441 1) had the ability to produce mucoid phenotypes on YEM agar (Figure 4b). The non-mucoid
442 phenotype was only observed within five strains (BCC0006, BCC0068, BCC0188, BCC0493
443 and BCC0497), and interestingly, four of these strains also exhibited no or low motility on all
444 agars (Table S5). All 49 *B. multivorans* (Table 1) strains were assessed for protease
445 production using an updated assay [46], but none were found to secrete active proteases *in*
446 *vitro*. In contrast, the positive control, *P. aeruginosa* strain LES B58, produced a clear halo of
447 protease activity on all assays.

448 **Selection of *B. multivorans* model CF strains**

449 Using the resource of extensive phylogenomic and phenotypic analyses obtained, three
450 model *B. multivorans* CF strains were selected. The criteria used accounted for
451 phylogenomic lineage and the possession of a phenotype reflective of the majority of *B.*
452 *multivorans* strains. All the model strains possessed the following phenotypes which were
453 representative of *B. multivorans* as a species and also enabled further systematic research:
454 (i) they grew well *in vitro* (Figure S2); (ii) were motile (see Figure S3); (iii) were capable of
455 biofilm formation (Figure S5); (iv) had an absence of *in vitro* proteolytic activity; (v) were
456 amenable to transformation with a genetic reporter, pIN301-eGFP; and (v) behaved
457 reproducibly in all phenotypic testing.

458 The selected strains were: BCC0033 (also known as C5568) as a lineage 1 CF strain from
459 Canada that was representative of the globally spread ST-16 and clonal complex 1 (Table
460 2); BCC0084 (also known as C6398), a lineage 2b CF strain from Canada (ST-195; Table
461 2), and BCC1272 (also known as AU0453), a lineage 2a CF strain from the USA (ST-21;
462 Table 2). In addition to these three CF strains, the *B. multivorans* reference strain ATCC

463 17616 (BCC0011), a lineage 2a soil isolate was considered as a fourth model strain because
464 of its well-studied nature. Although ATCC 17616 was isolated from soil, CF isolate BCC1272
465 had the same MLST type, ST-21. Core-gene phylogenomic analysis (Figure 2b), and
466 complete sequence analysis (Table 1) also showed that the soil and CF isolate were
467 essentially identical at genomic level. All the four model strains were also shown to be
468 genetically amenable to plasmid transformation by successful electroporation and reporter
469 gene expression from plasmid pIN301-eGFP and pIN233-mCherry [47]. Finally, to ensure
470 genomic resources for the model CF strains BCC033, BCC0084 and BCC1272 were
471 substantive, they were subjected to complete genome sequencing (see Table 1 for
472 accession numbers).

473 **The *B. multivorans* model strains were capable of murine respiratory infection**

474 To understand if the selected model *B. multivorans* were proficient in their ability to colonise
475 the mammalian nasopharynx and lung, and therefore suitable for pathogenicity/therapeutic
476 testing, they were examined in a murine model of respiratory infection [19, 20, 51]. A single
477 experiment with statistical power to evaluate basic bacterial survival kinetics was carried out
478 using strains BCC0033 and its eGFP::pIN301 derivative (BCC033-GFP), BCC0084
479 eGFP::pIN301 (BCC084-GFP) and *B. multivorans* ATCC 17616. All the initial *B. multivorans*
480 stocks used for infection and the pooled isolates obtained from 3- and 5-days post infection
481 (the nasopharynx and lungs), were subjected to Illumina re-sequencing to confirm their
482 genetic identity and evaluate if short-term genomic evolution had occurred.

483 Intranasal infection with approximately 10^7 c.f.u. ml⁻¹ of each *B. multivorans* strain resulted in
484 colonisation of the respiratory tract ranging from 10^2 to 10^5 log₁₀ c.f.u. within both the
485 nasopharynx and lungs, which persisted over the 5-day infection (Figure 5). In rank order,
486 BCC0084-GFP had the greatest rate of lung colonisation (1.8×10^4 to 1.7×10^5 c.f.u. ml⁻¹)
487 over 5 days, followed by BCC0033 (1.3×10^4 to 2.5×10^4 c.f.u. ml⁻¹), BCC0033-GFP ($7.9 \times$
488 10^3 to 1.5×10^4 c.f.u. ml⁻¹) and strain ATCC 17616 which possessed the lowest lung infection
489 rate (1.1×10^2 to 1.8×10^3 c.f.u. ml⁻¹) (Figure 5).

490 Genome resequencing of the pooled isolates from the nasopharynx and lung demonstrated
491 that infection isolates were essentially isogenic with each respective inoculated strain.
492 Scaffolding of the short-read sequences to the complete genomes demonstrated that no
493 major genomic rearrangements had occurred during the short-term infection. Overall, 242
494 SNP variants were observed to have accumulated amongst the four *B. multivorans* genomes
495 as follows. In total, 72 (29.75%) had annotated effects that were: 4 conservative in-frame
496 insertions, 4 disruptive in-frame deletions, 26 missense variants, 4 stop lost and splice
497 region variants and 34 synonymous mutations. *B. multivorans* ATCC 17616 harboured the

498 greatest number of SNPs ($n = 110$). A total of 27 and 20 SNPs were found in the pooled lung
499 isolates at day 3 and 5, respectively, and 23 and 40 SNPs in the nasopharynx, at the same
500 respective time points. Strain BCC0033 harboured the fewest SNPs with 27 identified (four
501 in lung day 3, seven in lung day 5, eight in the nasopharynx on days 3 and 5), followed by
502 BCC0033-GFP with 33 SNPs with a similar distribution (seven SNPs in lung day 3, fourteen
503 SNPs in lung day 5 and six SNPs in both nasopharynx days 3 and 5). BCC0084
504 eGFP::pIN301 had a total of 72 SNPs (nineteen in lung day 3, seventeen in lung day 5,
505 sixteen in nasopharynx day 3, and twenty in nasopharynx day 5).

506 **Discussion**

507 A limited number of *Burkholderia* species have been subjected to in-depth population
508 biology, phylogenomic and phenotypic analysis. *B. multivorans* has been previously
509 investigated to MLST level demonstrating the presence of globally distributed clonal
510 complexes [22]. Using genomic analyses, we have taken epidemiological understanding a
511 step further, identifying two evolutionary lineages within *B. multivorans*. Although no
512 difference in the distribution of CF isolates across the two *B. multivorans* lineages was seen,
513 it is interesting that the majority of globally distributed *B. multivorans* clonal complexes [22]
514 resided in lineage 2b (Table 2). In comparison to *B. cenocepacia* [9], there are no currently
515 defined model CF strains for *B. multivorans*. By combining the genomic findings with the
516 common phenotypic features of *B. multivorans*, three model CF strains were identified as
517 suitable for future studies alongside the well-characterised soil isolate ATCC 17616. The
518 model strains (BCC0033, BCC0084 and ATCC17616) were all capable of *in vivo* infection in
519 a murine model of respiratory tract infection, providing a future platform for virulence analysis
520 and therapeutic screening. With straightforward PCR diagnostic probes also designed to
521 rapidly identify each *B. multivorans* genomic lineage, clinical laboratories now have
522 straightforward tools to evaluate their associated epidemiology.

523 Several *B. cepacia* complex species have recently been observed to contain unexpected
524 genomic diversity, resulting in the identification of novel genomic taxa within them. For
525 example, the historical *recA* gene-based lineage originally identified in *B. cenocepacia* as III-
526 B [11], was identified as a separate genomic taxa [12] and subsequently proposed as the
527 new species *B. orbicola* sp. nov. [13]. *B. gladioli*, the third most common *Burkholderia* CF
528 pathogen seen in the US [6] was thought to comprise several pathovars, but genomic
529 analyses demonstrated that five distinct evolutionary clades existed within this single
530 genomic species [21]. Further, bongkrekic acid toxin producing strains (clades 1a, 1b and
531 1c) occurring as CF lung infections were identified for the first time within *B. gladioli*. Finally,
532 across *Burkholderia* species as a whole, multiple novel genomic taxa have been identified,

533 with only approximately half of these having formal species names [36]. Our phylogenomic
534 analysis of *B. multivorans* shows that this important CF pathogen does not harbour further
535 genomic taxa (Figure 1), but does comprise 2 major evolutionary lineages (Figure 2). Like
536 the two genomic groups observed in the major CF pathogen *P. aeruginosa* [57, 58], the
537 pathogenic significance of these *B. multivorans* lineages remains to be determined.

538 We identified that *B. multivorans* strains possess highly variable phenotypes, with no direct
539 linkage to their genomic lineage. However, what was consistent was that most strains from
540 CF infection were motile, able to form biofilms *in vitro*, but lacked the ability to produce
541 proteases on growth media. An absence of *B. multivorans* protease activity *in vitro* is in stark
542 contrast to other CF airway pathogens such as *B. cenocepacia* [59]. A lack of proteolytic
543 activity and an absence of homologs for the virulence-linked *B. cenocepacia zmpA*
544 metalloprotease was observed in a limited study of 8 *B. multivorans* strains [59]. Our data
545 corroborates and extends this finding to *B. multivorans* as a species, with no *zmpA*
546 homologs identified in our taxonomically confirmed (Figure 1) genomic datasets. The *B.*
547 *multivorans* genomes did encode multiple other putative protease genes including
548 metalloproteases, but further study is required to understand their expression and function.
549 When investigating the *B. multivorans* growth rate *in vitro*, two strain groups were apparent,
550 splitting the isolates into approximately two groups, those that reached stationary phase by
551 24 h, versus those reaching this growth stage at 30 h (Figure 4a). Reduced *B. multivorans*
552 growth rates have previously been observed in CF infection [16] and is also the case for *P.*
553 *aeruginosa* chronic lung infection isolates [60]. All 11 *B. multivorans* strains identified as slow
554 growers had been recovered from CF infection, suggesting this is also pathogenic
555 adaptation the species makes during chronic infection.

556 Overall, screening a collection of *B. multivorans* demonstrated that the majority of strains
557 retained motility as a core phenotype. This contrasts with *P. aeruginosa*, where isolates from
558 chronic CF lung infection are known to become non-motile [61], but correlates with
559 longitudinal analysis of *B. cepacia* complex isolates, where just swimming motility was
560 examined [62]. Non-swimming *B. multivorans* were rare among the collection of isolates
561 screened (14%) and loss of swimming motility was previously suggested as not a common
562 adaptive feature of chronically infecting CF strains [62]. Silva, Santos [16] examined 22
563 longitudinal isolates recovered from an individual with CF spanning 20 years and showed
564 decreased swimming motility of this single strain that was likely due to mutations
565 accumulating in the cyclic di-GMP (c-di-GMP) metabolism pathway. Loss of motility has
566 been observed in invasive *B. cenocepacia* strains that were isolated from the bloodstream of
567 CF individuals suffering with acute 'cepacia syndrome' [63]. Of the genetically diverse
568 isolates screened in our study, only *B. multivorans* strain BCC0068 (a CF isolate) was non-

569 motile on all motility agar types, while BCC0006 showed no swarming motility (Figure 4b),
570 but retained limited swimming ability (Table S5). For *B. cepacia* complex species, it has
571 been shown that infection with nonmucoid strains correlates to an increased lung function
572 decline, as compared to infection with mucoidal variants [14]. Only five nonmucoid *B.*
573 *multivorans* variants were identified in our study, but all the nonmucoid strains exhibited no
574 or limited motility, as had been observed in other studies [15, 62, 64].

575 A useful finding from the *B. multivorans* strains examined using the murine respiratory
576 infection model was that they demonstrated initial levels of lung and nasopharynx
577 colonisation similar to *P. aeruginosa* strain LESB65 (between log 2 and 4 c.f.u. in each
578 tissue) [19, 51]. This is substantially greater than the low level of colonization (<1000
579 c.f.u./tissue) observed for the *B. cepacia* complex species, *B. ambifaria*, in the same murine
580 infection model [20]. The limited ability of *B. ambifaria* to colonise the mammalian respiratory
581 tract correlates to the species epidemiology in CF, where it has historically been rarely seen
582 [6] or more recently, not observed [5] compared to *B. multivorans*, which was the dominant
583 CF *Burkholderia* in both epidemiological studies. The *B. multivorans* CF strain BCC0084-
584 GFP (lineage 1) was the most adept coloniser of both the mouse lung and nasopharynx, with
585 the environmentally derived ATCC 17616 showing the lowest colonisation rate (Figure 5);
586 however, this was still greater, in terms of infectivity, compared to *B. ambifaria* [20].
587 Investigating the genomic differences between *B. multivorans* and *B. ambifaria* would be an
588 interesting future study to help understand why *B. multivorans* is capable of murine (Figure
589 5) and CF lung infection rates [5]. Additionally, further systematic studies of *B. cepacia*
590 complex species in this murine model of infection [19, 20, 51] will need to be carried out to
591 establish their comparative pathogenicity, but promisingly, it is clear the model is a good
592 system for studying *B. multivorans*.

593 In summary, although *B. multivorans* possesses a highly variable phenotype, it is
594 genomically one species harbouring 2 major lineages. At this stage in our analyses, no
595 differences between *B. multivorans* lineages have been observed. However, with the
596 identification of representative model strains reflecting each lineage and the conserved
597 species phenotypes, as well as PCR primers to rapidly identify each lineage, in depth
598 studies of *B. multivorans* as a CF pathogen can now be undertaken.

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610 **Declaration of Competing Interest**

611 The authors do not have any conflicts of interest to disclose in relation to this study.

612 **Ethical statement**

613 Murine infection modelling was performed with full ethical permission at University of
614 Liverpool under project licence PP2072053 (approved by the UK home office and the
615 University of Liverpool Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Board).

616 **Author contributions**

617 The CReDIT contributor roles taxonomy was used to recognise author contributions as
618 follows:

619 Conceptualization: EM, TRC, KMP

620 Methodology: KMP, EM, AEG, DRN

621 Software: KMP, TRC

622 Validation: KMP, EM, AEG, DRN

623 Formal analysis: KMP, AEG, DRN

624 Investigation: KMP, EM, AEG, DRN

625 Resources: EM, TRC, DRN

626 Data Curation: KMP

627 Writing – original draft preparation: KMP, EM

628 Writing – review and editing: all authors

629 Visualization: KMP, EM

630 Supervision: EM, DRN

631 Project administration: EM, DRN

632 Funding acquisition: EM, TRC, DRN, KMP

633 **Figures legends**

634

635 **Figure 1. *B. multivorans* is a single genomic species comprised of 2 major ANI sub-**
636 **groups.** An ANI heatmap of the 77 sub-selected *B. multivorans* strains was generated using
637 the PyANI. The ANI percentage identity scale is shown (top left) with all red regions >95%
638 identity. The two major ANI groups, 1 and 2, are indicated with the further 2a and 2b sub-
639 groups labelled. The outlier strain BCC1368 is indicated as by the black arrow (bottom right)
640 and was still >95% ANI in terms of similarity with the other *B. multivorans* genomes (bottom
641 right).

642

643 **Figure 2. Core gene phylogenetic analysis of *B. multivorans* genomes corroborates**
644 **the presence of two major lineages. (a)** A core-gene phylogeny of 283 *B. multivorans*
645 strains was generated by aligning 4319 core genes using RAxML (100 bootstraps). The tree
646 was rooted using BCC1368 (black arrow) and comprised an outgroup of 4 isolate genomes.
647 Lineage 1 (red), 2a (green) and 2b (blue) groups are shaded. The position of the selected
648 model *B. multivorans* strains is indicated by the strain names. The single strain group ($n =$
649 111) represents sequential isolates of CF strain sequenced during chronic *B. multivorans*
650 infection. (b) The core gene phylogeny of the 77-strain panel is also presented (also an
651 alignment of the 4,319 core-genes using RAxML with 100 bootstraps). Nodes have been
652 allocated a white circle to illustrate $\leq 80\%$ bootstrap or a black circle for $\geq 80\%$ bootstrap. The
653 lineages are labelled (right) and isolates indicated with the asterisk were genome sequenced
654 and studied phenotypically as part of this study (see Table 1). Isolate strain names are
655 provided and the text colour denotes their source (Black = CF, green = ENV, blue = ENVH,
656 purple = NON-CF, and red = CGD); the position of the model strains is indicated by the black
657 arrows. The number of base substitutions per site are indicated by the scale bars on each
658 respective phylogeny.

659

660 **Figure 3. Specificity of the *ghrB_1* for identification of lineage 1 *B. multivorans***
661 **strains.** The correct PCR amplicons (744 bp; see arrow on right) resulting from a *ghrB_1*
662 PCR on 18 lineage *B. multivorans* strains is shown (strain names are shown above each
663 lane). No amplicon products were produced from the *B. multivorans* lineage 2 strains (10
664 shown on the gel) or the water negative control. Molecular size ladders (1 kb ladder) are
665 shown with the relevant size DNA fragments labelled. Repeat PCR analysis of the degraded
666 *B. multivorans* BCC1177 (lineage 1) DNA sample was successful. In addition all testing of
667 negative and positive strains for this PCR was reproducible.

668

669 **Figure 4. Phenotypic characteristic of *B. multivorans*.** Panel A shows the growth curves
670 measured using a Bioscreen C instrument for each of the 49 *B. multivorans* panel strains
671 (and one additional strain). The mean optical density of technical (n=3) and biological
672 replicates (n=3) is plotted for every 15 minute reading across 48 h. The key provides shows
673 growth curves for the strains coloured by lineage; the growth rate data is provided in
674 Supplementary Table S4. Panel B shows the motility of selected *B. multivorans* strains
675 ranging from low to high motility on 0.5% swarming BSM-G agar (BCC0006 = non-motile,
676 BCC0065 = low motility, BCC0047 = intermediate motility, and BCC0702 = high motility).
677 This panel represents the motility categories (diameters) which were observed on 0.3%
678 swimming agar also. Panel C shows a section of *B. multivorans* strain reflective of the EPS
679 production scale seen after growth on YEM agar.

680

681 **Figure 5. *Burkholderia multivorans* model strains can persist within a mammalian**
682 **respiratory infection model.** Mouse lung and nasopharynx infection dynamics for the
683 selected *B. multivorans* model strains are shown. Viable counts (c.f.u.) for the *B. multivorans*
684 strains at days 1, 3 and 5 post-infections are shown with the within strain statistical
685 significance indicated for each time point. The panels show: (A) infection of the nasopharynx
686 and (B) the lungs, with the individual (coloured) and median (black) c.f.u. for each tissue
687 plotted.

Table 1. The selected *B. multivorans* strain panel ($n = 77$) including 49 phenotypically characterized strains sequenced in this study

Strain (and alternative strain name)	Lineage	Isolation source and geographic location	ENA accession
Sequenced and phenotypically studied			
BCC0006	1	CF	ERR4672189
BCC0009	1	CGD	ERR4672190
BCC0080	1	CF	ERR4672267
BCC0084	1	CF	ERR4672269 (complete genome: ERR10387434)
BCC0101	1	CF	ERR4672272
BCC0141	1	CF	ERR4672273
BCC0303	1	CF	ERR4672282
BCC0375	1	CF	ERR4672284
BCC0381	1	NON	ERR4672285
BCC0702	1	CF	ERR4672759
BCC0737	1	CF	ERR4676914
BCC0814	1	CF	ERR4674025
BCC0865	1	CF	ERR4674026
BCC0904	1	NON	ERR4674027
BCC0921	1	CF	ERR4674035
BCC1177	1	CF	ERR4674031
BCC1190	1	CF	ERR4674032
BCC1385	1	CF	ERR4674033
BCC0047	2a	CF	ERR4672260
BCC0066	2a	CF	ERR4672262
BCC0074	2a	CF	ERR4672264
BCC0188	2a	CF	ERR4672274
BCC0225	2a	CF	ERR4674034
BCC0264	2a	CF	ERR4676953
BCC0266	2a	CF	ERR4672280
BCC0317	2a	ENV	ERR4672283
BCC0032	2b	CF	ERR4672191
BCC0033	2b	CF	ERR4672192
BCC0043	2b	CF	ERR4672194
BCC0065	2b	NON	ERR4672261
BCC0068	2b	CF	ERR4672263
BCC0075	2b	CF	ERR4672265
BCC0079	2b	CF	ERR4672266
BCC0082	2b	CF	ERR4672268
BCC0087	2b	CF	ERR4672270
BCC0096	2b	CF	ERR4672271
BCC0241	2b	NON	ERR4672275
BCC0246	2b	CF	ERR4672279
BCC0247	2b	CF	ERR4674976
BCC0269	2b	CF	ERR4672281
BCC0384	2b	CF	ERR4672589
BCC0493	2b	CF	ERR4672590
BCC0497	2b	CF	ERR4672598
BCC0710	2b	CF	ERR4672760
BCC1147	2b	CF	ERR4674028
BCC1148	2b	CF	ERR4674030
BCC1185	2b	CF	ERR4676921
BCC1272	2a	CF	ERR4676913 (complete genome: ERR10387431)
BCC1368	Other	CF	ERR4676903
Reference genomes from NCBI			
ATCC BAA-247	1	CF	GCA_000959525.1
AU1185	1	NON	GCA_001718755.1
AU10047	1	CF	GCA_002981015.1
AU11358	1	CF	GCA_002981015.1
AU28442	1	CF	GCA_002981415.1

CGD2	1	CGD	GCA_000182275.1
FDAARGOS_546	1	ND	GCA_003938705.1
HI3534	1	ENVH	GCA_001528605.1
R-20526	1	ENV	GCA_001267755.1
ATCC 17616	2a	ENV	GCA_000010545
AU10398	2a	CF	GCA_002980695.1
AU15814	2a	CF	GCA_002980895.1
AU17545	2a	CF	GCA_002980995.1
AU18096	2a	CF	GCA_002981145.1
AU28069	2a	CF	GCA_002981845.1
CF2	2a	CF	GCA_000286575.1
CGD1	2a	CGD	GCA_000182255.1
DWS 42B-1	2a	ENV	GCA_000756965.1
MSMB1272WGS	2a	ENV	GCA_001529925.1
MSMB1640WGS	2a	ENV	GCA_001718995.1
NKI379	2a	ENV	GCA_001302465.1
AU4507	2b	CF	GCA_002981595.1
AU20929	2b	CF	GCA_002981635.1
AU21015	2b	CF	GCA_003048355.1
AU22892	2b	CF	GCA_002981295.1
AU24277	2b	CF	GCA_002981375.1
BMUL_CF170.0a	2b	CF	GCA_003257435.1
D2214	2b	CF	GCA_000807815.1

Table 2. MLST alleles and Sequence Type (ST) for the 77 strain *B. multivorans* panel

Strain	Isolation source	MLST alleles ^a							ST	Clonal Complex
		<i>atpD</i>	<i>gltB</i>	<i>gyrB</i>	<i>recA</i>	<i>lepA</i>	<i>phaC</i>	<i>trpB</i>		
ATCC 17616	ENV	13	78	100	94	92	96	6	21	-
BCC0006	CF	11	60	251	81	37	96	5	650	-
BCC0009	CGD	9	223	445	81	137	35	215	1530	-
BCC0032	CF	13	151	168	139	142	100	132	191	-
BCC0033	CF	8	5	5	7	7	42	105	16	1
BCC0043	CF	13	9	83	12	7	42	391	806	-
BCC0047	CF	13	62	695	110	45	14	452	1077	-
BCC0065	NON	8	5	5	7	7	42	105	16	1
BCC0066	CF	336	61	97	11	64	96	104	880	-
BCC0068	CF	168	220	303	133	7	96	4	329*	-
BCC0074	CF	14	8	55	11	46	96	281	618	-
BCC0075	CF	13	7	6	10	224	42	415	899	-
BCC0079	CF	13	150	166	88	7	42	6	1792*	-
BCC0080	CF	3	50	4	81	7	35	57	1964	-
BCC0082	CF	13	188	~611	165	200	96	~220	Novel	-
BCC0084	CF	9	50	53	81	63	96	133	195	5
BCC0087	CF	13	5	172	133	145	96	137	199	7
BCC0096	CF	168	190	259	133	7	96	132	317	8
BCC0101	CF	9	205	285	141	63	35	5	304	-
BCC0141	CF	9	50	84	141	37	96	7	1023	-
BCC0188	CF	125	154	171	140	144	14	136	196	-
BCC0241	NON	14	8	55	11	46	96	281	618	-
BCC0225	CF	13	329	261	7	7	42	132	605	-
BCC0246	CF	13	5	262	188	203	42	132	273	-
BCC0247	CF	8	5	5	7	7	42	105	16	1
BCC0264	CF	13	61	264	184	144	42	6	274	-
BCC0266	CF	13	152	~695	196	143	96	135	Novel	-
BCC0269	CF	13	196	265	189	201	96	195	354*	-
BCC0303	CF	10	60	4	77	37	35	5	25	-
BCC0317	ENV	13	63	53	80	61	96	56	22	-
BCC0375	CF	76	50	99	93	37	35	111	117	-
BCC0381	NON	9	75	54	93	63	35	66	18	-
BCC0384	CF	8	5	5	7	7	42	5	15	1
BCC0493	CF	13	9	83	12	7	42	391	806	-
BCC0497	CF	13	9	83	12	7	42	7	26	2
BCC0702	CF	9	50	169	81	409	96	133	836	-
BCC0710	CF	8	5	5	7	7	42	5	15	1
BCC0737	CF	123	50	170	81	~37	35	5	Novel	-
BCC0814	CF	118	50	158	6	37	96	5	180	-
BCC0865	CF	9	142	161	81	137	96	66	181	-
BCC0904	NON	118	50	158	6	37	96	5	180	-
BCC0921	CF	9	142	161	81	137	96	66	181	-
BCC1147	CF	168	190	259	133	7	96	132	317	8
BCC1148	CF	168	190	259	133	7	96	132	317	8

BCC1177	CF	9	50	53	81	63	96	133	195	5
BCC1185	CF	13	5	172	133	145	96	137	199	7
BCC1190	CF	9	75	54	93	63	35	66	18	-
BCC1272	CF	13	78	100	94	92	96	6	21	-
BCC1368	CF	211	205	170	93	37	35	251	179	-
BCC1385	CF	7	270	4	81	137	35	5	847	-
ATCC BAA-247	CF	13	236	354	133	231	42	4	650	-
AU1185	NON	9	75	54	93	63	35	66	18	-
AU4507	CF	13	61	620	133	424	42	6	891	-
AU10047	CF	9	50	84	289	37	96	5	564	-
AU10398	CF	13	397	283	135	623	42	340	1512	-
AU11358	CF	9	223	445	81	37	35	215	646	-
AU15814	CF	9	75	54	93	63	35	66	18	-
AU17545	CF	193	234	325	185	239	42	256	623	-
AU18096	CF	13	334	483	309	355	42	340	603	-
AU20929	CF	13	328	475	7	239	96	334	715	-
AU21015	CF	13	329	259	133	46	96	132	622	-
AU22892	CF	13	333	482	133	10	96	4	190	4
AU24277	CF	121	138	167	138	141	42	132	625	-
AU28069	CF	13	9	484	7	64	266	195	630	-
AU28442	CF	13	145	488	135	10	96	104	645	-
BMUL CF170.0a	CF	13	236	354	133	231	42	4	783	-
CF2	CF	193	453	695	207	461	343	4	1079	-
CGD1	CGD	12	6	118	9	63	100	6	1762 ^a	-
CGD2	CGD	11	75	251	141	37	35	7	442	-
D2214	CF	8	5	5	7	7	42	105	16	1
DWS 42B-1	ENV	122	373	98	7	230	96	376	809	-
FDAARGOS 546	ND	10	153	315	93	37	96	66	355	-
HI3534	Other ^c	7	332	170	81	63	35	5	620	-
MSMB1272WGS	ENV	122	148	164	80	10	45	302	1088	-
MSMB1640WGS	ENV	158	371	98	11	230	96	251	802	-
NKI379	ENV	13	786	166	11	239	42	715	1771	-
R-20526	ENV	9	50	169	81	409	96	133	836	-

^a A novel MLST allele is indicated by ~ ahead of the allele number

^b Shared STs are colour coded with the same shading

^c Allele profiles based on the 7-gene PCR analysis [23] corrected based on the MLSTCheck genome analysis

Table 3. Lineage-specific *B. multivorans* target genes and PCR primer sequences

Lineage and target gene	Primer Name	Primer Sequence (5' to 3')	Primer Length (bp)	Position (replicon)	Annealing Temperature (°C)	Product Size (bp)
Lineage 1 <i>ghrB_1</i>	GHRBBM1F	CAAGCAACCGACCGAA <u>AG</u>	18	4008677-4008694 ^a	53.0	744
	GHRBBM1R	GGAGACAG <u>A</u> ATCACGTTC	18	4009403-4009420 ^a (replicon 2)		
Lineage 2 <i>glnM_2</i>	GLNMBM2F	<u>TGAATG</u> <u>CCG</u> GCCACGTAT <u>G</u>	19	1792198-1792216 ^b	55.5	322
	GLNMBM2R	GACGCATACGACAG <u>T</u> TCC	18	1791895-1791912 ^b (replicon 1)		

*Mismatched for each primer sequence are highlighted in bold and underlined. ^aPosition found in complete genome of *B. multivorans* BCC0084. ^bPosition relative to the complete genome ATCC 17616.

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690 [05/2020%20Annual%20data%20report%20-%20Version%204.pdf](https://www.cysticfibrosis.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-05/2020%20Annual%20data%20report%20-%20Version%204.pdf) [accessed].
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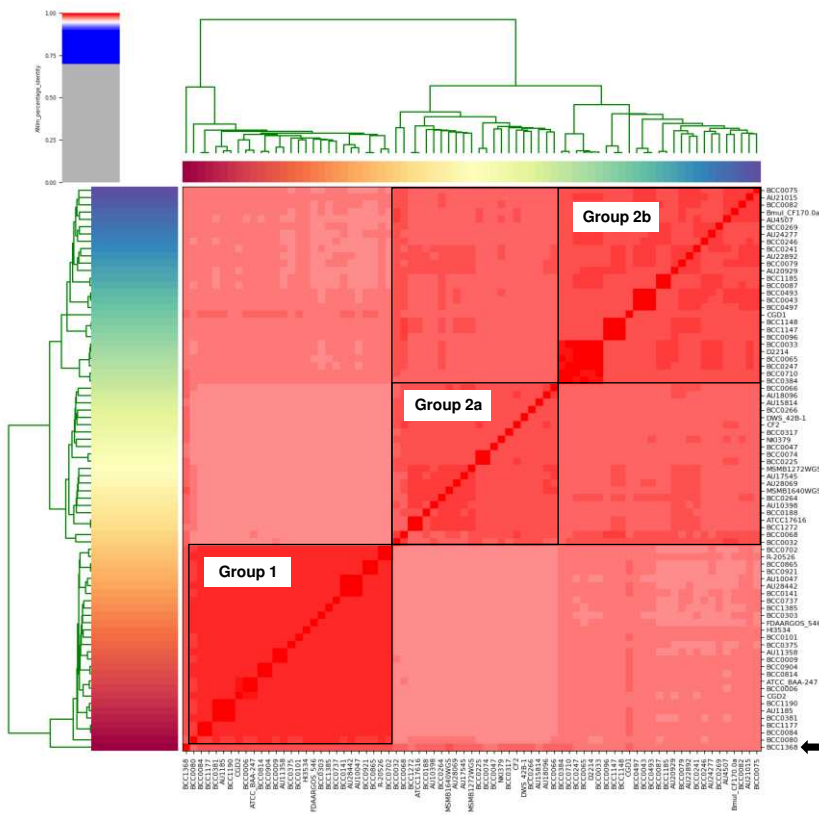
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849

Figure 1



850

Figure 2

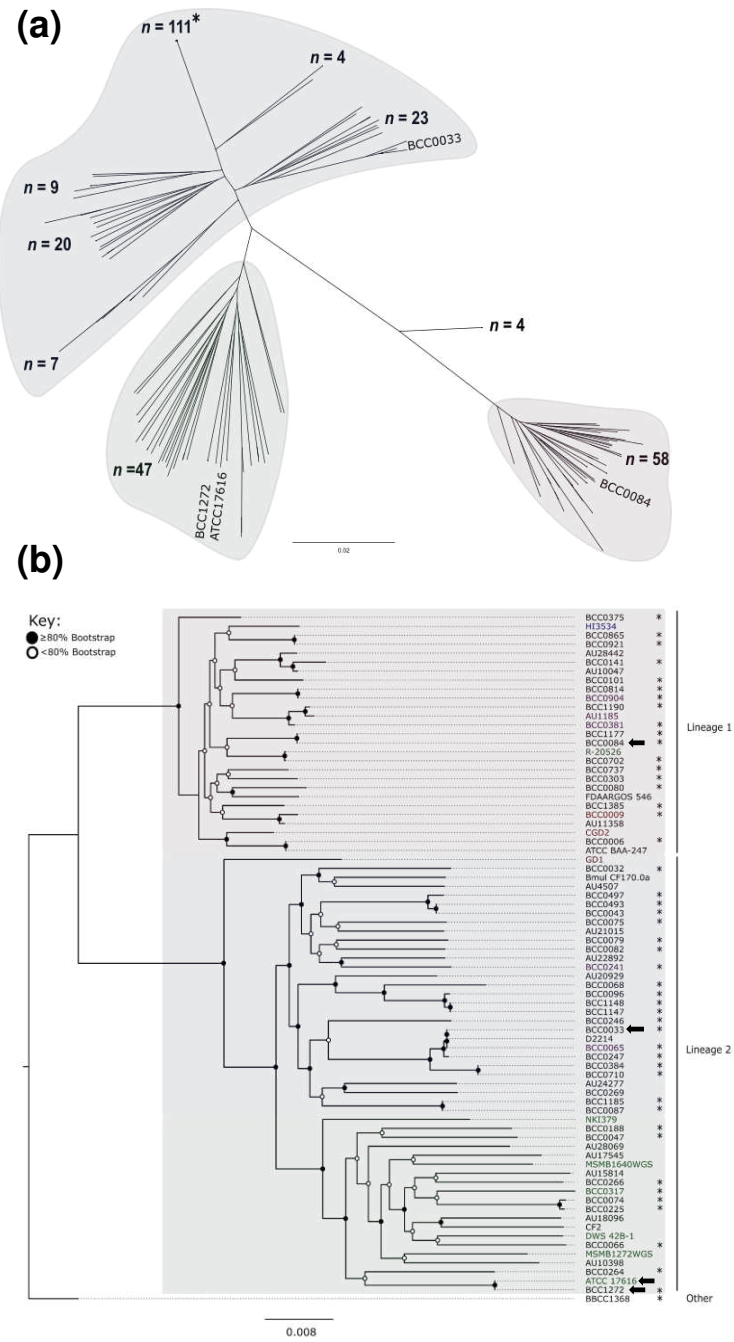
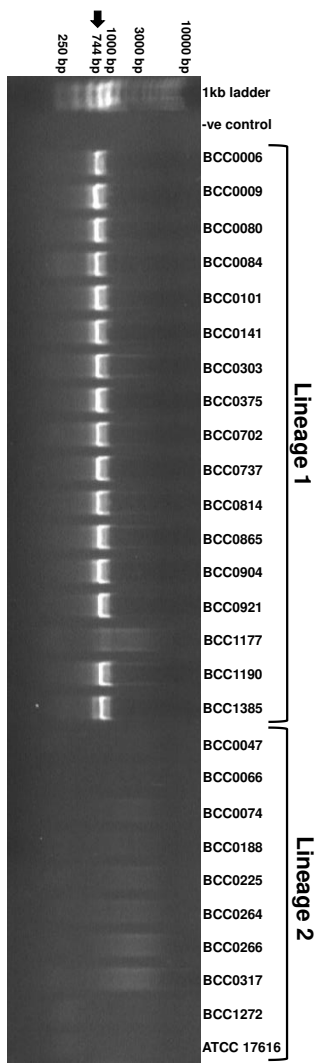


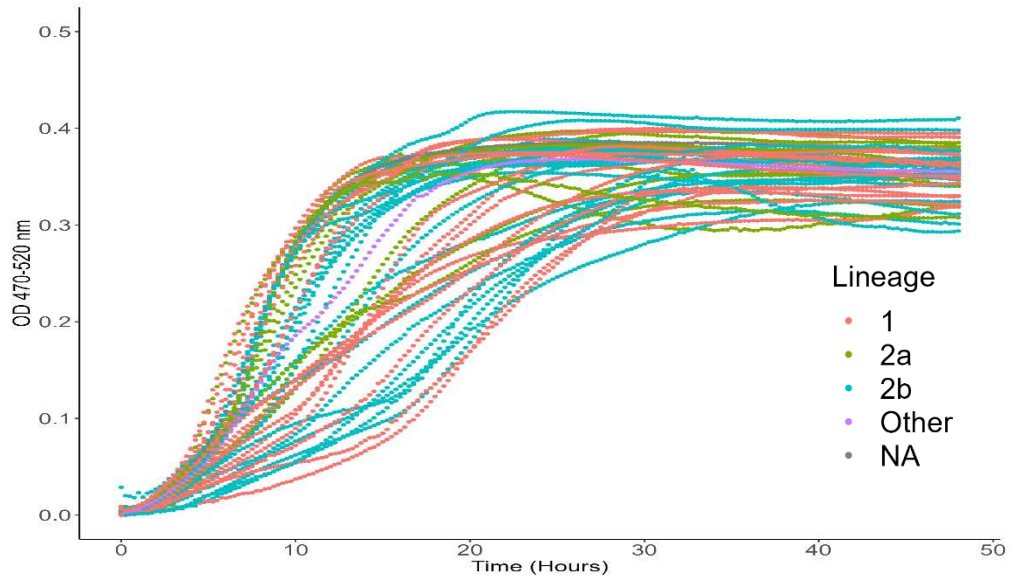
Figure 3



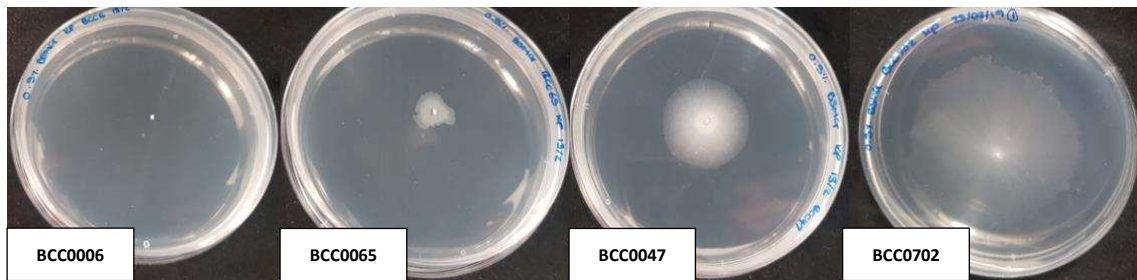
852

Figure 4

(a) Growth kinetics



(b) Motility

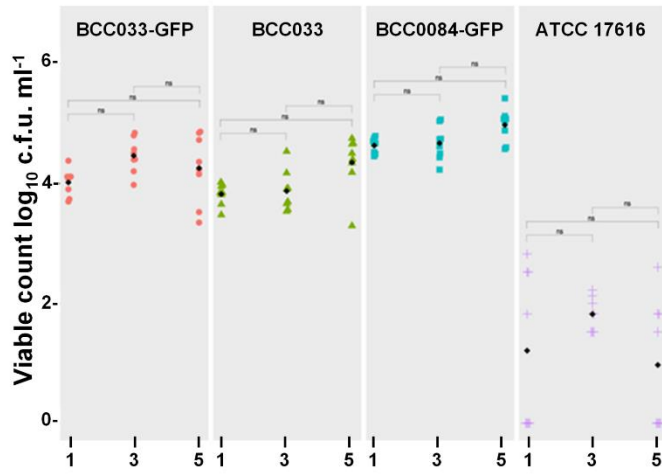


(c) Mucoidy



Figure 5

(a) Nasopharynx



(b) Lung

