

Microbacterium invictum sp. nov., isolated from homemade compost

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Strain DC-200^T was isolated from homemade compost produced from kitchen refuse and characterized using a polyphasic approach. The isolate was a Gram-positive motile short rod, facultatively aerobic, catalase-positive and oxidase-negative, and was able to grow at 10–37 °C, pH 6.0–9.5 and with up to 5 % of NaCl. The peptidoglycan was of the type B1 alpha and the muramic acid residues were glycolylated. The major fatty acids were anteiso-C_{15:0} and anteiso-C_{17:0}. The predominant respiratory menaquinones were MK-11 and MK-12. The G + C content of the genomic DNA was 70 mol%. Based on the analysis of the 16S rRNA gene sequence, the closest phylogenetic neighbours of strain DC-200^T were *Microbacterium lacus* A5E-52^T (98.7 %) and *Microbacterium aoyamense* KV-492^T (98.2 %). The phenetic characterization of the isolate supports its inclusion within the genus *Microbacterium*; however, its distinctive phenotypic features and the results from the 16S rRNA gene sequence analysis and the DNA–DNA hybridization study suggest that the isolate represents a novel species. The name *Microbacterium invictum* sp. nov. is proposed. The type strain is DC-200^T (=DSM 19600^T=LMG 24557^T).

Home composting is an ancient process of recycling domestic and agricultural organic waste, which is a mixture of soft ‘green’ domestic residues such as vegetable leaves, fruit skins or potato peelings and dry ‘brown’ material such as dead leaves or dried grass. Decomposition is performed by several micro-organisms, namely fungi and bacteria, that are present in the raw materials and able to survive the environmental stresses and competitive phenomena that occur during composting (Epstein, 1997). This paper reports the characterization of a strain (designated DC-200^T) that was isolated from fully decomposed homemade compost. 16S rRNA gene sequence analysis and DNA–DNA hybridization results showed that the strain is a member of the genus *Microbacterium* but does not belong to any of the more than 50 species currently included in this genus (Euzéby, 2008).

Strain DC-200^T was isolated from homemade compost produced by thermal digestion of kitchen refuse in a wooden domestic composter (1 m³), where temperatures of about 50 °C are reached (Vaz-Moreira *et al.*, 2008). The

isolate was purified by subculturing on plate count agar (PCA; Pronadisa) containing (l⁻¹): 5 g tryptone, 2.5 g yeast extract, 1 g glucose and 15 g agar. Cultures were incubated at 30 °C and cells were stored at –80 °C in nutrient broth with 15 % (v/v) glycerol for preservation. Colony and cell morphological descriptions, Gram-stain reaction, cytochrome-*c* oxidase and catalase tests and endospore and motility visualizations were based on the methodologies of Murray *et al.* (1994) and Smibert & Krieg (1994). Unless otherwise stated, all biochemical and physiological tests were performed as described previously (Vaz-Moreira *et al.*, 2007). Biochemical and nutritional tests were assayed using the API 20E, API 20NE, API 50 CH and API ZYM systems (bioMérieux) following the manufacturer’s instructions, and API 50 CH was inoculated with the medium recommended to test acid production and with mineral medium B (Barreiros *et al.*, 2003) supplemented with 4 mM (NH₄)₂SO₄ and 0.5 % yeast extract. Antibiotic susceptibility was assayed as described by Ferreira da Silva *et al.* (2006).

The determination of the genomic DNA G + C content and the analysis of respiratory quinones were performed as described previously (Vaz-Moreira *et al.*, 2007) using the methods of Mesbah *et al.* (1989) and Tindall (1989), respectively. The cellular fatty acid compositions of strains

Abbreviation: MALDI-TOF, matrix-assisted laser-desorption/ionization time-of-flight.

The GenBank/EMBL/DDBJ accession number for the 16S rRNA gene sequence of strain DC-200^T is AM949677.

Table 1. Differential characteristics of strain DC-200^T and the type strains of closely related *Microbacterium* species

Strains: 1, *Microbacterium invictum* sp. nov. DC-200^T; 2, *M. lacus* DSM 18910^T; 3, *M. aoyamense* DSM 19461^T. Data from this study. +, Positive; –, negative; w, weak; ND, no data available.

Characteristic	1	2	3
Isolation source	Homemade compost	Estuarine sediment	Soil
Colony colour	White/yellow	Pale yellow	Pale yellow
Motility	+	–*	–*
Growth conditions			
pH range	6–9.5	6–11*	5–11*
5 % NaCl	+	–*	+*
Anaerobic	+	–	ND
Nitrate reduction	+	–	+
Voges–Proskauer	+	–	–
Oxidation (API 20E)			
Amygdalin	+	–	+
D-Glucose	+	–	+
D-Mannitol	+	–	w
L-Rhamnose	+	–	+
D-Sorbitol	+	–	–
Glucose fermentation	w	–	–
Assimilation of:			
N-Acetylglucosamine	+	–	+
D-Fructose	+	–	+
D-Galactose	–	–	+
Potassium gluconate	+	–	+
Glycogen	–	+	+
Malate	–	–	+
D-Mannitol	+	–	+
Melezitose	–	+	–
Raffinose	–	+	+
L-Rhamnose	+	–	+
D-Sorbitol	+	–	–
Starch	–	w	+
Sucrose	–	+	+
Trehalose	–	+	+
Enzymic activity			
Alkaline phosphatase	+	–	–
Cystine arylamidase	–	+	–
Trypsin	–	+	–
α-Chymotrypsin	–	+	–
α-Galactosidase	–	+	–
β-Galactosidase	+	–	+
β-Glucuronidase	+	–	–
Diamino acid in cell wall	Lys	Orn*	Orn*
Predominant menaquinones	MK-11, MK-12	MK-12, MK-13*	MK-12, MK-13, MK-14*
DNA G+C content (mol%)	70	69*	69*

*Data from Kageyama *et al.* (2006, 2007).

cultivated on tryptic soy broth agar at 28 °C for 2 days were analysed as described by Kämpfer & Kroppenstedt (1996). Purified peptidoglycan preparations were obtained after disruption of cells by shaking with glass beads and subsequent trypsin digestion, according to the method of Schleifer & Seidl (1985). The amino-acid composition of the peptidoglycan hydrolysate (4 M HCl, 100 °C, 16 h) was

determined by using one-dimensional TLC on cellulose plates (Merck) using the solvent system of Rhuland *et al.* (1955) and gas chromatography of amino acids as described by Schumann *et al.* (1997) after derivatization according to MacKenzie (1987). Glycolyl residues were detected in the peptidoglycan with the method of Uchida *et al.* (1999).

The nucleotide sequence of the 16S rRNA gene of strain DC-200^T was determined after PCR amplification of total DNA extracts as described by Ferreira da Silva *et al.* (2007). The 16S rRNA gene sequence was compared with others available in the GenBank/EMBL/DDBJ database using the FASTA package from EMBL-EBI. The phylogenetic analysis was conducted using MEGA version 3.1 (Kumar *et al.*, 2004). Sequence alignment was performed with CLUSTAL W version 1.6 (Thompson *et al.*, 1994). A total of 1377 nucleotide positions were included in the analysis. Non-homologous and ambiguous nucleotide positions were excluded from the calculations. Evolutionary distances were calculated using the model of Jukes & Cantor (1969) and phylogenetic trees were constructed using neighbour-joining, maximum-parsimony and minimum-evolution methods to assess the stability. For DNA–DNA hybridization experiments, DNA was isolated using a French pressure cell (Thermo Spectronic) and purified by chromatography on hydroxyapatite as described by Cashion *et al.* (1977). DNA–DNA hybridizations were carried out as described by De Ley *et al.* (1970), under consideration of the modifications described by Huß *et al.* (1983), using a Cary 100 Bio UV/VIS spectrophotometer equipped with a Peltier-thermostatted 6 × 6 multicell changer and a temperature controller with an *in situ* temperature probe (Varian). The analysis using matrix-assisted laser-desorption/ionization time-of-flight (MALDI-TOF) mass spectrometry of strain DC-200^T and close phylogenetic relatives was performed according to the method described by Tóth *et al.* (2008).

After 48 h incubation at 30 °C, strain DC-200^T formed white and convex colonies that were difficult to remove from the agar. Colonies acquired a yellow colour and smoother texture after 4–6 days. The results of the phenotypic characterization of strain DC-200^T are summarized in Table 1. The diamino acid of the peptidoglycan was lysine. Glycine, alanine and glutamic acid, but not homoserine or hydroxyglutamic acid, were detected in the peptidoglycan with the acyl type *N*-glycolyl. The fatty acid profile of strain DC-200^T contained mainly (>95%) branched fatty acids and differed from those of its closest relatives, *Microbacterium lacus* DSM 18910^T and *Microbacterium aoyamense* DSM 19461^T, by having a remarkably lower content of C_{16:0} (Table 2). The predominant respiratory menaquinones were MK-11 and MK-12, with relative percentages of about 40%. The minor components MK-9, MK-10 and MK-13 each represented less than 6% of the total. The G+C content of the genomic DNA of strain DC-200^T was 70.1 ± 0.3 mol%.

The above characteristics support the inclusion of strain DC-200^T in the genus *Microbacterium*, which is also supported by the 16S rRNA gene sequence similarity values between this strain and *M. lacus* A5E-52^T (98.7%) and *M. aoyamense* KV-492^T (98.2%) (Fig. 1). However, the DNA–DNA hybridization analysis showed that, when the recommendations of a threshold value of 70% DNA–DNA relatedness for the definition of bacterial species (Wayne *et al.*, 1987) are considered, strain DC-200^T, *M. lacus* DSM

Table 2. Fatty acid profiles of strain DC-200^T and the type strains of closely related *Microbacterium* species after cultivation on tryptic soy broth agar for 2 days at 28 °C

Strains: 1, *Microbacterium invictum* sp. nov. DC-200^T; 2, *M. lacus* DSM 18910^T; 3, *M. aoyamense* DSM 19461^T. Data from this study. –, Not detected.

Fatty acid (%)	1	2	3
Saturated			
C _{14:0}	–	–	1.1
C _{15:0}	–	0.4	0.9
C _{16:0}	3.5	18.6	21.9
C _{17:0}	0.3	0.4	–
C _{18:0}	0.3	–	–
Branched			
iso-C _{14:0}	0.3	0.3	2.5
iso-C _{15:0}	5.5	6.2	4.1
anteiso-C _{15:0}	52.0	30.6	33.9
iso-C _{16:0}	9.7	8.4	21.2
iso-C _{17:0}	3.0	5.6	1.3
anteiso-C _{17:0}	25.1	28.2	12.4
iso-C _{18:0}	0.2	–	–
Branched and unsaturated			
anteiso-C _{15:1}	0.1	–	–
anteiso-C _{17:1}	–	1.3	–
Hydroxylated			
3-OH C _{15:0}	–	–	0.7

18910^T and *M. aoyamense* DSM 19461^T represent three distinct species. The levels of DNA–DNA relatedness between strain DC-200^T and *M. lacus* DSM 18910^T and *M. aoyamense* DSM 19461^T were, respectively, 5.3 and 17.1%. *M. lacus* DSM 18910^T and *M. aoyamense* DSM 19461^T exhibited 5% DNA–DNA relatedness between them. These results are in agreement with the correlation analysis that has demonstrated that strains with less than 98.7% 16S rRNA gene sequence similarity present DNA–DNA reassociation values of less than 70% (Stackebrandt & Ebers, 2006).

Strain DC-200^T could be distinguished from its closest neighbours *M. lacus* DSM 18910^T and *M. aoyamense* DSM 19461^T at the phenotypic and chemotaxonomic levels (Tables 1 and 2) by its ability to assimilate D-sorbitol but not raffinose, sucrose or trehalose, to ferment glucose and to produce alkaline phosphatase and β-glucuronidase, by the presence of lysine as the cell-wall diamino acid and MK-11 as a predominant menaquinone and by the higher relative percentage of anteiso-C_{15:0} and the lower relative percentage of C_{16:0}. Furthermore, strain DC-200^T could be differentiated from the type strains of *Microbacterium* species that show high 16S rRNA gene sequence similarities (Fig. 1) on the basis of MALDI-TOF mass spectra (Fig. 2). However, the similarity of mass spectra does not reflect the binary 16S rRNA gene sequence similarity values of strain DC-200^T with its closest phylogenetic neighbours: for example, *Microbacterium schleiferi* DSM 20489^T (NBRC

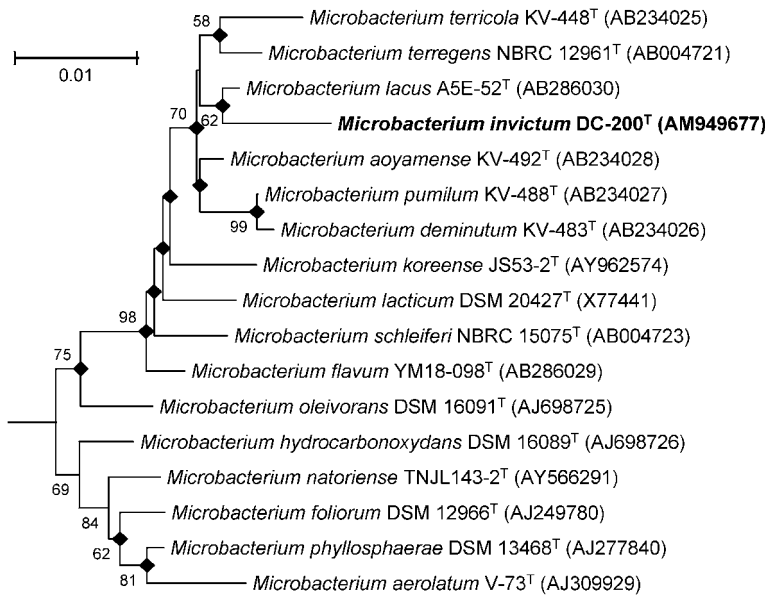


Fig. 1. Neighbour-joining tree based on 16S rRNA gene sequences showing the phylogenetic relationship between strain DC-200^T and other closely related species of the genus *Microbacterium*. Bootstrap values (>60%) based on 10 000 resamplings are shown at branch nodes. Filled diamonds indicate nodes that were also recovered with the maximum-parsimony method. Bar, 0.01 substitutions per nucleotide position.

15075^T; 97.6% 16S rRNA gene sequence similarity to strain DC-200^T) shows the most similar mass spectrum whereas *M. lacus* DSM 18910^T and *M. aoyamense* DSM 19461^T, with the highest 16S rRNA gene sequence similarities (98.7 and 98.2%, respectively), fall in a distant cluster. These distinctive features in combination with the DNA–DNA hybridization data support the proposal of a novel species,

represented by strain DC-200^T, for which the name *Microbacterium invictum* sp. nov. is proposed.

Description of *Microbacterium invictum* sp. nov.

Microbacterium invictum (in.vic'tum, L. neut. adj. *invictum* invincible, powerful, that survives composting, also

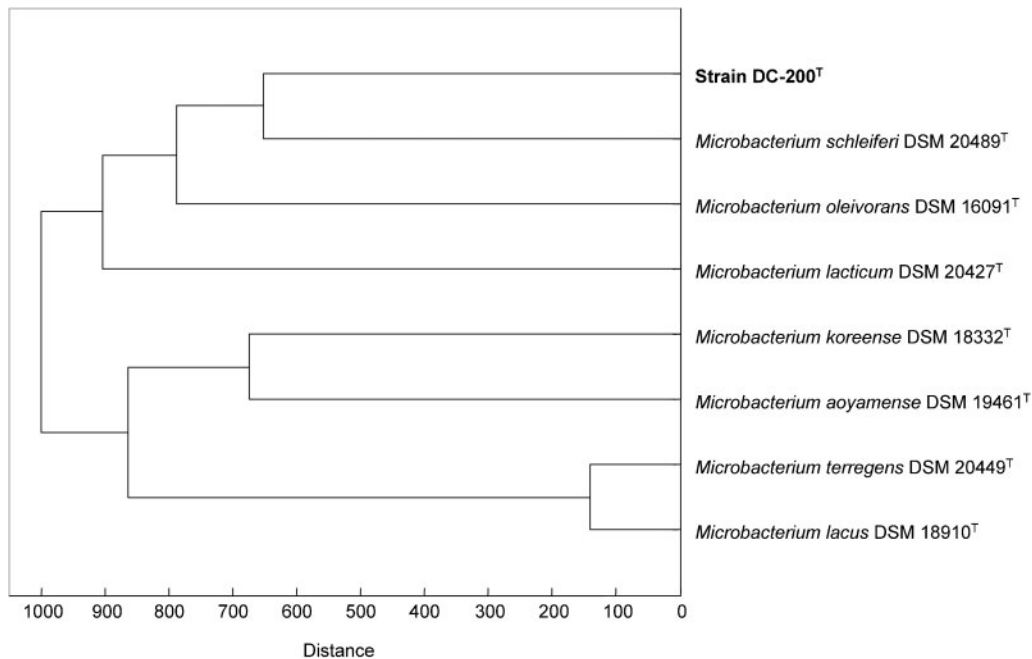


Fig. 2. Score-oriented dendrogram generated by BioTyper software (version 1.1; Bruker Daltonics) showing the similarity of MALDI-TOF mass spectra of cell extracts of strain DC-200^T, its closest relatives *M. lacus* DSM 18910^T and *M. aoyamense* DSM 19461^T as well as other related type strains of the genus *Microbacterium*.

an ancient and popular designation attributed to Oporto city).

On PCA, colonies are white after 2 days of incubation and yellow after 5 days. Cells are Gram-positive motile short rods ($0.74 \pm 0.07 \mu\text{m}$ long and $0.54 \pm 0.08 \mu\text{m}$ wide) and do not form spores. Catalase-positive and oxidase-negative. Growth occurs at 10–37 °C, pH 6.0–9.5 and with up to 5% NaCl. Nitrate is reduced to nitrite. Citrate is not used and H₂S and indole are not produced. Anaerobic growth is observed in the presence of nitrate. Voges–Proskauer test is positive. Hydrolyses gelatin, aesculin, starch (weakly) and ϵ -poly-caprolactone (weakly). Oxidizes (API 20E) and assimilates L-arabinose, D-glucose, D-mannitol, L-rhamnose and D-sorbitol; additionally, assimilates N-acetylglucosamine, cellobiose, D-fructose, gentiobiose, potassium gluconate, potassium 2-ketogluconate, maltose, D-mannose, turanose, xylitol (weakly) and D-xylose, but not phenyl acetate, D-adonitol, adipate, aesculin, amygdalin, D-arabinose, D- and L-arabitol, caprate, citrate, dulcitol, erythritol, D- and L-fucose, D-galactose, potassium 5-ketogluconate, glycerol, glycogen, inositol, inulin, lactose, D-lyxose, malate, melezitose, melibiose, raffinose, D-ribose, salicin, L-sorbose, starch, sucrose, D-tagatose, trehalose, L-xylose, methyl α -D-glucopyranoside, methyl α -D-mannopyranoside or methyl β -D-xylopyranoside. Glucose fermentation is weak and slow. Acid is produced from N-acetylglucosamine, amygdalin, L-arabinose, arbutin, cellobiose, D-fructose, D-glucose, D-mannitol, D-mannose, L-rhamnose and salicin, with weak reactions observed for D-galactose, D-sorbitol and D-xylose, but not from D-adonitol, D-arabinose, D- and L-arabitol, dulcitol, erythritol, D- and L-fucose, gentiobiose, gluconate or 2- and 5-ketogluconate, glycerol, glycogen, inositol, inulin, lactose, D-lyxose, maltose, melezitose, melibiose, raffinose, D-ribose, L-sorbose, starch, sucrose, D-tagatose, trehalose, turanose, xylitol, L-xylose, methyl α -D-glucopyranoside, methyl α -D-mannopyranoside or methyl β -D-xylopyranoside. Produces alkaline phosphatase, esterase (C4), esterase lipase (C8), leucine arylamidase, valine arylamidase, acid phosphatase, naphthol-AS-BI-phosphohydrolase, β -galactosidase, β -glucuronidase, α - and β -glucosidase and N-acetyl β -glucosamidase, but not arginine dihydrolase, lysine and ornithine decarboxylase, urease, tryptophan deaminase, lipase (C14), cystine arylamidase, trypsin, α -chymotrypsin, α -galactosidase, α -mannosidase or α -fucosidase. Growth occurs in the presence of ($\mu\text{g l}^{-1}$) sulfamethoxazole/trimethoprim (23.75/1.25), meropenem (10) and ceftazidime (30). Major fatty acids are anteiso-C_{15:0} and anteiso-C_{17:0}. The peptidoglycan is of the type B1 alpha, with lysine as the diamino acid, and muramic acid residues are glycolylated. The predominant menaquinones are MK-11 and MK-12, in similar proportions. The DNA G+C content of the type strain is $70.1 \pm 0.3 \text{ mol}\%$.

The type strain, DC-200^T (=DSM 19600^T=LMG 24557^T), was isolated from homemade compost.

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