# Characterisation of the Campylobacter jejuni PEB3 and GlpT 

A thesis submitted to the University of Manchester for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the The School of Biological Sciences/Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health.

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## List of Symbols and Abbreviations

| Symbol | Definition |
| :--- | :--- |
| $\mu \mathrm{l}$ | Microliter |
| $\mu \mathrm{g}$ | Microgram |
| $\mu \mathrm{m}$ | Micrometre |
| ml | Millilitre |
| g | Gram |
| ng | Nanogram |
| g | Gravitational force |
| rpm | Revolutions per minute |
| kDa | Kilo Dalton |
| kbp | Kilo base pairs |
| $\mathrm{v} / \mathrm{v}$ | Volume per volume |
| $\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{v}$ | Weight per volume |
| ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | Degree Celsius |
| M | Molar |
| mM | Millimolar |
| Mr | Molecular mass |
| psi | Pounds per square inch |
| V | Volts |
| kv | Kilo volt |
| $\mu \mathrm{f}$ | Micro-farad |
| $\Omega$ | Ohms |
| OD | Optical density at 600 nm wavelength |
| L | Litre |
| $\mu \mathrm{m}$ | Micromolar |
| mw | Molecular weight |
| pmol | Picomole |


| Abbreviation | Definition |
| :--- | :--- |
| 3-PG | 3-Phosphoglycerate |
| APS | Ammonium persulphate |
| ATP | Adenosine triphosphate |
| bp | Base pair |
| CBA | Columbia blood agar |
| CC-ST | Clonal complex-Sequence Type |
| CDD | Conserved domain database |
| CFU | Colony forming units |
| dH20 | Distilled water |
| DNA | Deoxyribonucleic acid |
| dNTP | Deoxynucleotide triphosphates |
| ECM | Extracellular matrix |
| FQ | Fluoroquinolone |
| G3P | Glycerol-3-phosphate |
| GAG | Glycosaminoglycan |
| GBS | Guillain-Barre Syndrome |
| GST | Glutathione S-transferase |
| HA | Human influenza hemagglutinin |
| His | Histidine |
| IPTG | Isopropyl- - -D-thiogalactopyranoside |
| LB | Luria Bertani growth media |
| LOS | Lipooligosaccharide |
| MCLMAN | Medium cysteine leucine methionine aspartic acid niacinamide |
| MFS | Miller Fisher Syndrome |
| MEM | Minimal essential media |
| MH | Muller Hinton medium |
| MIC | Minimum inhibitory concentration |
| MLST | Multi-locus sequence typing |
| MOPS | 3-(n-morpholino) propanesulfonic acid |
| NCBI | National Center for biotechnology information |
| NCTC | National Collection of Type |
| PBS | Phosphate buffered saline |
| PBST | PBS with Tween |
| PCR | Polymerase chain reaction |
| PDB | Protein data bank |
| pH | Power of hydrogen |
| pI | Isoelectric point |
| Pi | Internal phosphate |
| RGD | Arginine-glycine-aspartic acid region |
| SDS | Sodium dodecyl sulphate polyacrylamide |
| SDS-PAGE | Sodium dodecyl sulphate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis |
| SOC | Super optimal broth with catabolite repression |
| ST | Sequence type |
| TAE | Tris-acetate-EDTA |
| TEMED | N,N,N',N'-Tetramethylethylenediamine |
| UPGMA | Un-weighted pair group method with arithmetic |
| WT | Wild type |
|  |  |


#### Abstract

The University of Manchester Deborah Ruth Cantu Characterisation of the Campylobacter jejuni PEB3 and GlpT May 2016 The pathogen C. jejuni is now recognised as the leading cause of bacterial foodborne enteritis in the industrial world. The yearly estimate for Campylobacter infections in the United States alone is 2.4 million people or $1 \%$ of the population. Illness caused by C. jejuni is self-limiting, however, some individuals develop complications resulting in autoimmune responses. Despite being a major health burden, the pathogenic process is not fully understood. One aspect of importance is the ability of C. jejuni to adhere to glycosaminoglycans (GAGs), such as heparin. GAGs, sulphated carbohydrates expressed on or in host cells, can serve as receptors for bacterial proteins. In the first study, five heparin-binding proteins of C. jejuni NCTC 11168H were identified. For PEB3 (Cj0289c), this work showed that native wild-type PEB3 and purified recombinant PEB3 produced in E. coli bind heparin. The location of two PEB3 heparin-binding clusters: ${ }_{2} \mathrm{KAKKD}_{65}$ and ${ }_{122} \mathrm{NKKVRI}_{127}$, was investigated via sitedirected mutagenesis, resulting in impaired heparin-binding. These data suggest GAG-protein-binding may play a role in the pathogenesis of $C$. jejuni. As well as GAG-binding PEB3 binds 3-PG. Though its exact in vivo role remains unclear, it may act to deliver 3-PG. Scrutiny of the C. jejuni NCTC 11168H genome revealed an uncharacterised gene next to peb3 encoding $g \not p T$, or a putative 3-PG transporter. The location of $g l p T$ adjacent to peb3 may suggest a related function for the corresponding proteins with PEB3 as the periplasmic binding partner for the transport of 3-PG via GlpT. In this thesis, the roles of peb3 and $g \not p T$ for two independent phenotypes, 3-PG dependent growth and fosfomycin sensitivity was studied in vitro. The findings indicate $g / p T$ has an effect on both, but not peb3. Furthermore, the NCTC $11168 \mathrm{H} g / \hbar T$ pseudogene, despite containing two frameshift mutations, has the capacity to encode a functional protein. Lastly, the NCTC 11168 H peb3/ghT locus was compared with other C. jejuni strains and closely related species C. coli, C. lari and C. upsaliensis genome sequences. The majority of strains peb3/glpT locus followed the gene arrangement $\not p \times B$, $p e b 3, g / p T$, surE. However, the findings indicate the gene loci between $\mid p \times B /$ surE in remaining strains to be hypervariable. Further analysis shows peb3 to be relatively conserved, whereas, the majority of $g \neq T$ genes display genetic diversity due to interruptions such as indels and deletion. Lastly, I display the organisation of the peb3/ghT locus and $g / p T$ structure in their evolutionary context through MLST. In summary, the findings provide for further characterisation of the PEB3 protein and explores the importance of the uncharacterised GlpT of C. jejuni.


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## Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my Supervisor Dennis Linton for his guidance and patience he has shown throughout my PhD. I am thankful for the opportunity to work in his lab to complete this research and for his help in the writing process. Without his support I doubt I would have reached this point.

I would like to thank both Dr. Jonathan Butler and my part-time desk partner Dr. Peter Elliott for your advice, moral support and friendship. I would also like to thank other members of the Linton Lab group, Dr. Adrian Jervis and Liz Lord, for your help. Thank you to the University of Manchester Protein Mass Spectrometry department for all your help and guidance.

Finally, thank you to my husband Andy Watson for presentation help, your sense of humour and understanding my commitment to my work. A special thanks to my parents, Dr. George Cantu and Dr. Rosita Cantu, who have supported me throughout my Masters and PhD. Thank you for your emotional and financial support throughout the hardest years of my life. I would not be able to do this without you.

## CHAPTER 1

Introduction

### 1.1 Historical perspectives of the Campylobacter genus

German bacteriologist Theodor Escherich first described Campylobacters in 1886, whereby he observed, in stool samples of infants with enteric disease, the existence of non-cultivable, spiral-shaped bacteria (Escherich, 1886; Snelling et al., 2005). Almost thirty years later, in 1913, veterinary surgeons Stewart Stockman and John MacFadyean discovered a "Vibriolike organism" in the foetal tissues of ewes (McFadyean \& Stockman, 1913). Then in 1919, Smith and Taylor successfully isolated a similar, spirillum-type, organism from aborted foetuses of cattle which was later termed 'Vibrio fetus' (Smith \& Taylor, 1919). Prior to 1963, classifications of bacteria depended on cell shape. This resulted in the initial assignment of these "Vibrio-like organisms" into the Vibrio genus. However, Sebald and Véron showed specific differences in the fermentative metabolism and G+C DNA composition of these "Vibrio-like organisms" and true Vibrios. This led to the reclassification, and the genesis of a new genus called Campylobacter (Sebald \& Véron, 1963). The Campylobacter genus includes the order Campylobacterales comprised of Gram-negative generae Helicobacter and Wolinella. Along with Campylobacter, these genera form the epsilon division of Proteobacteria (Figure 1.1). The Campylobacter genus comprises twenty species and six subspecies (Fernandez et al., 2008; Silva et al., 2011).


Figure 1.1 The five classes of Proteobacteria. This phylogenetic tree shows the five classes of Proteobacteria based on genomic data. The blue square indicates the epsilon division of Proteobacteria, comprised of Campylobacter, Wolinella and Helicobacter. Image acquired from Bern \& Goldberg, 2005.

### 1.2 C. jejuni- the microbe

C. jejuni is a Gram-negative, helical, non-spore forming spiral shaped rod. The cell ( 0.2 to 0.8 $\mu \mathrm{m} \times 0.5$ to $5 \mu \mathrm{~m}$ ) is highly motile due to a single flagella present at one or both ends of the cell (Figure 1.2) (Silva et al., 2011). As a thermophilic organism, C. jejuni grows at an optimal temperature range of $37^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (humans) to $42^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (Altekruse et al., 1999; Davis \& DiRita, 2008). The $42{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ reflects the elevated temperature of the chicken gut, where $C$. jejuni resides as commensal (van Vliet \& Ketley, 2001; Snelling et al., 2005). C. jejuni, unable to survive aerobically or anaerobically, requires a microaerophilic atmosphere composed of $10 \% \mathrm{CO}_{2}$, $85 \% \mathrm{~N}_{2}$, and low oxygen content ( $5 \% \mathrm{O}_{2}$ ) (Altekruse et al., 1999; Snelling et al., 2005).


Figure 1.2 Scanning electron micrograph of flagellated $C$. jejuni. The image shows the helical morphology of the C. jejuni cell containing a single flagellum at both poles. Image acquired from Kathryn Cross of the Institute of Food Research (http://blogs.ifr.ac.uk/ghfs/2013/04/sgm-poster-prize/\#lightbox/2/).

### 1.3 Epidemiology of Campylobacteriosis

Campylobacter is now recognised as the leading cause of bacterial food poisoning worldwide (Allos, 2001). In the United States, an estimated 2.4 million people or $\sim 1 \%$ of the population contract campylobacteriosis (Allos, 2001; Acheson \& Allos, 2001). C. jejuni accounts for 90 $\%$ of cases with C. coli accounting for the remaining $10 \%$ (Gillespie et al., 2002; Keener et al., 2004).

Cases of campylobacteriosis follow seasonal patterns. In developed regions, peaks of infection are in the spring and early summer months (Humphrey et al., 2007). Interestingly, peaks of infection are highest among young adults (15-30) and children. Developing regions show similar infection rates among young adults (Coker et al., 2002). In contrast, the infection rate in children is significantly higher in developing regions (Oberhelman \& Taylor, 2000; Coker et al., 2002). This is explained by poor hygiene/sanitation, untreated drinking water/contaminated food and lack of healthcare, surveillance and knowledge of $C$. jejuni infections (Coker et al., 2002; O'Ryan et al., 2005). In developing areas, campylobacteriosis is a paediatric disease associated with children aged $<2$ (Coker et al., 2002; O'Ryan et al., 2005). Interestingly, breastfed children are protected from infection by maternal antibodies in breast milk (Ruiz-Palacios et al., 1990; Coker et al., 2002).

### 1.4 C. jejuni sources of infection

Poultry is the primary vehicle of campylobacteriosis transmission in man (Whiley et al., 2013). Studies show 50-70 \% of cases arise from consumption of contaminated chicken products (Allos, 2001; Keener et al., 2004). This is not surprising as surveillance studies in the United States show at least $90 \%$ of chicken flocks are colonised with Campylobacter (Stern et al., 2001; Whiley et al., 2013). The spread of Campylobacter from a single bird to a whole flock is rapid, especially among hatchlings, due to high levels of bacteria (Shanker et al., 1990; Whiley et al., 2013). The estimated bacterial counts range from $10^{5}-10^{9}$ colony-forming units (CFU) per
gram of faeces (Keener et al., 2004). In chicken, C. jejuni colonises the mucus layer of the caecal crypts, but epithelial cells lining the gut are not invaded or adhered to (Beery et al., 1988; Meinersmann et al., 1995). Instead, these bacteria exist as commensals with no evidence of inflammation or epithelial cell damage (Beery et al., 1988). This contrasts with human infection whereby bacteria invade and adhere to intestinal epithelial cells, which leads to infection.

There are multiple sources of $C$. jejuni infection besides poultry, which include unpasteurized milk/juices (Van den Brandhof et al., 2003), cattle/raw red meat (Inglis et al., 2004), and sources of water (environmental/drinking) (Moore et al., 2001) (Figure 1.3). Less common vectors include domestic animals (cats/dogs), wild birds, and reptiles (Whiley et al., 2013). Tracking sources of infection is made difficult by the complex C. jejuni transmission cycle. However, DNA-based typing methods such as multi-locus sequence typing (MLST) aid in identifying $C$. jejuni isolates association with certain hosts. MLST indexes the variations of seven housekeeping genes, $\operatorname{asp} A, \operatorname{gln} A, \operatorname{glt} A, \operatorname{gly} A, \operatorname{pgm}, \operatorname{tkt}, \operatorname{unc} A$, involved in metabolism (Dingle et al., 2001). These highly conserved genes are used to identify genetic lineages within a $C$. jejuni population. The seven locus alleles define the sequence type (ST) which are then grouped into clonal complexes (ST-CC) based on shared identical alleles at four or more loci (Dingle et al., 2001).

### 1.5C. jejuni pathogenesis and virulence factors

### 1.5.1 Clinical symptoms, antibiotic resistance and complications of $C$. jejuni infection

 Campylobacteriosis requires a low infective dose, ranging from 500-800 cells (Black et al., 1988). After an incubation period of 24-72 hours, abdominal pain, fever, inflammation and diarrhoea develop (Allos, 2001; Zilbauer et al., 2008). The severity of the diarrheal illness varies from mild to bloody, but, is often self-limiting, resolving in 5-7 days (Blaser, 1997; Allos, 2001; van Vliet \& Ketley, 2001). Disease outcome depends on the immune status ofthe individual and virulence of the infecting strain (Zilbauer et al., 2008). At-risk groups (i.e. elderly and immunocompetent) or those with persistent infection may need antimicrobial treatment (Allos, 2001; Coker et al., 2002; Luangtongkum et al., 2009).

The antibiotic fluoroquinolone ( FQ ), was the first choice in antimicrobial treatment. However, many isolated $C$. jejuni strains are FQ-resistant, therefore reducing its effectiveness (Alfredson \& Korolik, 2007; Wieczorek \& Osek, 2013). Resistance to penicillin, tetracycline, metronidazole, and bactericidal $\beta$-lactam antibiotics has also been observed (Allos, 2001). The overuse of antibiotics in humans, veterinary medicine, and the farm industry contribute to increased resistance (Endtz et al., 1991; Witte, 2000; Teuber, 2001; Luangtongkum et al., 2009).

Complications of $C$. jejuni infection may result in autoimmune diseases, namely, Guillain-
 \& O’Hanlon, 1999; Pope et al., 2007; Nyati \& Nyati, 2013). GBS and MF, are thought to be caused by molecular mimicry between C. jejuni lipo-oligosaccharide (LOS) and human gangliosides (Yuki et al., 1993; Godschalk et al., 2004; Yuki et al., 2004). At least 30-40 \% of GBS cases are associated with prior C. jejumi infection (Kuwabara, 2004; Vucic et al., 2009). One to three weeks after the diarrhoeal stage GBS develops causing weakness, respiratory distress and sensory loss (Nachamkin et al., 1998; Nyati \& Nyati, 2013). In some instances, patients may need ventilation equipment, remain bed bound or lose the ability to walk (Asbury \& Cornblath, 1990; Nachamkin et al., 1998; Dimachkie \& Barohn, 2013). MFS, a GBS variant ( $5-10 \%$ of GBS cases), is characterised by paralysis/weakness of eye muscles, loss of tendon reflexes and failure of muscle coordination (Dimachkie \& Barohn, 2013). Lastly, ReA is triggered by several bacterial species including Yersinia, Salmonella spp. and $C$. jejuni (Braun et al., 1999; Rees et al., 2004; Pope et al., 2007).


Figure 1.3 The ecological cycle of $C$. jejuni involves animals, food and drinking sources. C. jejuni colonises the mucosal layer of the chicken gut where it lives as a commensal. From here $C$. jejuni can be passed throughout the flock rapidly via the faecaloral route. This also serves as an indirect source of contamination for water sources such as lakes, rivers, and drinking water. C. jejuni can be passed on to humans through consumption of contaminated drinking sources, unpasteurized milk, and cattle/raw red meat products. The image was acquired and adapted from Young et al., 2007.

This autoimmune disease is characterised by inflammation of the joints, eyes and the urogenital/gastrointestinal systems, which develop within four weeks of C. jejuni infection (Kvien et al., 1994; Pope et al., 2007).

### 1.5.2 C. jejuni virulence factors

In humans, C. jejuni must survive the acidic conditions of the stomach to cause infection (Reid et al., 2008). The surviving organisms continue to the gastrointestinal tract aided by motility and chemotaxis. Once C. jejuni reaches the gut it penetrates, invades and adheres to the epithelial cells lining the mucus layer via virulence factors (Ketley, 1997; van Vliet et al., 2000; Bereswill \& Kist, 2003; Snelling et al., 2005; Guerry, 2007; Zilbauer, 2008; Dasti et al., 2010; Silva et al., 2011; Lertsethtakarn et al., 2011). This section will discuss the virulence factors identified in aiding the survival and progression of $C$. jejuni disease in the human host.

### 1.5.3 Flagella

Under phase-contrast microscopy, $C$. jejuni has a rapid corkscrew-like motility, which aids $C$. jejuni in penetrating the gut (Ferrow \& Lee, 1988; Szymanksi et al., 1995; Snelling et al., 2005). In C. jejuni, motility is produced by flagella at one or both ends of the cell. The C. jejuni flagellum comprises a membrane-embedded motor, hook-basal body and filament (Lertsethtakarn et al., 2011) composed of two homologous (>95 \%) flagellin proteins FlaA and FlaB (Guerry et al., 1991; Nuijten et al., 1990; Guerry, 2007). Flagellin genes encoding FlaA and FlaB are subject to phase and antigenic variation, which masks detection by the immune system (Harris et al., 1987; Young et al., 2007). As well as motility, flagella are also involved in adherence, penetration/colonisation of the gut and secretion of invasive proteins (van Vliet \& Ketley, 2001; Snelling et al., 2005; Guerry, 2007).

Campylobacter invasive antigens (Cia)
The flagellar export apparatus (Figure 1.4) also secretes so called invasion proteins, FlaC (Song et al., 2004) and Cia (Konkel et al., 2004). Eight Campylobacter invasion antigens (Cia), CiaA-H, are known (Konkel et al., 1999a; Konkel et al., 1999b; Rivera-Amill et al., 2001). Of these CiaB is well characterised and is secreted in the presence of chicken mucus, serum host cell components and induced by bile salts (Konkel et al., 1999b; Konkel et al., 2001; MalikKale et al., 2008; Ó Cróinín \& Backert, 2012).

FlaC

As well as Cia proteins, the FlaC protein is secreted (Song et al., 2004). FlaC, a 26 kDa protein, possesses sequence similarity with the N - and C-terminal regions of FlaA and FlaB (Song et al., 2004; Guerry, 2007; Young et al., 2007). Unlike FlaA and FlaB, it is not required for the formation or assembly of the flagellum, instead FlaC is required for host cell invasion (Song et al., 2004; Dasti et al., 2010; Ó Cróinín \& Backert, 2012).

### 1.5.4 C. jejuni chemotactic behaviour

C. jejuni uses chemotaxis to move up or down chemical gradients via a complex transduction pathway, which controls the direction and rotation of the flagella (Wadhams \& Armitage, 2004; Lertsethtakarn et al., 2011). C. jejuni is chemotactically attracted to the organic acids pyruvate, succinate, fumarate; carbohydrates such as L-fucose; the amino acids L-aspartate, L-glutamate, L-serine, and L-cysteine and mucin components (Hugdahl et al., 1988; Hendrixson et al., 2001; Vegge et al., 2009; Hartley-Tassell et al., 2010; Korolik et al., 2010; Lertsethtakarn et al., 2011; Hofreuter, 2014). Repellents for C. jejuni include bile constituents, namely cholic, deoxycholic, taurocholic and glycocholic acids (Vegge et al., 2009; Hofreuter, 2014).

### 1.5.5 Lipooligosaccharide (LOS) and Capsular Polysaccharide

C. jejuni expresses LOS, a glycolipid (Figure 1.4) (Karlyshev et al., 2005). In some strains, LOS structure is identical to human gangliosides found on the surface of nerve cells which causes molecular mimicry. In GBS and MFS, auto-reactive antibodies that are produced attack nerve cells (Nachamkin et al., 1998; Godschalk et al., 2004; Yuki et al., 2004). The genes for LOS biosynthesis are located on a hypervariable locus and to date 19 classes of LOS are known (Gilbert et al., 2002; Karlyshev et al., 2005; Parker et al., 2005). The genetic variation of the LOS seems to have arisen through intra-strain variability, homopolymeric runs due to phase variation, point mutations, changes in glycosyltransferases specificity and environmental factors (Parkhill et al., 2000; Linton et al., 2000; Gilbert et al., 2002; Karlyshev et al., 2005; Semchenko et al., 2010). Strains with mutated LOS biosynthesis genes exhibit a reduction in adherence and invasion of host cells along with decreased serum resistance (Young et al., 2007).
C. jejuni produces a capsular polysaccharide, that coats the outside of the cell (Figure 1.4) (Karlyshev et al., 2000; Young et al., 2007). The capsule protects against dehydration, phage infection, and host immune response by serum resistance (Karlyshev et al., 2005). The capsule is composed of varying sugar compositions and linkage units loosely associated with the cell surface (St. Michael et al., 2002; Corcoran et al., 2006; Guerry et al., 2012). The C. jejuni NCTC 11168 genome contains a capsule loci termed kps. The kps loci genes are necessary for capsule synthesis and translocation to the cell surface (Parkhill et al., 2000; Karlyshev et al., 2005). Like the LOS, variation in the kps locus arises through horizontal transfer, gene duplication and presence of homopolymeric G tracts (Bacon et al., 2001; Karlyshev et al., 2005; Guerry et al., 2012).


Figure 1.4 C. jejuni cell structures. The C. jejuni cell expresses several structures including capsule, (LOS), flagellin and secretes proteins via the flagellar export apparatus. These structures play vital roles in the pathogenesis of C. jejuni. The flagellum (blue/grey) is required for many roles in colonization, invasion of epithelial cells, chemotaxis and motility. In addition, the flagellum export apparatus (green) secretes the Cia and FlaC proteins (red). The capsule (orange) and LOS (yellow) have been shown to be important for cell adherence, invasion and serum resistance. Image adapted from Young et al. 2007.

The genetic variation of the capsule structure can be used for the Penner scheme of serotyping (Penner \& Hennessy, 1980). This scheme uses passive haemagglutination to categorise Campylobacter clinical isolates, including those from patients with MFS and GBS. At present, a total of 47 different serotypes for $C$. jejuni have been identified highlighting the extent of capsule structural variation (Preston \& Penner, 1989; Karlyshev et al., 2000; Guerry et al., 2012).

### 1.5.6 C. jejuni Adhesins

C. jejuni expresses surface exposed proteins known as adhesins that adhere to epithelial cells, preventing removal by the gut (Rubinchik et al., 2012). Interestingly, the degree of adherence to cells correlates with the severity of clinical symptoms in infected individuals (Fauchère et al., 1986). A number of adhesins with roles in virulence, invasion, colonisation and activating signalling pathways have been identified for $C$. jejumi. Among these are the JlpA, CadF, FlpA and Pei, Ellison \& Blaser (PEB) 1-4 proteins.

The $j \nmid p A$ gene encodes for the Lejuni Lipoprotein $\underline{\text { A (JlpA), a loosely associated outer }}$ membrane lipoprotein of 42 kDa (Jin et al., 2001). JlpA binds the host cell receptor Hsp90a on the surface of HeLa cells signalling pathways for NF-kB factor and p38 MAP Kinase (Jin et al., 2001; Jin et al., 2003).

The Campylobacter adhesin to fibronectin (CadF), a 37 kDa outer membrane protein binds fibronectin and contains a fibronectin-binding domain at amino acid positions 134-137 (Konkel et al., 1997; Konkel et al., 1999c; Konkel et al., 2005; Rubinchik et al., 2012). Interestingly, cadF mutants are unable to colonise the caecum in baby chicks (Ziprin et al., 1999). Further studies confirm the importance of CadF in attachment and invasion of host epithelial cells (Monteville et al., 2003). A second protein, the fibronectin-like protein A, binds fibronectin through a Type III fibronectin-binding domain (Konkel et al., 2010).

Mutations in the $f / p A$ gene result in reduced ability to adhere to epithelial cells and colonise the caecum of broiler chickens (Flanagan et al., 2009).

The PEB proteins (1-4), first described as cell binding factors, participate in a multitude of roles. The adhesin PEB1, is a $\sim 25 \mathrm{kDa}$ periplasmic protein that shares homology with proteins involved in amino acid transport (Pei et al., 1993; Del Rocio Leon-Kempis et al., 2006). The PEB1 protein, a component of the (PEB1 system) ABC transporter system, is required for growth on dicarboxylic amino acids (Del Rocio Leon-Kempis et al., 2006; Müller et al., 2007). Deficient peb1 strains exhibit decreased attachment and invasion of host cells (Pei et al., 1998; Del Rocio Leon-Kempis et al., 2006). Additionally, this protein will be discussed in Chapter 3. The PEB4 protein, an antigenic virulence factor, is involved in adherence, protein export, colonisation and invasion (Kervella et al., 1993; Asakura et al., 2007). The protein PEB2 a major antigenic peptide of C. jejuni is a protein of unknown function. However, it bears a similar signal peptide sequence to PEB3 (Pei et al., 1991). The PEB3 protein is the focus of this thesis and will be discussed extensively in the following chapters.

### 1.6 The presence of PEB3 in $C$. jejuni

PEB3 was first identified alongside PEB1, PEB2 and PEB4 proteins (Pei et al., 1991). Orthologues of PEB3 include the AcfC adhesin of $V$. cholerae (49 \% amino acid sequence identity) (Peterson \& Mekalanos, 1988; Peterson, 2002) and the Paa adhesin of E. coli (52 \% amino acid sequence identity) (Batisson et al., 2003). Analysis of the Paa amino acid sequence identified a sulfate binding domain (position 105-115) in the C-terminus which also present in PEB3 and AcfC (Batisson et al., 2003) (Figure 1.5). Interestingly, Paa and AcfC possess residues, Thr138 and Ser139, of the PEB3 ligand binding site (see below), indicating these proteins may bind a similar ligand (Figure 1.5) (Rangarajan et al., 2007).

### 1.7 Function of the PEB3 protein

Unpublished data identified PEB3 as a putative heparin-binding protein (Linton Lab, unpublished to date). Moreover, a study by Min and co-workers showed PEB3 binds 3phosphoglycerate (3-PG) (Min et al., 2009). The compound 3-PG, an energy and carbon source, is found in the latter portion of the glycolytic pathway (Figure 1.6).

### 1.8 C. jejuni metabolism

C. jejuni does not metabolise common carbohydrates, such as glucose, due to the lack of enzymes (Parkhill et al., 2000; Stahl et al., 2012). Namely, the 6-phosphofructokinase (pfk), needed to catabolise glucose (Figure 1.6) (Parkhill et al., 2000; Velayudhan \& Kelly, 2002). Instead, C. jejuni metabolises the amino acids serine (Velayudhan et al., 2004), aspartate (Del Rocio Leon-Kempis et al., 2006), asparagine (Vegge et al., 2009; Hofreuter, 2014), glutamate (Del Rocio Leon-Kempis et al., 2006) and proline (Wright et al., 2009). Carbon sources include short fatty acids acetate, lactate and pyruvate (Velayudhan \& Kelly, 2002; Wright et al., 2009; Thomas et al., 2011; Stahl et al., 2012; Hofreuter, 2014). Interestingly, C. jejuni possess enzymes for the catabolism of molecules present in the later part of the glycolytic pathway such as glycerol-3-phosphate (G3P) (Hofreuter et al., 2006) and 3-PG (Min et al., 2009) (Figure 1.6). Although, PEB3 binds 3-PG the exact transport function was not determined.

However, it was proposed PEB3 may provide ligand to a transport protein for 3-PG (Min et al., 2009). Scrutiny of the C. jejuni NCTC 11168 H chromosome revealed a completely uncharacterised gene adjacent to peb3 encoding $g / p T$, or a putative phosphoglycerate transporter.

```
Cj_PEB3 MKKIITLFGACALAFS.MANADVNLYGPGGPHTALNDIANKYSEKTGVKVNVNFGPQATWFEKAKKDADIN
EC_Paa MRTAIAGF_LIFLSS.AAYADINLYGPGGPHTALLDAARLYTKKTGVTVNVHYGPQKKWNEDAKKNADI
```





Figure 1.5 Amino acid Sequence alignment of PEB3, Paa and AcfC. Alignment of the amino acid sequences of the Paa adhesin of E. coli, the AcfC protein of $V$. cholerae and $C$. jejuni PEB3. The sulfate binding domain of Paa (indicated by the green box), at position 105-116, is also present in AcfC and PEB3. The conserved residues of the PEB3 ligand binding site (indicated by the blue box), at positions 138-139, are also present in AcfC and Paa. The amino acid sequence alignment was acquired and adapted from Min et al., 2009.

### 1.9 The GlpT transporter of $C$. jejuni

GlpT has been studied in other bacterial species such as $P$. aeruginosa (Castañeda-García et al., 2009), Haemophilus influenzae (Song et al., 1998), Bacillus subtilis (Nilsson et al., 1994) and E. coli (Huang et al., 2003; Lemieux et al., 2004a; Lemieux et al., 2004b; Lemieux et al., 2005). The closest homologue to C. jejuni GlpT is the well characterised E. coli GlpT. GlpT, an antiporter, exchanging external G3P for internal phosphate (Elvin et al., 1985; Lemieux et al., 2004b) (Figure 1.7). The exchange of G3P influences glycolysis, phospholipid biosynthesis, oxidative phosphorylation and pH (Lemieux et al., 2005).

In $E$. coli, $g \nmid T$ expression is induced by G3P and controlled by the $g / p$ regulon (Cozzarelli et al., 1968; Castañeda-García et al., 2013). In E. coli the $g / p$ regulon, composed of $g l p C, B, A$, $T$, and $Q$, regulates the overall rate of glycerol/G3P uptake (Lemieux et al., 2004b). The expression of $g l \hbar T$ is also regulated by $g / \phi R$ a repressor encoded on the $g l p E G R$ operon (Yang et al., 1997; Castañeda-García et al., 2013). In E. coli G3P, is reduced by an aerobic or anaerobic G3P dehydrogenase (Lemieux et al., 2004b). As well as G3P, glpT uptakes the phosphate-containing antibiotic fosfomycin that inhibits the first step in peptidoglycan synthesis leading to cell death (Nilsson et al., 2003; Castañeda-García et al., 2013).

Curiously, E. coli also encodes for a second antiporter UhpT that imports glucose-6phosphate and fosfomycin (Sonna et al., 1988). The expression of $u h p T$ is controlled by regulatory genes $u h p A, u h p B$ and $u h p C$ (Kadner \& Shattuck-Eidens, 1983; Castañeda-García et al., 2013).


Figure 1.6 Metabolic pathway for 3-PG in $\boldsymbol{C}$. jejuni The C. jejumi genome lacks the 6phosphofructokinase ( $p f$ f) (indicated by ${ }^{*}$ ), an enzyme needed to catalyse glucose. Additional enzymes of the glycolytic pathway that are present include the glucose-6-phosphate isomerase ( $\phi g)^{2}$, fructose-1,6-bisphosphatase (fbp), fructose-bisphosphate aldolase (fba), triosephosphate isomerase ( $\mathrm{p} \mathrm{p} i A$ ), glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase ( $g a p h$ ), phosphoglycerate kinase ( $p g k$ ), phosphoglycerate mutase ( $p g m$ ) to catabolise 3-PG, enolase (eno), phosphoenolpyruvate carboxykinase ( $p c k A$ ), pyruvate carboxylase ( (yyc), malic enzyme ( $m e \cdot$ ), malate dehydrogenase ( $m \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{h}$ ) and malate quinone oxidoreductase (mqo). The figure was acquired and adapted from Velayudhan \& Kelly, 2002.


Figure 1.7 The $\boldsymbol{E}$. coli $\mathbf{G l p T}$ structure. The GlpT protein is a membrane protein composed of $12 \alpha$ helices. As an anti-porter, GlpT exchanges internal phosphate ( $\mathrm{P}_{\mathrm{i}}$ ) for G3P. Figure acquired from Lemieux et al., 2004a.

In contrast with E. coli, the C. jejuni genome does not contain a glp regulon, glpR repressor or $u h p T$ gene. The location of $g / p T$ adjacent to peb3 might suggest a related function for the corresponding proteins. Of particular interest is to characterise and identify the role of GlpT in C. jejuni metabolism. Furthermore, glpT in C. jejuni 11168 H is designated as pseudogene due to two frameshifting events that results in three ORFs. Interestingly, genes containing frameshifts can be processed via an alternative form of translation called programmed ribosomal frameshifting (Ketteler et al., 2012).

### 1.10 Programmed Ribosomal Frameshifting

Programmed ribosomal frameshifting (PRF) is a recoding mechanism whereby the translating ribosome switches from the initial reading frame (0) to a -1 or +1 reading frame. PRF occurs at shift-prone sites in signals within the mRNA, which are often downstream of RNA structural elements (Caliskan et al., 2015). Interestingly, these PRF signals are present in viruses, bacteria, higher eukaryotes and even humans (Ketteler et al., 2012). At present, two types of PRF are known, -1 PRF and +1 PRF.

In viruses and bacteria, - 1 PRF is a well-documented mechanism used to overcome the tension from ribosome translocation (Cao \& Chen, 2008; Visscher, 2016). The build-up of tension stems from the conformation changes of the anti-codon loop of tRNA and mRNA, whereby both move $9 \AA$ in the $5^{\prime}$ direction. The move causes the single-stranded mRNA spacer between the A and P sites and any downstream structure to be pulled towards ribosome tunnel entrance (Cao \& Chen, 2008; Visscher, 2016). The pulling of these structures creates tension resulting in the pausing or stalling of the ribosome. In -1 PRF, slippage by one nucleotide in the $5^{\prime}$ direction is thought to overcome this tension and help stabilise the system in a new ORF (-1) (Cao \& Chen, 2008; Visscher, 2016). Several mRNA stimulatory elements such as a 'slippery sequence' and a secondary RNA structure aid -1PRF (Ketteler et al., 2012). The heptameric slippery sequence is composed of nucleotides X XXY

YYZ (where X : is any nucleotide, Y : is A or U , and Z - is A , U , or C) (Dinman, 2006). This crucial regulatory element guarantees base-pairing between the ribosome bound tRNA anticodon and mRNA codon before and after frameshifting (Chang, 2012; Caliskan et al., 2015). Following the slippery sequence is a spacer region of $1-15$ nucleotides (Ketteler et al., 2012). The secondary RNA structure can be a simple stem loop or a pseudoknot, a complex structure composed of two or more stem-loops with intercalated stems which acts as roadblock by pausing or stalling the ribosome (Ketteler et al., 2012). Progression of the ribosome forward is impeded by the pseudoknot instead the ribosome slips back one nucleotide on the slippery sequence to continue translation in the new -1 ORF (Ketteler et al., 2012; Chang, 2012).

For retroviruses, such as HIV1, -1PRF is required for replication and infection. -1PRF is used in the production of the Gag-Pol polyprotein from mRNA, which is composed of two overlapping ORFs encoding for a capsid protein (gag) and a DNA polymerase ( po ) (Biswas et al., 2004; Caliskan et al., 2015). The -1PRF signal present at the site 5'-U UUU UUA-3' upstream of a secondary RNA stem loop modulates the expression levels of the Gag protein relative to the Gag-Pol polyprotein. This ensures that the ratio of Gag/Gag-Pol (20:1) does not exceed its threshold value as this could have detrimental effects on the virus (i.e. disruption of virus assembly and maturation) (Biswas et al., 2004, Chang, 2012, Caliskan et al., 2015). In E. coli, the dnaX gene encodes for both the tau and gamma subunits of DNA polymerase III. The -1PRF stimulatory signal on $\operatorname{dna} X$ is located at the slippery site sequence 5'-A-AAA-AAG-3'. In addition to this site, located 6 nucleotides downstream of the slippery site is a stem loop, which helps to increase -1PRF efficiency. Furthermore, -1 PRF in dnaX is modulated and stimulated by a Shine-Dalgarno-like sequence upstream of the slippery site sequence A-AAA-AAG (Caliskan et al., 2015).

The second type of PRF, +1 PRF is mechanically different from that of -1PRF. In +1PRF the ribosome pauses on a slippery sequence containing an in-frame stop codon (Ketteler et al., 2012). In this case of +1 PRF, the slippery sequence with the stop codon is where the mRNA slides within the ribosome complex one nucleotide in the 3' direction (Dinman, 2006; Tsai, 2007). This breaks the tRNA and mRNA pairing in the peptidyl tRNA P site causing a mismatch between tRNA and mRNA. The mismatch causes the stop codon to be bypassed and translation is continued in the new +1 ORF due to pairing with an overlapping region (Tsai, 2007; Caliskan et al., 2015). +1PRF is well documented in E. coli specifically for the translation of $\operatorname{prfB}$, which encodes for a polypeptide chain release factor release factor 2, RF2 (Dinman, 2006). In $p r f B$, the mRNA has a signal for a slippery site, ${ }^{\prime}$ '-U CUU UGA-3' which contains an in-frame UGA termination codon recognized by RF2. If RF2 concentration levels are low the stop codon is bypassed, via +1 PRF, resulting in the synthesis of full-size RF2. However, high concentrations of RF2 in the cell cause the stop codon to be read ending in the termination of RF2 (Dinman, 2006).

In summary, signals for -1PRF and +1 PRF are present in a variety of organisms (Ketteler et al., 2012; Caliskan et al., 2015). The implications of PRF include alternate mechanisms for the regulation of gene expression, modulation of RNA levels and an alternative way of producing beneficial proteins (Dinman, 2012; Chang, 2012; Ketteler et al., 2012). Further benefits of PRF include increasing the coding and variability of the genome, which may help organisms such as bacteria and viruses, to adapt to changing environments (Caliskan et al., 2015). The PRF signals also present alternative strategies for therapeutic development specifically for treating diseases caused by altered gene expression (Ketteler et al., 2012; Caliskan et al., 2015). This includes combating viruses, where even small changes in PRF efficiency can inhibit viral propagation (Dinman, 2006). Therefore, PRF signals in viruses can serve as potential targets for antiviral therapeutics (Biswas et al., 2004; Caliskan et al., 2015).

### 1.11 Aims and objectives

C. jejuni is the leading cause of bacterial foodborne illness worldwide. For this reason, mechanisms aiding the pathogenesis of this bacterium require further study. Heparin-binding is associated with adherence, serum resistance, evasion of the immune response and enhanced pathogenesis (Menozzi et al., 2002). Previously identified bacterial heparin-binding proteins are found to reside on the bacterial cell surface in order to interact with heparin. Therefore, I hypothesised that C. jejuni cell surface proteins may bind heparin as unpublished data (Linton Lab) showed the PEB3 adhesin, bound heparin. To test this hypothesis, surface adhesins from C. jejuni were obtained via an acid-glycine extraction, a common method for identifying cell surface proteins. The heparin affinities of these surface proteins were assessed via heparin-agarose chromatography and their identities confirmed with protein mass spectrometry. The second aim of Chapter $\mathbf{3}$ was to determine the importance of putative heparin-binding sites on the protein, PEB3. Amino acid analysis identified two putative heparin-binding sites, ${ }_{62} \mathrm{KAKKD}_{66}$ and ${ }_{22} \mathrm{NKKVRI}_{127}$. Interestingly, both sites contained sequence motifs, XBBXB and BXBBX, often associated with heparin-binding proteins. Therefore, it was postulated that these two putative PEB3 binding sites, if surface exposed, may interact with heparin. To test this theory, putative sites were visualised with PyMol molecular docking software and the ClusPro server. Experimental procedures involved the construction of PEB3 site-directed mutants, whereby a lysine or arginine would be replaced with alanine. The heparin affinities of WT PEB3 in comparison with these PEB3 sitedirected mutants were assessed with heparin-agarose chromatography.

In Chapter 4, the roles of PEB3 and GlpT were investigated. Previous work confirmed PEB3 binds 3-PG (Min et al., 2009). However, the findings of the study suggested PEB3 hands off the ligand to a transporter protein. Genomic analysis of the C. jejuni NCTC 11168 H , peb3 gene region led to the discovery of an adjacent gene $g / p T$, annotated as pseudogene, encoding for a putative 3-PG transporter. The location of peb3 adjacent to $g \not \equiv T$
might suggest a related function for the corresponding proteins. It was theorised that PEB may be the periplasmic binding partner for transport of 3-PG via GlpT. The aims of this chapter sought to investigate GlpT as a 3-PG transporter as it was identified as the only homolog of 3-PG transporters in other bacterial systems and among other C. jejuni genomes. The two phenotypes often observed among GlpT transporters are 3-PG dependent growth and sensitivity to fosfomycin. Insertional knockout mutants of $p e b 3$ and $g l p T$ from the well characterised C. jejuni strain 11168 H were generated to prevent the expression of these genes by the host cell. This allowed for comparative testing among WT and peb3 and $g / p T$ mutant strains using microbiological techniques, such as growth assays and fosfomycin sensitivity assays (Jeong et al., 2001, Min et al., 2009, Ribardo et al., 2010). The reintroduction of both genes into the mutant cell led to complementation and other phenotypes were observed. As $g / p T$, annotated as pseudogene with three open reading frames, may encode a full length GlpT protein attempts were made to purify this protein using techniques such as cloning, expression, purification and western blot analysis. Mass spectrometry was also carried out to test this hypothesis.

After the initial bioinformatics analysis of this region in 11168 H , it was hypothesised that the peb3/gh $T$ locus would be highly conserved among Campylobacter species as this region has not be identified as an area of hypervariability (Pittinger et al., 2012). In Chapter 5, I focused on comparing the peb3/glpT locus in C. jejuni and closely related species C. coli, C. lari and C. upsaliensis genome sequences using genome browsers Artemis and WebACT. In 11168H a $g \mid p T$ gene composed of three ORFs due to two frameshifting events was observed. A detailed investigation was carried out to determine if other $g / \hbar T$ genes experience frameshifting events, which may result in structural variation. Lastly, in order to infer evolutionary relationships among the different classes of the $p e b 3 / g / p T$ locus and $g / \phi T$ structure both were placed in evolutionary context through MLST. In Chapter 6, a detailed summary of the key findings conveyed in this thesis is provided.

## CHAPTER 2

Materials \& Methods

### 2.1 Chemicals and Reagents

All chemicals and reagents used in the experimental procedures of this study were of analytical grade and purchased from, Bioline (London, UK), Bio-Rad (Hempstead, UK), Oxoid (Basingstoke, UK), Sigma-Aldrich (Poole, UK), bioMèrieux (Basingstoke, UK), Thermo Fisher Scientific (Loughborough, UK), Qiagen (Manchester, UK), Invitrogen (California, USA), NEB (Ipswich, MA, USA), SLS (Yorkshire, UK), Expedeon (Cambridge, UK) and GE Healthcare (Hertfordshire, UK).

### 2.2 Procedure and equipment

All media, glassware and general solutions were sterilised by autoclaving at $121^{\circ} \mathrm{C}, 15 \mathrm{psi}$ for 20 minutes. All 1.5 ml Eppendorf tubes and pipette tips for volumes ranging from $10 \mu \mathrm{l}$ to 1 ml were sterilised at $121^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 15 minutes.

### 2.3 Media

All media was mixed to dissolve completely and sterilised by autoclaving at $121^{\circ} \mathrm{C}, 15 \mathrm{psi}$ for 20 minutes. After cooling below $50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ antibiotic(s) were added where appropriate prior to inoculation with bacterial cells.

Luria Bertani (LB) broth (Oxoid): 10 g tryptone, 5 g yeast, 10 g NaCl per litre of $\mathrm{dH}_{2} 0$.

Mueller Hinton (MH) Broth (Oxoid): 3 g beef, dehydrated infusion, 17.5 g casein hydrolysate 1.5 g starch per litre of $\mathrm{dH}_{2} 0$.

SOC Medium: 20 g Bacto-tryptone, 5 g Bacto-yeast extract, $0.5 \mathrm{~g} \mathrm{NaCl}, 2.5 \mathrm{ml}$ of 1 M KCl per litre of $\mathrm{dH}_{2} 0$. After autoclaving at $121^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, at 15 psi for 20 minutes the broth was cooled below $50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and supplemented with 10 ml of $1 \mathrm{M} \mathrm{MgCl}_{2}, 10 \mathrm{ml}$ of $1 \mathrm{M} \mathrm{MgSO}_{4}, 20 \mathrm{ml}$ of 1 M glucose.

All agar media was mixed to dissolve completely and sterilised by autoclaving at $121^{\circ} \mathrm{C}, 15$ psi for 20 minutes. Once cooled to a temperature below $50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ antibiotic(s) were added where appropriate and poured into standard 90 mm diameter plastic petri dishes (Sarstedt, Germany).

Columbia Blood Agar (CBA) (Oxoid): 23 g Special peptone, 1 g Starch, $5 \mathrm{~g} \mathrm{NaCl}, 10 \mathrm{~g}$ Agar per litre of $\mathrm{dH}_{2} 0$. Once cooled to a temperature below $50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ defibrinated horse blood (TCS Biosciences, Buckingham, UK) at $5 \%(\mathrm{v} / \mathrm{v})$ is added.

Mueller Hinton (MH) Agar (Oxoid): 3 g beef, dehydrated infusion, 17.5 g casein hydrolysate, 1.5 g starch, 10 g agar per litre of $\mathrm{dH}_{2} 0$.

Luria Bertani (LB) agar (Oxoid): 10 g tryptone, 5 g yeast, $10 \mathrm{~g} \mathrm{NaCl}, 15 \mathrm{~g}$ biological agar per litre of $\mathrm{dH}_{2} 0$.

## MEM $\alpha$, nucleosides, no phenol red (41061-029) (Thermo Fisher Scientific):

The complete formula comprised of 41 components consisting of amino acids, ribonucleotides, deoxyribonucleotides, vitamins, inorganic salts and sodium pyruvate. The complete formula can be found on the manufacturer's website.

MCLMAN (medium cysteine leucine methionine aspartic acid niacinamide) media:
All chemicals used in this media were purchased from Sigma. The media is comprised of four amino acids: 0.2 mM L-Cysteine $\mathrm{HCl}, 0.2 \mathrm{mM}$ L-Methionine, 0.8 mM L-Leucine, and 10 mM L-Aspartic acid, seven inorganic salts: $1.8 \mathrm{mM} \mathrm{CaCl} 2 \cdot 2 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}, 0.25 \mu \mathrm{M}$ $\mathrm{Fe}\left(\mathrm{NO}_{3}\right) 3 \cdot 9 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}, 1.75 \mathrm{mM} \mathrm{MgSO} 4,5.4 \mathrm{mM} \mathrm{KCl}, 44 \mathrm{mM} \mathrm{NaHCO} 3,0.1 \mathrm{M} \mathrm{NaCl}, 0.9 \mathrm{mM}$ $\mathrm{NaH}_{2} \mathrm{PO}_{4}$ and one vitamin: $33 \mu \mathrm{M}$ Niacinamide per litre of $\mathrm{dH}_{2} 0$. The components were autoclaved where possible, components not autoclavable were filtered and added after the media reached room temperature. Once combined the media was filtered with a $0.22 \mu \mathrm{M}$ filter and stored at room temperature for up to two weeks.

### 2.4 Culturing of bacterial strains

The C. jejuni strain (National culture Type Collection, London, UK) 11168H (Appendix Table S3) from a frozen stock was cultured on CBA plates with $5 \%(\mathrm{v} / \mathrm{v})$ horse blood and incubated in for 48 hours at $42^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ in a MACS VA500 workstation (Don Whitley, UK) under microaerobic conditions of $85 \% \mathrm{~N}_{2}, 10 \% \mathrm{CO}_{2}$ and $5 \% \mathrm{O}_{2}$. Where appropriate antibiotic(s) kanamycin $(50 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml})$ and chloramphenicol $(17 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml})$ were added.
E. coli strains (Appendix Table S4) were cultured using LB agar plates or LB broth. Antibiotics (Sigma, UK) ampicillin and kanamycin were added to LB media at a final concentration of 100 and $50 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}$. Where required, IPTG and X-Gal (Bioline, UK) were added at final concentrations of 50 and $80 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}$, respectively.

### 2.5 PCR Amplification

Oligonucleotide primers were designed to target specific DNA sequences of interest (Appendix Table S1). PCR reaction tubes contained DNA (100 ng), PCR master mix (1X $\mathrm{NH}_{4}$ buffer, 1.5 mM MgCl 2 , 0.8 mM dNTPs, 2.5 U Taq polymerase) and primers (MWG, Germany) ( 20 pmol ) at a final volume of $50 \mu$ l. The addition of $0.2 \mu \mathrm{l}$ cloned Pfu DNA polymerase (Aligent) was added for increased fidelity. PCR reaction tubes were loaded in a Thermo Electron Corporation (USA) PxE 0.2 Thermal Cycler PCR machine and DNA was amplified using a defined programme, denaturing at $94^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 30 seconds, annealing at $5^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ below predicted melting temperature of primers for 30 seconds and $72^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ extension of 1 minute per kbp length of predicted PCR amplification product.

### 2.6 Gel Electrophoresis

Following amplification, PCR products were loaded onto a $1 \%$ (v/v) agarose gel for electrophoretic separation of DNA. The gels were prepared by dissolving 4 g of SeaKem LE agarose powder (Lonza, UK) in 400 ml of TAE (Tris-Acetate EDTA) buffer ( 40 mM Tris,

20 mM acetic acid, 1 mM EDTA at pH 7.0 ) by heating. After cooling, $3 \mu \mathrm{l}$ of ethidium bromide (stock-10 mg/ml, Sigma, UK) was added to the gel before setting. A molecular weight marker DNA hyperladder I (Bioline, UK), alongside samples mixed with 5x DNA loading dye (Bioline, UK), were loaded onto the gel submerged in TAE buffer in a Bio-rad sub-cell gel tank. Gel electrophoresis was performed at 100 V for 45 minutes. The gel was visualised with a Syngene GeneFlash Bio imager connected to a Computer H6Z0182 lens camera and pictures of the gel were printed with a Sony UP895MD printer.

### 2.7 DNA Manipulation

Following amplification, PCR products were ligated, according to manufacturer's instructions, into a pGEM-T easy vector (Promega, UK) with DNA ligase (Promega, UK) and buffer. Plasmids that were restricted were alkaline phosphatised by adding $1 \mu \mathrm{l}$ of Antarctic Alkaline phosphatase to $9 \mu \mathrm{l}$ buffer (New England Biolabs, UK) and incubating for 1 hour at $37^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Digested plasmids were purified using an Illustra MicroSpin S-300 HR Columns (GE Healthcare) according to the manufacturer's instructions and the concentration was determined by NanoDrop ${ }^{\circledR}$ ND-1000 (NanoDrop technologies Ltd.). The ligation reactions were incubated at $4^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ overnight with T4 DNA ligase (NEB) and 10X ligase buffer (NEB), transformed into chemically competent E. coli cells (Appendix Table S4) via heat shock according to the manufacturer's instructions and grown overnight on LB agar plates with appropriate antibiotics.

### 2.8 Site-Directed mutagenesis

A QuikChange II kit (Strategene) was used to mutate peb3 (Chapter 3) and $g / \hbar T$ (Chapter 4) genes according to manufacturer's protocol. Oligonucleotide primers with specific mutations were designed using the Agilent QuikChange Primer design software tool and were synthesised by Eurofins MWG Operon (Ebersberg, Germany) (Appendix Table S1) and mutations were introduced by PCR thermal cycling (Table 2.1). Following PCR, the plasmid
was digested with $0.5 \mu \mathrm{DpnI}$ restriction enzyme (NEB Labs, USA) incubated at $37^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 1 hour and inactivated at $80^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 20 minutes. Site-directed plasmids (Appendix Table S2) were transformed into chemically competent E. coli cells.

| Segment | Cycles | Temperature | Time |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 1 | $95^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | 30 s |
| 2 | 15 | $95^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | 30 s |
|  |  | $55^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | 1 m |
|  |  | $68^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | $1 \mathrm{~m} \mathrm{~kb}^{-1}$ |

Table 2.1 Site-Directed mutagenesis PCR cycling parameters. The table lists the temperatures and times used to generate mutations in the heparin-binding sites of peb3 and to introduce a BamHI site into the $g \not \equiv T$ gene, via PCR.

### 2.9 E. coli transformations

Chemically competent E. coli cells $\mathrm{DH} 5 \alpha$ and $\mathrm{BL} 21-\mathrm{AI}$ were generated via the $\mathrm{RbCl}_{2}$ method. The E. coli cells grow on LB agar with appropriate antibiotic(s) and incubated overnight at $37^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. A single fresh E. coli colony was used to inoculate 5 ml of LB broth and incubated for 18 hours at $37^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ with shaking 200 revolutions per minute (rpm). Overnight culture ( 1 ml ) was used to inoculate new flask containing 100 ml of LB broth. The cultures were incubated at $37^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ with shaking, grown to an optical density $\left(\mathrm{OD}_{600}\right)$ of 0.4 and immediately incubated on ice for 10 minutes. Cultures were placed into chilled 50 ml falcon tubes and centrifuged at 3,500 rpm for 15 minutes, at $4^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The cell pellet was re-suspended in $50 \mathrm{ml}(25 \mathrm{ml} /$ falcon tube) of cold TfbI buffer ( $30 \mathrm{mM} \mathrm{KOAc}, 100 \mathrm{mM} \mathrm{RbCl} 2,10 \mathrm{mM} \mathrm{CaCl} 2,50 \mathrm{MgCl}_{2}$ in $\mathrm{dH}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ with $15 \%$ glycerol (v/v), pH, 5.8 with 0.2 M glacial acetic acid and filter sterilised). The mixture was incubated on ice for 10 minutes and centrifuged at $3,500 \mathrm{rpm}$ at $4^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 15 minutes. The cell pellet was re-suspended in 2 ml of TfbII buffer ( 10 mM MOPS, 75 mM $\mathrm{CaCl}_{2}, 10 \mathrm{mM} \mathrm{RbCl} 2$ in $\mathrm{dH}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ followed by the addition of $15 \%$ glycerol (v/v) $\mathrm{pH}, 6.5$ with 1 M KOH , the solution was filter sterilised and incubated on ice for 2 hours. The final
suspension was aliquoted into 1.5 ml Eppendorf tubes at $100 \mu \mathrm{l}$ and the tubes were snap frozen in liquid $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ and stored at $-80^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Plasmid at $1 \mu \mathrm{l}(\sim 25 \mathrm{ng})$ was added to $E$. coli cells and transformed via heat shocking according to manufacturer's protocols. The suspension was spread onto antibiotic selective LB plates and incubated overnight at $37^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. A single colony from the plate was inoculated into LB broth with appropriate antibiotics and incubated at overnight $37^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ with shaking. The culture was centrifuged at $3,500 \mathrm{rpm}$ at $4^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for ten minutes and isolation of plasmids from E. coli was carried out with a QIAprep Spin MiniPrep Kit (Qiagen, West Sussex, UK) following the manufacturer's recommendations.

### 2.10 DNA Sequencing

A BigDye ${ }^{\circledR}$ Terminator v1.1 Cycle sequencing kit according to manufacturer's recommendations (Applied Biosystems) was used to carry out DNA sequencing. Sequencing reactions ( $10 \mu \mathrm{l}$ ) were subjected to the Applied Biosystems Prism 3100 genetic analyser located in the University of Manchester DNA sequencing facility. DNA sequence data was analysed with Chromas software (Technelysium Pty Ltd. Australia) and sequences were verified using Clustal W, a feature of Biology Workbench (San Diego Supercomputer Centre, USA).

### 2.11 Acid-glycine extraction of surface-proteins from C. jejuni

Acid-glycine extraction of $C$. jejuni NCTC 11168 H surface proteins was performed according to the method by Logan and Trust, 1983. C. jejuni cells from five CBA plates were harvested in $\mathrm{dH}_{2} \mathrm{O}$, washed twice at $8000 \times \mathrm{g}$ for 15 minutes and re-suspended in 0.2 M glycine hydrochloride pH 2.2 at $33 \mathrm{ml} / 1 \mathrm{~g}$ of wet cell weight. The suspension was stirred for 15 minutes at room temperature and centrifuged at $12,000 \times g$ for 15 minutes prior to neutralisation with sodium hydroxide $(\mathrm{NaOH})$. The supernatant was dialysed at $4^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ against $\mathrm{dH}_{2} 0$ with Snakeskin ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ Dialysis tubing (Thermo Scientific, UK) according to manufacturer's
recommendations. The final suspension was frozen at $-80^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, lyophilised and then stored in $-80^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for further use or used immediately for heparin-affinity chromatography.

### 2.12 Heparin-affinity chromatography

Proteins were concentrated using the Bio-Rad protein assay dye reagent protocol according to the manufacturer's instructions. Approximately $0.300 \mu \mathrm{~g}$ of concentrated protein was added to binding buffer $\mathrm{A}\left(5 \mathrm{mM} \mathrm{NaCl}, 10 \mathrm{mM} \mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{HPO}_{4}, 1.8 \mathrm{mM} \mathrm{KH}_{2} \mathrm{PO}_{4}, \mathrm{pH} 7.3\right)$. Prior to use a 1 ml HiTrap Heparin HP column (GE Healthcare) attached to an ÄKTA 900 prime system (GE Healthcare) was equilibrated with binding buffers A and elution buffer B (1 M $\left.\mathrm{NaCl}, 10 \mathrm{mM} \mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{HPO}_{4}, 1.8 \mathrm{mM} \mathrm{KH}_{2} \mathrm{PO}_{4}, \mathrm{pH} 7.3\right)$. Once equilibrated the sample was loaded onto the heparin column and washed for 10 column volumes. Proteins were eluted with a 0 1 M linear NaCl gradient using elution buffer B. The protocol was performed in triplicate and error bars based on standard error.

### 2.13 GST-purification of GST-PEB3 fusion protein from E. coli

An overnight culture of E. coli BL21-AI cells encoding GST-PEB3 fusion proteins inoculated into 25 ml of LB broth containing antibiotics and incubated at $37^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ with shaking at 100 rpm. The culture was used to inoculate 400 ml of LB broth containing antibiotics incubated at $37^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ with shaking until an $\mathrm{OD}_{600}$ of $0.6-1.0$ was reached. Once the desired $\mathrm{OD}_{600}$ was reached protein production was induced with 1 mM IPTG and $0.1 \%$ arabinose. Induced cells were grown for 4 hours and harvested by centrifugation for 20 minutes at $4,000 \times g$ at $4^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The cell pellet was re-suspended in cold GST-binding buffer and lysed by two rounds of French pressing at 13,000 psi. The protein extract was clarified by another round of centrifugation $6000 \times g$ at $4^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 20 minutes and filter sterilised. A 2 ml aliquot of filtered supernatant was applied to a Glutathione Sepharose 4B column (GE Healthcare) and incubated for 30 minutes at room temperature. The GST column was washed with 20 ml of GST-binding buffer $\left(140 \mathrm{mM} \mathrm{NaCl}, 2.7 \mathrm{mM} \mathrm{KCl}, 10 \mathrm{mM} \mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{HPO}_{4}\right.$, and $1.8 \mathrm{mM} \mathrm{KH}_{2} \mathrm{PO}_{4}$,
$\mathrm{pH} 7.3)$ to remove unbound protein. The column was incubated at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 16 hours with $500 \mu \mathrm{l}$ of GST-binding buffer containing $20 \mu \mathrm{l}$ of thrombin (Calbiochem) to release bound protein. The column was washed with 1 ml of GST-binding buffer, an additional three times, to elute PEB3 protein. The concentration of the purified proteins was estimated according to manufacturer's instructions of the Bio-Rad protein assay dye reagent.

### 2.14 Whole cell lysate preparation

Whole cell protein extracts were prepared by resuspending C. jejuni cells in PBS to an $\mathrm{OD}_{600}$ of 2.5-3.0. A total of $500 \mu \mathrm{l}$ of the suspension was centrifuged at $10,000 \mathrm{rpm}$ in a benchtop centrifuge resulting in a pellet and supernatant. The pellet was re-suspended in $50 \mu \mathrm{l}$ of 1x BugBuster (Novagen) followed by $0.5 \mu \mathrm{l}$ of DNase I (Thermo Scientific, UK) and incubated at room temperature for 30 minutes. Following incubation, lysates were centrifuged at 10,000 rpm in a benchtop centrifuge and supernatants re-suspended in 1 X SDS-PAGE buffer. For E. coli, whole cells were obtained by growing 1 ml of culture to an $\mathrm{OD}_{600}$ 2.0. The culture was centrifuged and the remaining pellet resuspending in $50 \mu \mathrm{l}$ of 1x SDS-PAGE loading buffer.

### 2.15 Bacterial cell membrane preparation

Membrane preparations of $C$. jejuni cells were prepared by harvesting cells grown on CBA into 50 mM Tris- $\mathrm{HCl}(\mathrm{pH} 7.0), 25 \mathrm{mM} \mathrm{NaCl}$. The cell suspension is centrifuged at 8000 xg and pellet retained and weighed. The pellet is resuspended in 50 mM Tris- $\mathrm{HCl}(\mathrm{pH} 7.0), 25$ mM NaCl and lysed by a French press cell at 13,000 psi. The unlysed cells were removed by two rounds of centrifugation at $15,000 \mathrm{rpm}$ in a bench top centrifuge for 20 minutes at $4^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The supernatant was ultracentrifuged at $100,000 \times g(70,000 \mathrm{rpm})$ in a Beckman OptiMAX for 1 hour at $4^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The total membrane fraction pellet was weighed and re-suspended in 50 mM Tris- $\mathrm{HCl}(\mathrm{pH} 7.0), 25 \mathrm{mM} \mathrm{NaCl}, 1 \%$ Triton X-100, per 1 ml per gram of starting wet cell pellet, and then incubated at room temperature for 1 hour. Solubilised membrane
samples were ultracentrifuged at $100,000 \mathrm{xg}(70,000 \mathrm{rpm})$ for 1 h at $4^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The supernatant was resuspended in Triton X-100 and purified via His and HA-Tag purification.

### 2.16 Purification of GlpT from membrane fractions

Solubilised membrane fractions containing His-Tagged GlpT were purified in single reaction tubes with Ni-NTA Magnetic agarose beads (Qiagen) according to manufactures' instructions with some modifications. Membrane fraction ( $500 \mu \mathrm{l}$ ) was added to $100 \mu \mathrm{l}$ of Ni-NTA Magnetic agarose beads, mixed for 1 hour at room temperature and separated magnetically for 1 minute. The magnetic beads were re-suspended in $500 \mu \mathrm{l}$ of Ni-NTA washing buffer ( 20 mM sodium phosphate, $500 \mathrm{mM} \mathrm{NaCl}, 1 \%$ Triton X-100, 40 mM imidazole, pH 7.4 ), mixed and magnetically separated to removal the washing buffer. This was step was repeated 2 times and protein was eluted in $50-100 \mu \mathrm{l}$ of Ni-NTA elution buffer ( 20 mM sodium phosphate, $500 \mathrm{mM} \mathrm{NaCl}, 1$ \% Triton X-100, 500 mM imidazole, pH 7.4 ) and then 1X SDS-PAGE buffer.

Manual immunoprecipitation of GlpT HA-Tagged strains was performed with Pierce AntiHA magnetic beads (Thermo, UK) per the manufacturer's instruction. The HA-Tagged proteins were eluted into $50 \mu \mathrm{l}$ of 5X SDS-PAGE sample buffer.

### 2.17 SDS-PAGE and Immunoblotting

Heparin chromatography fractions were denatured in 2X SDS-PAGE loading buffer (100 mM Tris- HCl (pH 6.8), $2 \%$ SDS, 10 \% glycerol, $0.1 \%$ bromophenol blue, $5 \% \beta$ mercaptoethanol) by boiling for 5 minutes at $95^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. A Precision Plus broad range protein standard marker (Bio-Rad Laboratories Ltd.) and samples were separated on a gel a $12 \%$ gel. The gel was prepared with a lower $12 \%(\mathrm{v} / \mathrm{v})$ resolving gel $\left[3.5 \mathrm{ml} \mathrm{dH} \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}, 2.5 \mathrm{ml} 10 \%\right.$ SDS, 2.5 ml 1.5 M Tris- $\mathrm{HCl}(\mathrm{pH} 8.8$ ), $100 \mu \mathrm{l} 10 \%$ APS, 4 ml Acrylamide/Bis ( $30 \%$ stock), $20 \mu \mathrm{l}$ TEMED] and an upper $4 \%(\mathrm{v} / \mathrm{v})$ stack [ $6.1 \mathrm{ml} \mathrm{dH} 2 \mathrm{O}, 100 \mu \mathrm{l} 10 \% \mathrm{SDS}$, 2.5 ml 1.5 M Tris-
$\mathrm{HCl}(\mathrm{pH} 8.8), 100 \mu \mathrm{l} 10 \%$ APS, 1.3 ml Acrylamide/Bis ( $30 \%$ stock), $20 \mu \mathrm{l}$ TEMED]. Gel electrophoresis was performed in an X-Cell SureLock ${ }^{\mathrm{TM}}$ Mini-Cell (Invitrogen) electrophoresis system at 150 V for 1 hour. SDS-PAGE gels were stained with Instant Blue or transferred onto a nitrocellulose membrane for western blotting. For western blotting, proteins were transferred onto a Protran nitrocellulose membrane (Whatman, UK) using an X-Cell SureLock ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ Mini-Cell blot module (Invitrogen) at 30 V for 1 hour in transfer buffer ( 2.4 g Tris, 11.26 g glycine, $20 \%(\mathrm{v} / \mathrm{v})$ methanol per litre). Membranes were blocked overnight in PBS (phosphate buffered saline) (Sigma-Aldrich Ltd, Poole UK) containing 10 $\%(\mathrm{w} / \mathrm{v})$ milk. To detect PEB3 proteins the membrane was incubated with anti-PEB3 antiserum (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) diluted to 1:5,000 in PBS with $10 \%$ milk for 1 hour at room temperature. The membrane was washed 3 times in PBST (PBS with 0.2 \% Tween 20). The secondary antibody, an anti-rabbit IgG (LI-COR, Lincoln, USA), at a dilution of $1: 2,000$ in PBS with $10 \%$ milk was incubated with the membrane for 1 hour at room temperature. Following three washes with PBST and one final wash with PBS membranes were visualised on the LI-COR Odyssey® Imaging System at 700-800 nm.

In Chapter 4, whole cell lysates, purified GlpT His-tagged and HA-tagged proteins were denatured in 1X, 1X and 5X SDS-PAGE loading buffer, respectively, by boiling at $95^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 10 minutes. Samples ( $20 \mu \mathrm{l}$ ), briefly centrifuged in a desktop centrifuged, along with a Precision Plus broad range protein standard were loaded onto a NuPAGE® Novex® 4-12 \% Bis-Tris Protein Gels (Thermo Scientific, UK) in MOPS buffer (104.6 g MOPS, 60.6 g Tris Base, 10 g SDS, 3 g EDTA). Gel electrophoresis was performed in an X-Cell SureLock ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ Mini-Cell (Invitrogen) electrophoresis system at 175 V for 50 minutes. The gel was incubated with Instant Blue (Expedeon) stain overnight or transferred to nitrocellulose membrane. For western blotting, proteins were transferred onto a Protran nitrocellulose membrane (Whatman, Maidstone, UK) using an X-Cell SureLock ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ Mini-Cell blot module (Invitrogen) at 30 V for 1 hour in transfer buffer ( 2.4 g Tris, 11.26 g glycine, $20 \%(\mathrm{v} / \mathrm{v})$
methanol per litre). Membranes were blocked overnight in PBS (phosphate buffered saline) (Sigma-Aldrich Ltd, Poole UK) containing 10 (w/v) milk. To detect His or HA-Tagged GlpT proteins the membranes were incubated for 1 hour at room temperature with Hisantibody (Qiagen) or HA- antibody (Sigma) diluted to 1:1000 in $0.01 \%$ PBS-T with $3 \%$ (w/v) milk. The membrane was washed three times in PBS-T $0.01 \%$. The secondary antibody, an anti-mouse IgG (LI-COR, Lincoln, USA), diluted to 1: 10,000 in $0.01 \% \mathrm{PBS}$ T with $3 \%$ milk was incubated with the membrane for 1 hour at room temperature. Following three washes with PBST and one final wash with PBS the membranes were visualised on the LI-COR Odyssey® Imaging System at 700-800 nm.

### 2.18 Protein mass spectrometry

Proteins were separated on a $12 \%$ SDS-PAGE gel and stained with Instant Blue (Expedeon, Cambridge, UK). The gel was placed in a sterile petri dish the band was excised and digested with trypsin overnight by the staff of the Protein Mass Spectrometry Facility at the University of Manchester. Protein identifications from the mass spectrometry were input into Mascot software (version 2.2.06; produced by Matrix Science). The sequence of the identified proteins of interest were found in the UniPROT database (http://www.uniprot.org) (Magrane \& Consortium, 2011). The results were also fed into statistical validation software called Scaffold (version 3.0.04; produced by Proteome Software).

### 2.19 Conserved Domain Database (CDD)

The domain architecture of each C. jejuni heparin-binding protein sequence was determined with CDD (Marchler-Bauer et al., 2011). Information regarding putative protein function, specific amino acids or regions involved in binding, other proteins with similar domain structures and a 3-D view of proteins with solved crystal structures was also provided.

### 2.20 ExPASy pI/ $M_{\mathrm{w}}$ Tool

The theoretical pI and $M_{\mathrm{w}}$ of $C$. jejuni heparin-binding proteins was determined by the ExPASy compute pI/ $M_{\mathrm{w}}$ (http://www.expasy.org/cgi-bin/pi_tool) (Gasteiger et al., 2005).

### 2.21 PyMOL: Molecular modelling of PEB3 heparin-binding sites

The structural coordinates for the PEB3 dimer were taken from the Protein Data Bank (PDB) archive (http://www.rcsb.org/pdb) file 2HWX. The heparin-binding sites were mapped to chain A of the PEB3 dimer. Additional changes to the model include deletion of water molecules. Protein structural coordinates of potential heparin-binding sites and docking figures were prepared using The PyMOL Molecular Graphics System (DeLano Scientific LLC, San Carlos, CA, USA).

### 2.22 ClusPro: Identification of PEB3 heparin-binding Sites

The molecular docking was performed with the ClusPro programme (Mottarella et al., 2014). For this process the PEB3 monomer and heparin were chosen as receptor and ligand, respectively, by selecting the heparin mode of the programme (http://cluspro.bu.edu/). Additionally, the PEB3 dimer and heparin followed the same process, however heparinbinding sites: ${ }_{62} \mathrm{KAKKD}_{66}$ and ${ }_{12} \mathrm{NKKVRI}_{127}$ sequences were designated as sites of attraction. The programme ranks and provides the top 15 docking models, these were analysed to identify interactions among regions of the PEB3 in complex with heparin (Mottarella et al., 2014). The PEB3-heparin complexes obtained in this study were visualised and analysed with Pymol Molecular Graphics software 1.7.0.1.

### 2.23 In silico MLST analysis of 64 C. jejuni strains

The sequence for each MLST genes: $a s p A, g \ln A, g \operatorname{lt} A, g l y A, \operatorname{pgm}, t k t$ and $u n c A$ was obtained for 64 C. jejuni strains. These genes were identified in contig assemblies via homology searching with the UniPROT and the NCBI (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genome).

Comparison of these sequences against allelic sequences in the C. jejuni PubMLST database (http://pubmlst.org/campylobacter) and previous published allelic profiles were used to determine sequence type (ST) and clonal complex (ST-CC) for each strain.

### 2.24 MLST Phylogenetic analyses

The relatedness of the allelic profiles of 64 C. jejuni strains (Appendix Table S7) was investigated via phylogentic analysis. In order to infer evolutionary relationships among these 64 strains a dendrogram was constructed with START2 software (package, version 0.5.13) (Jolley et al., 2001). This software is available at the PubMLST C. jejuni database (http://www.pubmlst.org).

### 2.25 Genomic Analysis of the peb3/glpTlocus

Homology searches of the $g h T$ and peb3 genes were conducted at the amino acid sequence level using a genomic BLAST and UniPROT. The Genome function via the NCBI Genome tool was used to identify the accession number of the contigs, which possessed this gene region (Appendix Table S5 \& S6). These numbers were then input into genome browsers Artemis (Rutherford et al., 2000) and webACT (Carver et al., 2005).

### 2.26 Generation of $C$. jejuni competent cells and electroporation

C. jejuni cells were grown for 24 hours on CBA, harvested into 1 ml of MH broth and pelleted by centrifugation $14,000 \mathrm{rpm}$ for 5 minutes at $4^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The cells were re-suspended in 1 ml of ice-cold sucrose buffer ( 272 mM sucrose and $15 \%(\mathrm{v} / \mathrm{v}$ ) glycerol). After three rounds of centrifugation and washing in sucrose buffer the electrocompetent cells were fractioned in $50 \mu \mathrm{l}$ to $100 \mu \mathrm{l}$ increments. These could be used immediately or stored for later use at -80 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Plasmid constructs ( $\sim 10 \mathrm{ng}$ ) (Appendix Table S2) were added to $50 \mu \mathrm{l}$ of competent $C$. jejuni cells. The mixture was transferred into an ice-cold electroporation cuvette (Gene Pulser®/MicroPulser ${ }^{\mathrm{TM}}$ Electroporation cuvette, 0.2 cm ). Electroporation was executed
using a Bio-rad Gene Pulser II electroporation system set at $2.5 \mathrm{kV}, 25 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ and $200 \Omega$. The cuvette was flushed twice with $100 \mu \mathrm{SOC}$ medium, spread onto a non-selective CBA plate and incubated overnight at $42{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ under microaerophilic conditions. After overnight growth cells were cultured onto selective agar and incubated at $42{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for a further $3-5$ days. Individual colonies that formed were subcultured, amplified via colony PCR to verify the genotype and then stored at $-80^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ in glycerol ( $30 \%$ glycerol (v/v) in MH broth).

### 2.27 Fosfomycin susceptibility assays

1) E-Test

For the E-Test, C. jejuni cells were cultured in 30 ml of MH broth without antibiotics to a starting $\mathrm{OD}_{600}$ of 0.05 . Cultures were grown until mid-log phase $\left(\mathrm{OD}_{600} 0.2-0.4\right)$ was reached in microaerophilic conditions with shaking at 125 rpm (Figure 4.2 \& 4.9). A cell suspension of 0.2 ml was plated on to a dry MH agar plate using a spreader. The plate was allowed to dry for 5-10 minutes and one E-Test (bioMèrieux, UK) strip at room temperature was applied. The plate was incubated face side down at $42^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 48 hours. Additional guidance on storage, procedures and interpretations of results strictly followed the E-Test Antimicrobial susceptibility guide (IVD-9302553C-en2012/01). The MICs were read directly from the test strip according to the manufacturer's instructions. Determination of the MIC is where the elliptical zone of inhibition intersected with the MIC scale on the E-Test strip. The compound glucose-6-phosphate was not added to the MH agar due to the lack of the UhpT transporter.

## 2) Spot-plate Method

The spot plate method was followed as described by Jeong et al. and Ribardo et al. Prior to the agar setting, a range of fosfomycin (Sigma, UK) concentrations, $0,8,24,32,48,64,96$, 128 and $192 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}$, were added to molten MH agar. The agar was pipetted at a volume of 25 ml into petri dishes. The C. jejuni cells were harvested and re-suspended in MH broth to
an $\mathrm{OD}_{600}$ of 1.0. The cells were sequentially diluted ten-fold seven times and $10 \mu \mathrm{l}$ of each dilution was spotted onto MH fosfomycin containing agar. The plates were allowed to dry for 10 minutes and then incubated facedown for 48 hours at $42^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ under microaerobic conditions. The cell viability was calculated via the Miles and Misra technique. The MIC was determined by lowest fosfomycin concentration resulting in a 10 -fold decrease in CFU when compared to growth on MH agar without fosfomycin.

### 2.28 Growth Assays

1) MH Broth

Comparative growth curves were performed in MH broth. In these experiments, $100 \mu \mathrm{l}$ of C. jejuni cells were inoculated into 30 ml MH broth. Flasks were incubated under microaerobic conditions with constant shaking ( 100 rpm ) at $42{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. After an initial growth period the $\mathrm{OD}_{600}$ was measured and a new flask inoculated to an $\mathrm{OD}_{600}$ of 0.05 growth was monitored.

## 2) $\operatorname{MEM} \alpha$

MEM $\alpha$ growth assays were performed as described in by Del Rocio Leon-Kempis et al. and Min et al. Liquid cultures of C. jejuni were grown microaerobically at 140 rpm in MH broth without antibiotics to mid-log phase $\left(\mathrm{OD}_{600} 0.2-0.4\right)$ or $7-10$ hours after inoculation (Figure 4.2). Mid-phase cultures were used to inoculate in triplicate, 1 ml samples of MEM- $\alpha$ (Thermo, UK) supplemented with 0 or 5 mM 3 -PG (Sigma, UK) and 0.1 mM FeSO 4 (Sigma, UK). After growth at $42^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 24 hours, the $\mathrm{OD}_{600}$ of the cultures was measured.

## 3) MCLMAN

Growth assays with MCLMAN media followed the protocol of Alazzam et al. with some slight modifications. Bacterial cells were transferred to MH broth and incubated under microaerobic conditions with shaking at 140 rpm . A second culture at an initial $\mathrm{OD}_{600}$ of
0.05 was inoculated and incubated at $42^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ under the same conditions. After $7-10$ hours, mid-log phase cells $\left(\mathrm{OD}_{600} 0.2-0.4\right)$ (Figure $\left.4.2 \& 4.9\right)$ were collected via centrifugation at $10,000 \mathrm{rpm}$ for 20 minutes at $4^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The pellet was washed and re-suspended in warm MCLMAN media to an $\mathrm{OD}_{600} 0.500$. The cell suspension was used to inoculate 12 well containing warm MCLMAN media, supplemented with 10 mM pyruvate (Sigma, UK), lactate (Sigma, UK), 3-PG (Sigma, UK) or G3P (Sigma, UK), to an initial OD ${ }_{600}$ of 0.05 . The plates were incubated microaerobically at $42^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 24 hours with shaking ( 140 rpm ) after, which the $\mathrm{OD}_{600}$ was measured. The data was analysed with GraphPad QuickCalcs using the Student's paired t-test ( $\mathrm{p}<0.05$ ).

## CHAPTER 3

Identification of $C$. jejuni heparin-binding proteins

### 3.1 Introduction

The pathogenic bacterium C. jejuni is the leading cause of diarrhoeal illness worldwide (Acheson \& Allos, 2001). Our current knowledge of the biological systems aiding C. jejuni has increased, however, there remains much to be discovered. One area in need of more research is the interaction of this bacterium with glycosaminoglycans (GAGs). GAGs are carbohydrate-bearing structures, present in or on the host cell-surface that act as space-filling molecules for the stabilisation of the extracellular matrix (ECM) (Gandhi \& Mancera, 2008). The family of GAG molecules also assists with a multitude of different cell activities migration, growth, adhesion to the ECM and signalling- as well as binding growth factors, chemokines, proteases and proteins (Jackson et al., 1991; Linhardt \& Toida, 2004; Gandhi \& Mancera, 2008).

Bacteria produce cell-surface proteins called 'adhesins'. During the first stages of infection, adhesins use GAGs as sites of attachment (Rostand \& Esko, 1997). GAGs mediate interactions with pathogens, but can reverse this outcome, by acting as antibacterial molecules (Kamhi et al., 2013). Certain GAGs, such as heparin, are absorbed by adhesins forming a polyanion barrier. This barrier is often referred to as a 'pseudocapsule', due to its clever mimicking of a polysaccharide capsule (Chen et al., 1995; Serruto et al., 2011). These 'pseudocapsules' serve as camouflage and aid in the evasion of host defences (Chen et al., 1995; Serruto et al., 2011). Heparin, the most researched of all GAGs, exhibits several different behaviours. These include forming molecular 'bridges', which link the GAGbinding sites of host molecules and bacterial adhesins (Duensing \& Putten, 1998; Menozzi et al., 2002; Blom et al., 2008). It also binds, inhibits and augments molecules, which control the activation of complement pathways (Edens et al., 1993). Most notably, heparin serves as a good prototype for the initial investigations into GAG-protein interactions. This has resulted in the identification of several heparin-binding proteins (Cardin \& Weintraub 1989; Menozzi et al., 2002).

Bacterial species with heparin-binding molecules include Helicobacter pylori (Asencio et al., 1993; Hirmo et al., 1995; Utt \& Wadström, 1997; Ruiz-Bustos et al., 2001; Utt et al., 2001; Dubreuil et al., 2002; Dubreuil et al., 2004; Guzman-Murillo et al., 2008), Neisseria gonorrhoeae (Chen et al., 1995), Neisseria meningitidis (Serruto et al., 2010), Legionella pneumophila (Duncan et al., 2011) and Bordetella pertussis (Menozzi et al., 1991; Hannah et al., 1994; Geuijen et al., 1996; Geuijen et al., 1998).
C. jejuni recognises a range of host-cell glycans, namely glycoproteins, mucins and Lewis Blike structures (Hugdahl et al., 1988; McAuley et al., 2007; Day et al., 2009). The C. jejuni NCTC 11168-GS and 11168-O strains bind galactose, fucose, mannose and Neu5Accontaining glycans (Day et al., 2009). However, this is dependent on specific temperature (25 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}, 37^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ or $42{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ) and growth conditions (with or limited oxygen) (Day et al., 2009). Additionally, several $C$. jejuni strains bound heparin and other GAG molecules such as hyaluronan, chondroitin and dermatan (Day et al., 2013). Nevertheless, specific C. jejuni GAG-binding proteins are not identified in these studies.

Several adhesins have been identified for C. jejuni among these are the PEB proteins. The PEB proteins 1 to 4 were first described as 'cell-binding factors' (Pei et al., 1991). PEB1 is periplasmic, binding protein involved in adherence, transport and invasion of host cells (Pei et al., 1998; Del Rocio Leon-Kempis et al., 2006). Like PEB1, a multi-functional role is suspected for PEB3, an adhesin that binds phosphate molecules (Min et al., 2009). The PEB4 protein, an antigenic virulence factor, has duties in adhesion, protein export, colonisation and invasion (Kervella et al., 1993; Asakura et al., 2007). The protein PEB2, a major antigenic peptide of $C$. jejuni, is a protein of unknown function (Pei et al., 1991). Other adhesins include JlpA, a surface-exposed lipoprotein, aids the attachment of C. jejuni to host cells and modulates inflammatory responses (Jin et al., 2001; Jin et al., 2003). The CadF outer membrane protein binds fibronectin, a component of the extracellular matrix (Konkel et al., 1997). CadF stimulates signal transduction pathways and is vital for invasion of host epithelial
cells (Monteville et al., 2003; Konkel et al., 2005). In summary, C. jejuni expresses many adhesins with active roles in attachment, transport and invasion; yet, their interactions with GAGs are not documented.

This study aimed to identify $C$. jejuni proteins that interact with the GAG prototype heparin. The specific approach involved isolation of $C$. jejuni surface proteins and investigation of these proteins interaction with heparin by affinity purification and mass spectrometry-based identification.

### 3.2 Identification and purification of $C$. jejuni heparin-binding proteins

Acid-glycine extraction, outlined by Logan \& Trust, enables the isolation of C. jejuni cellsurface proteins. This method also isolates flagella, adhesins, PEB antigens and $N$-linked glycosylated proteins (Logan \& Trust, 1983; Pei et al., 1991; Scott \& Cordwell, 2009).

Applying the same procedure, cell-surface proteins were isolated ( 1 g in wet weight) from the strain C. jejuni NCTC 11168H. The acid-glycine extract was prepared by harvesting cells from two-day blood agar plates, washing the cells twice with distilled water and isolating surface proteins with acid-glycine (see Chapter 2). The resulting extract was lyophilised, equilibrated and applied to a heparin-agarose column. The bound protein was eluted with 0 1 M NaCl gradient via the AKTA purification system (see Chapter 2). The eluted fractions displayed two distinct peaks at 190 (Peak 1) and 335 mM NaCl (Peak 2) (Figure 3.1 A). An SDS-PAGE gel of the peak fractions revealed a single band migrating at $\sim 25 \mathrm{kDa}$ from Peak 1 and four bands migrating at $\sim 28-31 \mathrm{kDa}$ from Peak 2 (Figure 3.1 B).

The bands were excised, digested with trypsin and peptides analysed by liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS). The sequences of individual peptides were derived and protein identifications made using Mascot (version 2.2.06, Matrix Science) (Emma Keevill, FLS Protein Mass Spectrometry Core Facility). The results were imported into Scaffold (version 3.0.04; produced by Proteome Software) and a report generated. Based on peptide scores and protein coverage, five proteins with predicted molecular masses between 25 and 31 kDa were identified. These proteins are PEB1 (Cj0921c), tungstate binding protein, TupA (Cj1540), ATP/GTP-binding protein (Cj1041c), PEB4 (Cj0596) and PEB3 (Cj0289c) (Table 3.1).


Figure 3.1 Heparin-binding components of a C. jejuni NCTC 11168H acid-glycine extract. A) C. jejuni proteins bind a heparin-agarose column and are eluted in two peaks. An acid-glycine extract from C. jejuni NCTC 11168 H was deposited onto a heparin-agarose affinity column. Following extensive washing a $0-1 \mathrm{M} \mathrm{NaCl}$ gradient was applied. Two prominent peaks were observed at 190 mM (Peak 1) and 335 mM (Peak 2) NaCl . B) SDS-PAGE analysis of proteins from a C. jejuni acid-glycine extract eluted from a heparin-agarose column. Proteins were separated by SDS-PAGE and visualised by Coomassie staining. A protein marker was loaded in lane 1. Elution fractions from Peak 1 (lanes 2-3) showed one band migrating at $25 \mathrm{kDa}(190 \mathrm{mM} \mathrm{NaCl})$. Elution fractions from Peak 2 (lane 4-5) revealed four bands migrating at $28,29,30$ and 31 kDa ( 335 mM NaCl ).

| Protein ID | Peak | $\begin{gathered} \text { Predicted } \\ \text { size } \\ (k D a) \end{gathered}$ | Peptide matches | pI | Function | References |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { PEB1 } \\ & \text { Cj0921c } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1 \\ (190 \mathrm{mM}) \end{gathered}$ | 25 | 4 | 8.4 | Adhesin; Amino Acid Transporter | Fauchère et al., 1989 <br> Pei et al., 1991 <br> Kervella et al., 1993 <br> Pei et al., 1993 <br> Pei et al., 1998 <br> Del Rocio Leon- <br> Kempis et al., 2006 <br> Müller et al., 2007 |
| PEB3 Cj0289c | $\begin{gathered} 2 \\ (335 \mathrm{mM}) \end{gathered}$ | 28 | 9 | 9.4 | Major Antigenic Peptide | Fauchère et al., 1989 <br> Pei et al., 1991 <br> Linton et al., 2002 <br> Rangarajan et al., 2007 <br> Min et al., 2009 |
| Tungstatebinding protein (TupA) Cj1540 | $\begin{gathered} 2 \\ (335 \mathrm{mM}) \end{gathered}$ | 29 | 10 | 9.2 | Tungstatebinding protein | Smart et al., 2009 |
| ATP/GTP <br> -binding <br> protein <br> Cj1041c | $\begin{gathered} 2 \\ (335 \mathrm{mM}) \end{gathered}$ | 31 | 5 | 6.4 | ATP/GTP- <br> binding Protein | Parkhill et al., 2000 |


| $\begin{aligned} & \text { PEB4 } \\ & \text { Cj0596 } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2 \\ (335 \mathrm{mM}) \end{gathered}$ | 30 |  |  |  | Fauchère et al., 1989 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | 4 | 9.9 | Major Antigenic | Pei et al., 1991 <br> Kervella et al., 1993 |
|  |  |  |  |  | Peptide | Burucoa et al.,1995 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | Asakura et al., 2007 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | Rathbun \& Thompson, 2009 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | Rathbun et al., 2009 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | Kale et al., 2011 |

Table 3.1 Mass spectrometry identification and key features of the $C$. jejuni 11168 H heparin-binding proteins. The key features of five heparin-binding proteins identified by mass spectrometry using Mascot (version 2.2.06; produced by Matrix Science). Additional information such as pI was obtained via ExPasy Compute pI/MW (Gasteiger et al., 2005) and references listed.

### 3.3 Features of $\boldsymbol{C}$. jejuni heparin-binding proteins

The C. jejuni heparin-binding proteins were characterised from the annotated C. jejuni NCTC 11168H genome sequence (Parkhill et al., 2001; Magrane \& Consortium, 2011). The key features included the predicted molecular mass, presence of a signal peptide, cellular location and potential heparin-binding sites. Two groups of heparin-binding proteins were discovered in this study. The first group of proteins comprises the proteins PEB1, PEB3 and PEB4 (Pei et al., 1991). These antigenic proteins have a high density of positive residues and high pI values, 8.4 for PEB1 and $<9.3$ for proteins PEB3 and PEB4 (Table 3.1) (Pei et al., 1991). The second group, includes a tungstate-binding protein (Cj1540) and an ATP/GTP-binding protein (Cj1041c) (Table 3.1). Both proteins have contrasting pI values, 9.2 for C 1540 and 6.4 for Cj1041c. All five proteins are predicted to contain a signal peptide suggesting they may be exported (Figure 3.2 A-E).

### 3.3.1 PEB1 (Cj0921c)

From Peak 1, the PEB1 protein, a 25 kDa periplasmic adhesin was identified (Figure 3.1 \& Table 3.1). The PEB1 protein binds epithelial cells and colonises the mucosa of the mouse model (Pei et al., 1998; Del Rocio Leon-Kempis et al., 2006). The PEB1 protein is homologous with periplasmic-binding proteins, comprising amino acid ABC (ATP-binding cassette) transport systems, and is located in an ABC transporter system operon (Pei \& Blaser, 1993). As an adhesin, PEB1 binds dicarboxylic amino acids aspartate and glutamate (Del Rocio Leon-Kempis et al., 2006; Müller et al., 2007).

A more in-depth evaluation of the PEB1 protein amino acid content utilised the Conserved Domains Database (CDD) programme. The CDD programme uses multiple amino acid sequence alignments spanning a variety of organisms to classify and infer the functions of proteins (Marchler-Bauer et al., 2011). The CDD classified PEB1 as part of the Type $\underline{2}$ periplasmic binding protein superfamily (PBP2) (Marchler-Bauer et al., 2011). Proteins of
the PBP2 superfamily act as primary receptors, taking part in chemotaxis and uptake of nutrients from the extracellular space (Higgins, 2001; Marchler-Bauer et al., 2011). These proteins bind ligands with increased affinity and interact with a membrane transport complex (MTC). This interaction causes translocation of ligand to the cytoplasmic membrane (Marchler-Bauer et al., 2011).

The PEB1 protein is composed of $11 \alpha$-helices and $15 \beta$-strands in two domains (Müller et al., 2007). At the amino acid level, a signal peptide sequence is present in the first twenty-six residues and is rich in basic residues (lysine $(\mathrm{K}) \mathrm{n}=32$, histidine $(\mathrm{H}) \mathrm{n}=2$ and arginine $(\mathrm{R})$ n=5) (Figure 3.2 A) (Del Rocio Leon-Kempis et al., 2006). Additionally, two putative heparin-binding sites: ${ }_{80}$ DKKIKL $_{85}$ on a beta strand and ${ }_{136}$ EKKYKS $_{141}$ on a $3_{10}$ helix, were observed (Table 3.2). These sequences follow a consensus sequence pattern associated with heparin-binding proteins. This pattern is, XBBXBX, where B is a basic amino acid $(\mathrm{K}, \mathrm{R}$ or H) and X is any other amino acid (Cardin \& Weintraub, 1989; Hileman et al., 1998; Capila \& Linhardt, 2002). A cluster of positive residues ${ }_{115} \mathrm{RKR}_{117}$ is present on an $\alpha$-helix (Table 3.2 \& Figure 3.2). A Kyte-Doolittle hydropathy plot provided by the Protein $\underline{\text { Data }} \underline{\text { Bank }}$ (PDB) database (ID: 2V25, Müller et al., 2007) specifies the buried and surface-exposed regions of PEB1. The residues of ${ }_{80}$ DKKIKL $_{85}$ and ${ }_{136}$ EKKYKS $_{141}$ occupy buried and surface exposed areas of the protein, whereas, ${ }_{115} \mathrm{RKR}_{117}$ is surface exposed (data not shown). Additionally, 50 \% of the PEB1 (pI 8.4) amino acid content consists of hydrophobic amino acids bearing no polar side chains (Pei \& Blaser, 1993).

### 3.3.2 ATP/GTP-Binding protein (Cj1041c)

The Cj1041c gene encodes for a 31 kDa protein, designated as a periplasmic ATP/GTPbinding protein (Figure $3.1 \mathrm{~B} \&$ Table 3.1). In silico analysis via the CD programme failed to categorise this protein (Marchler-Bauer et al., 2011). Nevertheless, examination of the Cj1041c amino acid sequence revealed a signal peptide in the first 20 residues (Figure 3.2 B)
and two potential heparin-binding sites: ${ }_{106}$ KTKKE $_{110}$ and ${ }_{174}$ RKKHK $_{178}$ (Table 3.2). The sequence, ${ }_{17}$ RKKHK $_{178}$, does not follow the consensus sequence pattern, XBBXBX (Cardin \& Weintraub, 1989; Hileman et al., 1998; Capila \& Linhardt, 2002). Also, ${ }_{106}$ KTKKE $_{110}$ does not conform to this pattern, and bears an alternative sequence pattern, BXBBX, also associated with heparin-binding (Fromm et al., 1997). Overall, the amino acid content of Cj 1041 c contains a low density of positive residues, $\mathrm{K}(\mathrm{n}=33), \mathrm{H}(\mathrm{n}=3)$ and $\mathrm{R}(\mathrm{n}=2)$, making up $14 \%$ of its amino acid content (Figure 3.2 B). As well as a pI of 6.4, the lowest among all the C. jejuni heparin-binding proteins (Table 3.1).

### 3.3.3 PEB4 (Cj0596)

PEB4 (Cj0596), a 30.5 kDa protein, was identified in Peak 2 (Figure 3.1 B). PEB4 is a wellknown virulence factor with duties in host-cell adhesion, protein export, colonisation and invasion (Kervella et al., 1993; Asakura et al., 2007). PEB4 also acts as a chaperone exporting proteins to the outer membrane (Rathbun \& Thompson, 2009). The peb4 gene encodes for a 273 protein product that is homologous to export factors, PrsA from Bacillus subtilis and PrtM from Lactococcus lactis (Burucoa et al., 1995) (Figure 3.2 C). Another PEB4 homologue is recognised in E. coli known as SurA. This protein has a cis-trans isomerase domain with duties in outer membrane protein biogenesis, pilus assembly, and in vivo persistence (Asakura et al., 2007).

The PEB4 protein is a dimer composed of $8 \alpha$-helices and $9 \beta$-strands and is structurally similar to SurA-like chaperones (Kale et al., 2011). The CD programme identified a peptidylprolyl cis-trans isomerase domain in PEB4, which is responsible for regulating protein folding (Rathbun et al., 2009; Marchler-Bauer et al., 2011). The PEB4 protein sequence encodes for a signal peptide sequence in the first twenty-one amino acids (Figure 3.2 C). Surprisingly, no consensus sequence motifs or integrin recognition sites were observed in this sequence (Table 3.2). Rather PEB4 (pI of 9.9), has a high density of positive residues, K
( $\mathrm{n}=39$ ), $\mathrm{H}(\mathrm{n}=2)$ and $\mathrm{R}(\mathrm{n}=3)$, accounting for $16 \%$ of its amino acid content (Figure 3.2 C ). Likewise, a large number ( $20 \%$ ) of amino acids namely arginine, asparagine, glutamine and tyrosine capable of hydrogen-bonding were identified (Figure 3.2 C). These hydrogen-bond forming amino acids are known to interact with heparin (Hileman et al., 1998).

### 3.3.4 Tungstate-binding protein: TupA (Cj1540)

A 29 kDa tungstate-binding protein (Cj1540) TupA was identified in Peak 2 (Figure 3.1 B). The TupA, forms part of a TupABC system (Cj1538-Cj1540) for the uptake and transport of tungstate (Smart et al., 2009). The TupABC system consists of: TupA a binding protein located in the periplasm or attached to a lipoprotein on the external face of the cytoplasmic membrane; TupB an integral membrane transport protein, and TupC, a ATPase (Makdessi et al., 2001). The first documented tungstate-specific ABC transporter was observed in the obligate anaerobe Eubacterium acidaminophilum (Makdessi et al., 2001). The E. acidaminophilum genome codes for the TupABC transporter system, which shares the greatest similarity with transport systems from archaea Methanobacterium thermoautotrophicum and Haloferax volcanii and gram-negative pathogens V. cholerae, and C. jejuni (Makdessi et al., 2001). Interestingly, the closest homologues for E. acidaminophilum TupA, are in C. jejuni, V. cholerae, M. thermoautotrophicum, and $H$. volcanii and form a separate phylogenetic group of oxyanion ABC transporters (Makdessi et al., 2001).

The C. jejuni 11168H TupA protein (Cj1540) is a periplasmic protein capable of binding tungstate and molybdate (Smart et al., 2009). The cj1540 gene encodes for a 259 amino acid TupA protein (Figure 3.2 D ). The CD programme indicates TupA is a member of the phosphonate-bd superfamily, a group of periplasmic proteins that uptake alkylphosphonate (Marchler-Bauer et al., 2011).
A) PEB1 (Cj0921c)

MVFRKSLLKLAVFALGACVAFSNANAAEGKLESIKSKGQLIVGVKNDVPHYALLDQATGE IKGFEVDVAKLLAKSILGDEKKIKIVAVNAKTRGPLLDNGSVDAVIATFTITPERKRIYN FSEPYYQDAIGLLVLKEKKYKSLADMKGANIGVAQAATTKKAIGEAAKKIGIDVKFSEFP DYPSIKAALDAKRVDAFSVDKSILLGYVDDKSEILPDSFEPQSYGIVTKKDDPAFAKYVD DFVKEHKNEIDALAKKWGL 259
B) ATP/GTP-binding protein (Cj1041c)


#### Abstract

MKKYVLSLALLGSLLGASELKYQEFDGFKSPESIFVDKNYVYVSNVGEKLEPLAKDNDGF ISKLDKNGKVLEYKFLTHLNAPKGMMEIGKTLYVVDIDVLRGFDLZTKKE IFNLPIKGAI FLNDIEKLDDNTLLVSDTGTGLILKVDLKTKQYDELLKLDLAKFGGPNGLYLIRKKHK F IAGYHPDGVSGGVVMAYDLNTKELSIIKNEKESYDGIVPYKDGLLVSSWGNNLNGYIYNL DNVǨSVKLELPLMKGGADIFIEGNILWIPKMVEGK̄IFKVELNK ${ }_{283}$


## C) PEB4 (Cj0596)


#### Abstract

MKKFSLVAATLIAGVVLNVNAATVATVNGKSISDTEVSEFFAPMLRGQDFKTLPDNQKKA LIQQYIMQDLILQDAKKQNLEKDPLYTKELDRAKDAILVNVYQEKILNTIKIDAAKVKAF YDQNKDKYVKPARVQAKHILVATEKEAKDIINELKGLKGKELDAKFSELAKEKSIDPGSK NQGGELGWFDQSTMVKPFTDAAFALKNGTITTTPVKTNFGYHVILKENSQAKGQIK̄FDEV KQGIENGLKFEEFKKVINQKGQDLLNSAK̄VEYK 273


D) Tungstate-binding protein (Cj1540)

> MKKIISLALALALSASAAELKMATTTSTDNTGLLDALK̄PLYEKESGNTLKWWVAVGTGAAL KMGEDCNADVLFVHSPKAEKEFMKKGFGVDRTPVMYNDFIIIADKSLASK̄FKGKNLKESL ELIKNEK̄LTFISRGDK̄SGTDNKEKSLWKNLGGVPEKQSWYQQSGQGMLASIKIAEEKKGV ILTDRGTYIKYEANEKGKPNLVIVNEGDDSLKNFYSVIATNPKHCKNVNYTEASK̄FIKWV TSDK̄TLNFIADFKLLNKPLFVIDA KTRKD 69
E) PEB3 (Cj0298c)

MKKIITLFGACALAFSMANADVNLYGPGGPHTALK̄DIANKYSEKTTGVKVNVNFGPQATWF
 ANKKVRIVVPEGAGKSNTSGTGVWEDMIGRTQDIKTTIQNFRNNIVAFVPNSGSARKLFAQ DQADAWITWIDWSK̄SNPDIGTAVAIEK̄DLVVYRTFNVIAK̄EGASKETQDFIAYLSSK̄EAK EIFKKYGWRE $\mathrm{E}_{25}$

Figure 3.2 Amino acid sequences of five heparin-binding proteins. The protein sequences were obtained from the UniProt database (Magrane \& Consortium, 2011). Underlined residues represent signal peptides. Integrin peptide recognition sites are bolded and underlined. Positive residues are shaded grey and potential heparin-binding regions are boxed in black. Boxed potential heparin-binding sites are based on previously identified consensus sequence definitions and basic amino acids clusters: XBBXBX (Cardin \& Weintraub, 1989) and XBBXB(Fromm et al., 1997).

Review of the TupA protein sequence identified a signal peptide in the first seventeen residues (Figure 3.2 D) (Smart et al., 2009). Interestingly, an arginine-glycine-aspartic acid (RGD) integrin recognition site was identified at position 133-135 (Table 3.2). These RGD sites are implicated in binding to integrins and syndecans on host cells (D'Souza et al., 1991). The RGD site in TupA resides on the protein surface as suggested by hydropathy plot analysis (data not shown). As well as the RGD site, two potential heparin-binding sites: ${ }_{222}$ PKHCKN $_{227}$ and ${ }_{265} \mathrm{KTRKD}_{269}$ were observed (Table 3.2). These sites follow the sequences XBBXBX and BXBBX, respectively (Cardin \& Weintraub, 1989; Fromm et al., 1997; Hileman et al., 1998; Capila \& Linhardt, 2002).

### 3.3.5 PEB3 (Cj0298)

Lastly, the 28 kDa band was confirmed to be PEB3. The PEB3 protein eluted from the heparin column at 335 mM NaCl (Figure 3.1-Peak 2). The PEB3 protein is a dimer, composed of two monomers, consisting of nine $\alpha$-helices and nine $\beta$-strands superimposed onto each other (Rangarajan et al., 2007). Structurally, PEB3 resembles molybdate- and sulphate-binding proteins and is recognised as a member of the periplasmic-binding protein superfamily ( PBPb ) (Marchler-Bauer et al., 2011). The peb3 gene encodes for a 252 amino acid product of which the first twenty amino acids code for a signal peptide (Figure 3.2 E). Furthermore, PEB3 (pI 9.3) contains two possible heparin-binding sites: ${ }_{2} K \mathrm{KAKKD}_{66}$ and ${ }_{122}$ NKKVRI $_{127}$ (Table 3.2 \& Figure 3.2 E).

### 3.4 Verification of PEB3 protein using specific antiserum

Proteins eluted from the heparin-agarose column in Peaks 1 and 2 were transferred onto nitrocellulose and incubated with anti-PEB3 antiserum. An immuno-reactive band of 28 kDa was detected in the Peak 2 fractions confirming the presence of PEB3 (Figure 3.3).


Figure 3.3 Immunoblot of proteins purified from C. jejuni 11168 H acidglycine extract by heparin-affinity chromatography. Peak fractions were transferred onto nitrocellulose for western blotting. Peak 1 elution fractions were loaded in lanes 2-4 showed no reactive band with the anti-PEB3 antibody. Elution fractions from Peak 2 (lanes 5-7) reacted with $\alpha$-PEB3 antiserum revealing a 28 kDa band confirming the PEB3 protein. The dashed lined indicates where a region from this single blot was removed.

| Protein ID | Potential Heparin-Binding Region | Location |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| PEB1 (Cj0921c) | ${ }_{80}$ DKKIKL $_{85}$ ${ }_{136}$ EKKYKS $_{141}$ ${ }_{115}$ RKR $_{117}$ | Part of a $\beta$-strand End of a $3_{10}$ helix $\alpha$-helix |
| PEB3 $(\mathrm{Cj0289c})$ | ${ }_{62} \mathrm{KAKKD}_{60}$ <br> ${ }_{122} \mathrm{NKKVRI}_{127}$ | $\alpha$-helix <br> Loop between $\alpha$-helix |
| Tungstate-binding protein <br> TupA <br> (Cj1540) | ${ }_{133} \mathrm{RGD}_{135}$ <br> ${ }_{222} \mathrm{PKHCKN}_{227}$ <br> ${ }_{265} \mathrm{KTRKD}_{269}$ | No Crystal Structure |
| ATP/GTP-Binding <br> Protein <br> (Cj1041c) | ${ }_{106}$ KTKKE $_{110}$ ${ }_{174}$ RKKHK $_{178}$ | No Crystal Structure |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { PEB4 } \\ & \text { (Cj0596) } \end{aligned}$ | No GAG-binding regions identified |  |

Table 3.2 Potential heparin-binding regions of $C$. jejuni proteins.

### 3.5 Further characterisation of the PEB3 heparin-binding protein

### 3.5.1 Putative PEB3 heparin-binding sites

The remainder of this study will focus on the characterisation of the PEB3 protein. Preliminary data suggest that PEB3 is a heparin-binding adhesin. Regions within the PEB3 protein, namely two putative heparin-binding sites: ${ }_{122} \mathrm{NKKVRI}_{127}$ and ${ }_{62} \mathrm{KAKKD}_{66}$ were investigated. The ${ }_{12} \mathrm{NKKVRI}_{127}$ site, located between a $\alpha$-helix and $\beta$-strand, follows the consensus sequence pattern, XBBXBX (Capila \& Linhardt, 2002). The second site, ${ }_{62} \mathrm{KAKKD}_{66}$, is located on $\alpha$-helix and follows the alternative sequence, BXBBX (Fromm et al., 1997).

### 3.5.2 Molecular modelling of the putative PEB3 heparin-binding sites

It was proposed that both heparin-binding sites were present on the protein surface. The PEB3 dimer was downloaded as a (PDB) file: 2HWX and both putative heparin-binding sites were mapped to Chain A and B with PyMOL. Molecular visualisation of the ${ }_{62} \mathrm{KAKKD}_{66}$ shows the $\mathrm{K}_{62}$ residue on the $\alpha$-helix resides on the external surface of this protein structure. However, the $\mathrm{A}_{63}$ residue is oriented inward at the back of the $\alpha$-helix resulting in a buried residue. Mapping of the remaining residues $\mathrm{K}_{64}, \mathrm{~K}_{65}$, and $\mathrm{D}_{66}$ showed these residues are on the surface and extend from an $\alpha$-helix (Figure 3.4).

The second site, ${ }_{122} \mathrm{NKKVRI}_{127}$, side chain views shows that residues $\mathrm{N}_{122}, \mathrm{~K}_{123}, \mathrm{~K}_{124}$, and $\mathrm{R}_{120}$ are surface exposed facing away from any other secondary structures (Figure 3.5). In contrast, residues $\mathrm{V}_{125}$ and $\mathrm{I}_{127}$ face inward towards the protein. In summary, the basic amino acids of both putative heparin-binding sites are surface-exposed. However, the interactions of these residues with heparin requires investigation in silico and experimentally.


Figure 3.4 Molecular visualisation of the putative heparin-binding site ${ }_{62}$ KAKKD $_{66}$ on the PEB3 dimer. The ${ }_{62} K^{2} A K K D_{66}$ site is located on the second $\alpha$-helix of both Chains $A$ and $B$ (data not shown). The residues $K_{62}$ : orange, $A_{63}$ : red, $K_{64}$ : green, $\mathrm{K}_{65}$ : blue and $\mathrm{D}_{66}$ : pink are depicted in the absence of ligand. The protein is centred and close-ups of these sites are shown in zoom mode of 20 angstroms. Images were created with PyMOL visualisation software.


Figure 3.5 Molecular visualisation of the putative heparin-binding site ${ }_{122}$ NKKVRI $_{127}$ on the PEB3 dimer. The cluster ${ }_{122} \mathrm{NKKVRI}_{127}$ is located on a loop of both chains A and B (data not shown). The residues $\mathrm{N}_{122}$ : white, $\mathrm{K}_{123}$ : green, $\mathrm{K}_{124}$ : red, $\mathrm{V}_{125}$ : pink, $\mathrm{R}_{126 \text { : orange and } \mathrm{I}_{127} \text { : purple are depicted in the absence of ligand. The protein }}$ is centred and close-ups of these sites are shown in zoom mode of 20 angstroms. Images were created with PyMOL visualisation software.

### 3.5.3 In silico prediction of the heparin-binding sites of PEB3

The ClusPro server has been modified to locate heparin-binding sites on proteins (Mottarella et al., 2014). One pitfall of the ClusPro programme, concerns target proteins containing multiple chains. Unfortunately, the programme favours the crevices found between these multiple chains defining them as binding sites (Mottarella et al., 2014). A second pitfall of the programme concerns proteins with identical chains such as PEB3. The programme identifies the same site on an identical chain as a binding site, even in the absence of heparin (Mottarella et al., 2014). To avoid these problems, in silico modelling was conducted with a single chained PEB3 monomer.

### 3.5.4 Docking of the heparin tetrasaccharide ligand to the PEB3 monomer

The docking of heparin to the PEB3 monomer used the heparin ligand method, an advanced option on the ClusPro server at http://cluspro.bu.edu/ (Mottarella et al., 2014). First, a contact map identifying the regions of the PEB3 protein in contact with heparin was supplied. The red areas of the contact map represented the largest number of contacts with the docked heparin; white areas had few contacts and dark-grey areas had none. The contact map revealed several heparin-binding residues (data not shown). However, only ${ }_{62}$ KAKKD $_{66}$ and ${ }_{122} \mathrm{NKKVRI}_{127}$ were of concern. The ${ }_{62} \mathrm{KAKKD}_{66}$ site was located in areas of dark-grey, suggesting it does not participate in heparin-binding (Figure $3.6 \mathrm{~A} / \mathrm{B}$ ). In contrast, the ${ }_{122} \mathrm{NKKVRI}_{127}$ site namely, $\mathrm{N}_{122}, \mathrm{~K}_{123}$, and $\mathrm{K}_{124}$ were observed in white areas of the protein, indicative of contact with heparin (Figure 3.7 A/B).

Further to these contact maps, scrutiny of the 15 docking models of the PEB3 monomer: heparin, identified additional heparin-binding residues (Table 3.3). Surprisingly, a large number the heparin-binding residues were located in the PEB3 ligand-binding site, Thr 138 and Ser 139 (Table 3.3-Model 1-4, 12). These residues along with Ser 173, Asn 137, Ser 171 and Asn 170 (Table 3.3 Model 1-4, 12) are known to form hydrogen bonds with the
carboxylic groups of citrate (Rangarajan et al., 2009) (Table 3.3-Model 1-4, 12). Additionally, phosphate molecules such as 3-PG, bind this site, forming hydrogen bonds with the previously mentioned residues and Gly 28 (Table 3.3-Model 1-4, 12) (Min et al., 2009). Heparin-binding residues $\mathrm{N}_{122}, \mathrm{~K}_{123}, \mathrm{~K}_{124}$ of the proposed site ${ }_{122} \mathrm{NKKVRI}_{127}$ as well as $\mathrm{K}_{115}$ and $\mathrm{K}_{113}$ were observed in Model 8 (Table 3.3 \& Figure 3.8). Furthermore, $\mathrm{K}_{122}$ is identified as a heparin-binding residue in Model 9 alongside $\mathrm{K}_{113}, \mathrm{~K}_{115}, \mathrm{~K}_{207}$ and $\mathrm{N}_{110}$ (Table 3.3).

### 3.5.5 Docking of the heparin tetrasaccharide ligand to the PEB3 dimer

Docking to specific sites of attraction, ${ }_{2} \mathrm{KAKKD}_{66}$ and ${ }_{122} \mathrm{NKKVRI}_{127}$, on the PEB3 dimer was carried out. This was to deter the ClusPro programme from favouring the crevice between the chains as binding sites, an issue encountered with previous dockings with the PEB3 dimer (data not shown). Results from this specified docking provided further confirmation that ${ }_{2} \mathrm{KAKKD}_{66}$ did not interact with heparin in silico (data not shown). In contrast, the second site ${ }_{122} \mathrm{NKKVRI}_{127}$ namely residues $\mathrm{N}_{122}, \mathrm{~K}_{123}, \mathrm{~K}_{124}$ were observed to facilitate the PEB3 dimer/heparin interaction (Figure 3.9). Additional residues $K_{113}, K_{115}$ and $\mathrm{N}_{159}$ were also identified (Figure 3.9).

In summary, in silico data confirms at least one heparin-binding site is involved in aiding biding of PEB3 to heparin however, these data require experimental confirmation. Furthermore, a number of other residues were found to facilitate heparin-binding. However, the hypothesis is that these two putative sites, ${ }_{62} \mathrm{KAKKD}_{66}$ and ${ }_{122} \mathrm{NKKVRI}_{127}$, which follow the consensus sequence motifs, XBBXB and BXBBX facilitate heparin-binding (Fromm et al., 1997; Hileman et al., 1998). As these motifs are found in a number of heparin-binding proteins it was therefore decided to conduct further experimental work (i.e. site-directed mutants) in these sites only.


Figure 3.6 The ${ }_{62} \mathrm{KAKKD}_{66}$ site on the PEB3 monomer is not involved in heparin-binding. A) The red (hot) areas represent a large number of contacts with heparin; the white areas have fewer, and dark areas have none. The figure shows residues from the ${ }_{62} \mathrm{KAKKD}_{66}$ region of the protein occupying the dark areas. B) The contact map in coloured form showing: $\mathrm{K}_{62}$ : orange, $\mathrm{A}_{63}$ : green, $\mathrm{K}_{64}$ : purple, $\mathrm{K}_{65}$ : buried and $\mathrm{D}_{66}$ : pink, for comparison of regions.


Figure 3.7 The ${ }_{122}$ NKKVRI $_{127}$ site on the PEB3 monomer is involved in heparinbinding. A) The red (hot) areas represent a large number of contacts with heparin; the white areas have fewer, and dark areas have none. The figure shows the three residues of ${ }_{122} \mathrm{NKKVRI}_{127}$ interact with heparin, $\mathrm{N}_{122}, \mathrm{~K}_{123}$ and $\mathrm{K}_{124}$. B) The contact map in coloured form showing: $\mathrm{N}_{122}$ : beige, $\mathrm{K}_{123}$ : green, $\mathrm{K}_{124}$ : maroon, $\mathrm{V}_{125}$ : hot pink, $\mathrm{R}_{126 \text { : orange }}$ and $\mathrm{I}_{127}$ : buried, for comparison of regions.

| Model | \# of members per/1800 poses (probability) | Predicted Sites |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0 | 339 (0.18) | Lys 113, Lys 115, Lys 118, Lys 207 |
| 1 | 259 (0.14) | Gly 28, Lys 35, Val 51, Phe 53, Ser 136, Thr 138, Thr 139, Asn170, Ser 171, Ser 173 |
| 2 | 245 (0.13) | Gly 28, Lys 35, Val 51, Thr 58, Ser 136, Thr 138, Thr 139, Asn 170, Ser 171, Ser 173 |
| 3 | 214 (0.12) | Gly 28, Phe 53, Arg 100, Ser 136, Asn 137, Thr 138, Ser 139, Asn 170, Ser 171, Gly 172, Ser 173, Asp 191 |
| 4 | 179 (0.10) | Gly 34, Val 129, Lys 135, Asn 137, Thr 138, Val 168, Ser 171, Ser 173, Ala 174, Phe 178, Ala 179, Trp 192 |
| 5 | 152 (0.08) | Lys 194, Ala 204, Lys 207, Tyr 212, Arg 249, His 251 |
| 6 | 141 (0.079) | Gly 109, Asn 110, Lys 113, Lys 115, Thr 201, Ala 202, Asn 204, |
| 7 | 104 (0.06) | Lys 194, Lys 207, Lys 244, Gly 247, Arg 249, His 251 |
| 8 | 68 (0.04) | Lys 113, Lys 115, Asn 122, Lys 123, Lys 124 |
| 9 | 36 (0.02) | Lys 113, Lys 115, Lys 123, Lys 207, Asn 110 |
| 10 | 29 (0.02) | Lys 44, Lys 155, Lys 237, Glu 238, Lys 240, Lys 244, Glu 250, His 251 |
| 11 | 12 (0.01) | Lys155, Lys 237, Lys 240, Lys 244, Glu 250, His 251 |
| 12 | 9 (0.005) | Gly 28, His 31, Lys 35, Gln 56 , Ser 136, Ser 137, Thr 138, Ser 139, Gly 140, Asn 170, Gly 172, Ser 173 |
| 13 | 5 (0.02) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Gln 152, Lys 194, Lys 207, Lys 244, Lys 245, Arg 249, Gln } \\ & 250 \text {, His } 251 \end{aligned}$ |
| 14 | 3 (0.01) | Lys 194, Lys 207, Lys 244, Arg 249, Glu 250, His 251 |

Table 3.3 Predicted heparin-binding sites of the PEB3 monomer. The table lists the PEB3 residues that interact with a heparin tetrasaccharide probe for the top fifteen model results (column 3). In addition to the list, the program generates 1800 poses for the fifteen model results. The members (or the number of times the model occurs per 1800 poses) can be ranked from high to low and is correlated with the model number (Column 1:0-15). The experimental probability (\# members/1800 poses) is shown in parentheses in column 2. The residues in bold indicate residues from the putative heparin-binding sites: ${ }_{62} \mathrm{KAKKD}_{66}$ and ${ }_{122} \mathrm{NKKVRI}_{127}$.


Figure 3.8 Docking of the heparin tetrasaccharide ligand to the ${ }_{122} \mathbf{N K K V R I}_{127}$ site of the PEB3 monomer. The model (Number 8) shows $\mathrm{K}_{113}$ : marine blue, $\mathrm{K}_{115}$ : gray and three residues $\mathrm{N}_{122}$ : white, $\mathrm{K}_{123}$ : green, and $\mathrm{K}_{124}$ : purple of ${ }_{122} \mathrm{NKKVRI}_{127}$ site participating in heparin-binding. Results are generated from the ClusPro server and visualised in PyMOL.


Figure 3.9 Docking of heparin tetrasaccharide ligand to the ${ }_{122} \mathbf{N K K V R I}_{127}$ site of the PEB3 dimer. The model depicts three residues $\mathrm{N}_{122}$ : white, $\mathrm{K}_{123}$ : green, and $\mathrm{K}_{124}$ : pink of ${ }_{122} \mathrm{NKKVRI}_{127}$ interacting with heparin. Additional residues include: $\mathrm{K}_{113}$ : marine blue, $\mathrm{K}_{115}$ : gray and $\mathrm{N}_{159}$ : yellow. Results are generated from the ClusPro server and visualised with PyMOL.

### 3.6 Role of specific clusters of PEB3 positively charged residues in heparin-binding investigated by site-directed mutagenesis

The in silico models suggest heparin interacts with ${ }_{122} \mathrm{NKKVRI}_{127}$, but not ${ }_{62} \mathrm{KAKKD}_{66}$ of PEB3. Confirmation of these data used site-directed mutants which were constructed by substituting alanine for lysine and arginine residues. Alanine, a non-polar amino acid with a neutral charge, is ideal because it can occupy both hydrophobic and hydrophilic regions without altering protein conformation (Klann et al., 1994).

Prior to my work, the peb3 gene without the signal peptide sequence was cloned into a pET41a (+) vector. The vector contains an N-terminal GST-tag, enabling purification of the fusion protein from an E. coli expression system. The expression of PEB3 is regulated via the T7 lac promoter in an IPTG-inducible manner. From the template plasmid pET-41a(+) PEB3, two site-directed mutations were introduced via site-directed mutagenesis with primers $321 / 322$ and 299/300 to generate plasmids pET-41a(+)PEB3: K64A and K123A (supplied by the Linton lab). With these template plasmids, further residues K65, K124, R126A were substituted with alanine residues via site-directed mutagenesis with primers, 776/777, 301/302, 774/775 and 801/802 (Appendix Table S1), respectively, creating plasmids pET-41a(+)PEB3: K64A/K65A, K124A, K123A/K124A and K123A/K124A/R126A (Appendix Table S2). Plasmids were transformed into E. coli $\mathrm{DH} 5 \alpha$, sequenced with primers 81/327 (Appendix Table S1) and subcloned into E. coli BL-21 (AI) cells for protein expression and purification. Approximately 400 ml of culture was grown to mid-log phase, induced with arabinose and IPTG. After four hours of further incubation, at $37{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ with shaking at 200 rpm , cells were harvested by centrifugation. The pellet was re-suspended into GST-binding buffer, cells lysed by French Press and following centrifugation the supernatant was added to a GST-Sepharose column. After 30 minutes, the column was washed and PEB3 released by thrombin cleavage. Samples were taken throughout the purification process and
analysed by SDS-PAGE and western blot. Prior to purification, the GST-PEB3 fusion protein was detected on a Coomassie stained SDS-PAGE at $\sim 54 \mathrm{kDa}$, the size of PEB3 ( $\sim 28$ kDa ), and the GST-Tag ( $\sim 26 \mathrm{kDa}$ ) combined (Figure 3.10 A ). The pure PEB3 protein was visible after thrombin cleavage on a Coomassie stained SDS-PAGE at $\sim 28 \mathrm{kDa}$ and a protein of similar size was detected with an anti-PEB3 antiserum confirming protein identity (Figure 3.10 A \& B). This protocol was repeated for all six PEB3 site-directed mutants.

After GST-purification, WT PEB3 and site-directed mutants were applied to a heparinagarose affinity chromatography to assess their heparin-binding capacities. Purified PEB3 passed through a heparin column and bound protein eluted with a $0-1 \mathrm{M} \mathrm{NaCl}$ gradient via the AKTA purification system (see Chapter 2). The recombinant PEB3 WT was eluted from the column at 335 mM NaCl . This affirms that the recombinant version of PEB3 has similar heparin-binding properties as native PEB3 from C. jejuni (Figure 3.1). The site-directed mutants of PEB3 in both potential heparin-binding sites were similarly analysed (Figure 3.11 A/B). Mutants K64A and K64A/K65A were eluted from the heparin column with a $6 \%$ reduction in NaCl concentration. Mutant K 123 A required 327 mM NaCl to elute, similar to the WT PEB3. A single mutation at the K124A residue eluted at 296 mM NaCl and the $\mathrm{K} 123 \mathrm{~A} / \mathrm{K} 124 \mathrm{~A}$ eluted at 249 mM NaCl , as did the triple mutant K123A/K124A/R126A (Figure $3.11 \mathrm{~A} / \mathrm{B}$ ). Following elution from the heparin column peak fractions was collected. The identity of eluted protein was further confirmed by western blotting with an $\alpha$-PEB3 antiserum (Figure 3.3).


Figure 3.10 SDS-PAGE and Western blot of affinity purification of PEB3 produced in E. coli. Proteins were separated by SDS-PAGE and stained with Coomassie Instant blue (A) or transferred onto nitrocellulose and probed with anti PEB3 antiserum (B). Lane one contains Precision plus protein standards marker; lane 2: cell extracts from E. coli producing PEB3-GST fusion protein; lane 3: extract following a 30minute incubation on the GST column; lane 4: wash fractions from column; lanes 5, 6 , and 7 contain fractions eluted from the column by thrombin to release PEB3 from GSTPEB3 fusion protein bound to column.


B

Figure 3.11 Heparin binding capacity of PEB3 WT and site-directed mutants. Wildtype PEB3 eluted from a heparin column at 335 mM NaCl (Figure B-Red Peak). Site directed mutants K64A (Figure B-Green Peak) and K64A/K65A (Figure B-Blue Peak) eluted at 315 and 310 mM NaCl , respectively. The single mutants K123A (Figure B-Black Peak) and K124 (Figure B-Orange Peak) eluted at 327 and 296 mM NaCl , respectively. More significantly site-directed mutants K123A/K124A (Figure B-Pink Peak) and K123A/K124A/R126A (Figure B-Purple Peak) eluted at 249 mM NaCl . Experiments were conducted in triplicate, and error bars indicate standard error, $\mathrm{n}=3$.

### 3.7 Discussion

A number of bacterial adhesins interact with heparin (Chen et al., 1995; Serruto et al., 2010; Duncan et al., 2011). Binding to heparin is associated with adherence, increased resistance to human sera and evasion of the host immune system (Duensing \& Putten, 1998; Menozzi et al., 2002). In this study, I identified five C. jejuni heparin-binding proteins (Table 3.1). These proteins were isolated via the acid-glycine method a common approach for isolating surface associated proteins (Logan \& Trust, 1983). This approach relies on proteins being soluble in the acid wash solution and so hydrophobic integral membrane proteins are not well represented (Logan \& Trust, 1983; Scott \& Cordwell, 2009). Thus, it would be premature to state these are the only heparin-binding proteins produced by C. jejuni.

The heparin-binding affinities of these five proteins were obtained via heparin-agarose chromatography (Table 3.1). This is a common method that measures the affinity or the strength of attraction between a receptor and its ligand. In heparin-agarose chromatography heparin is covalently linked to a Sepharose column and serves as the ligand (Esko \& Lindhardt, 2009). Proteins bound to heparin are displaced and eluted from the column with varying concentrations of NaCl . The concentration required for elution may be generally proportional to the dissociation constant $\left(K_{\mathrm{d}}\right)$ a form of measurement that indicates the strength of binding between a receptor and ligand (Esko \& Lindhardt, 2009). However, this is based on the assumption that the heparin-protein interaction is strictly ionic, which is not always true as other factors such as hydrogen bonding, hydrophobic, electrostatic interactions, and Van der Wales forces may be involved (Hileman et al., 1998). Thus a limitation of heparin-agarose chromatography is that this method does not provide kinetic data, regarding association and dissociation rate constants, which is important as $K_{\mathrm{d}}$ values indicate that the affinity between ligand and protein is good (protein/ligand tightly bound) (Esko \& Lindhardt, 2009). Furthermore, $K_{d}$ values indicate the strength of binding and
specificity of the protein ligand interaction. Regardless, heparin-agarose chromatography is used as an assessment of relative affinity (Esko \& Lindhardt, 2009).

The heparin-binding affinities of these proteins are consistent with heparin-binding proteins from other bacterial species such as $N$. meningitidis, B. pertussis, M. tuberculosis and L. pneumophila (Hannah et al., 1994; Menozzi et al., 1996; Serruto et al., 2010; Duncan et al., 2011). The Neisserial $\underline{H e p a r i n-\underline{B}}$ inding $\underline{\text { Antigen (NHBA) is expressed by N. meningitidis (Serruto et al., }}$ 2010). Similar to that ( 190 mM ) of the PEB1 adhesin, the full-length NHBA protein is eluted at a low NaCl concentration of 230 mM (Table 3.1). Regardless, the interaction between NHBA-heparin promotes the persistence of $N$. meningitis in the human host by providing protection against human serum (Serruto et al., 2010). The remaining four C. jejuni proteins displayed a moderate affinity for heparin with an elution of 335 mM NaCl . This value is comparable to that ( 380 mM ) reported for the Lcl adhesin from L. pneumophila, to that (350 $\mathrm{mM})$ of heparin binding to the HBHA of $M$. tuberculosis and to that $(300 \mathrm{mM})$ of heparin binding FHA of B. pertussis (Table 3.1) (Hannah et al., 1994; Menozzi et al., 1996; Duncan et al., 2011). These data highlight the significant interactions of these $C$. jejuni proteins with heparin in terms of affinity. However, further work is needed to determine the kinetics, binding strength and specificity of these interactions as this cannot be drawn from these data.

Heparin is a highly sulphated glycosaminoglycan and it was proposed that only basic proteins would elute from the heparin column. However, upon further observation the pIs of the $C$. jejuni heparin-binding proteins ranged from 6.4 to 9.9 (Table 3.1). Furthermore, in silico analysis of these proteins identified putative heparin-binding sites with the sequences XBBXBX (Capila \& Linhardt, 2002) or BXBBX (Fromm et al., 1997) (Table 3.2), hydrogenbonding amino acids (PEB4), and a high density of positive residues (Figure 3.2 A-E). However, further work should investigate these in silico features and their contribution to the heparin/protein interaction.

The remainder of the study focused identifying the heparin-binding properties of the PEB3 protein. The native version of the PEB3 protein from the acid glycine extract, which is glycosylated, eluted from the heparin column with moderate affinity ( 335 mM Nacl ) (Figure 3.1). Recombinant PEB3 displays identical chromatographic behaviour to that of native PEB3 suggesting that the loss of glycosylation does not influence heparin-binding affinity (Figure 3.11). This is not surprising as the native HBHA form of Myoobacterium tuberculosis which is glycosylated binds heparin with same affinity as recombinant HBHA (Menozzi et al., 1998).

In silico analysis of PEB3 via PyMol indicated that residues from the site ${ }_{122} \mathrm{NKKVRI}_{127}$, ${ }_{62} \mathrm{KAKKD}_{66}$ are surface-exposed and might participate in heparin-binding (Figure 3.4 \& 3.5). These data led me to test the effect of several PEB3 site-directed mutants, via heparin-affinity chromatography. Removal of $\mathrm{K}_{64}$ and $\mathrm{K}_{65}$ in site ${ }_{62} \mathrm{KAKKD}_{66}$, impaired affinity for heparin indicating these residues are involved in PEB3/Heparin interactions (Figure 3.11 A/B). These unexpected findings counter the previous results identified from the ClusPro docking models, which do not indicate ${ }_{62} \mathrm{KAKKD}_{66}$ as a heparin-binding region (Figure 3.6-3.7 \& Table 3.3). One explanation for the data maybe that the ClusPro programme cut-off point excludes these residues as they are not in top fifteen results (Table 3.3) (Mottarella et al., 2014). A second explanation maybe the heparin ligand in the experiment differs from that of the in silico modelling programme. The heparin column is coated in a sulphated glucosaminoglycan (5 to 30 kDa ) from a porcine mucosa (GE Healthcare), whereas, a heparin tetrasaccharide is used for ClusPro (Mottarella et al., 2014). The heparin ligand on the chromatography column may allow for more flexibility, therefore the side chains of these two residues can bind heparin in vitro. Lastly, an attempt to remove $\mathrm{K}_{62}$ was unsuccessful.

In the second site ${ }_{122} \mathrm{NKKVRI}_{127}$, residues $\mathrm{K}_{123}$ and $\mathrm{K}_{124}$ were removed resulting in reduced heparin-binding affinity (Figure 3.11). These data were in agreement with the in silico docking
models, which indicated these two residues are essential to the PEB/Heparin interaction (Figure 3.8 \& Figure 3.9). Prior to these experiments it was hypothesised that $\mathrm{R}_{126}$, an amino acid capable of forming hydrogen bonds with heparin, would be critical for the PEB3/Heparin interaction. But this was not the case as the removal of $\mathrm{R}_{126}$ did not alter PEB3/Heparin-binding affinity (Figure $3.11 \mathrm{~A} \& \mathrm{~B}$ ). These data are consistent with the in silico models, whereby $\mathrm{R}_{126}$ did not bind heparin (Figure 3.8 \& 3.9). The site-directed mutagenesis of the both sites did not abolish heparin-binding suggesting other residues may be involved. In silico models indicated the presence of additional residues $\left(\mathrm{N}_{122}, \mathrm{~K}_{113}\right.$ and $\left.\mathrm{K}_{115}\right)$ on the monomer and on the dimer $\left(\mathrm{N}_{122}, \mathrm{~K}_{113}, \mathrm{~K}_{115}\right.$ and $\left.\mathrm{N}_{159}\right)$ (Table 3.3, Figure 3.8 \& 3.9) may bind heparin. Further work should focus on experimentally investigating additional residues identified in silico.

In summary, five C. jejuni heparin-binding proteins were identified and the heparin-binding properties of PEB3 adhesin revealed. It is now known that PEB antigens bind heparin. Furthermore, these findings confirm the PEB3/heparin interaction is not strictly mediated by pI and electrostatic interactions, but involves two sites. Overall, the findings from this study have furthered our understanding of PEB3/heparin interactions, confirmed the function of PEB3 as an adhesin and indicate PEB3 may be involved in C. jejuni pathogenesis.

## CHAPTER 4

Role of PEB3 and GlpT in 3-PG dependent growth and fosfomycin sensitivity

### 4.1 Introduction

C. jejuni colonises multiple hosts and acquires nutrients from the environment to enable its survival and growth, but does not metabolise simple sugars such as glucose and galactose (Velayudhan \& Kelly, 2002; Stahl et al., 2012). Lack of 6-phosphofructokinase in C. jejuni means that the glycolytic pathway for metabolising glucose is not functional, however the enzymes "below" this point are present as discussed in Chapter 1 (Figure 1.6) (Velayudhan \& Kelly, 2002; Stahl et al., 2012). Thus, it is possible that C.jejuni can metabolise compounds such as 3-PG and G3P (Hofreuter et al., 2006; Min et al., 2009). The periplasmic protein PEB3 was recently shown to bind 3-PG still its exact in vivo role remains unclear, though it may act to deliver 3-PG to a membrane transport protein (Min et al., 2009).

Scrutiny of the C. jejuni NCTC 11168 H chromosome revealed a completely uncharacterised gene adjacent to peb3 encoding GlpT, a member of the largest class of gradient-driven membrane transporters, the Major Facilitator Superfamily (Law et al., 2008). GlpT has been studied in Haemophilus influenzae (Song et al., 1998), Bacillus subtilis (Nilsson et al., 1994) and E. coli (Lemieux et al., 2004a; Lemieux et al., 2004b) with the E. coli GlpT particularly well characterised. This membrane protein is an antiporter exchanging G3P for inorganic phosphate $\left(\mathrm{P}_{\mathrm{i}}\right)$ via a concentration gradient (Lemieux et al., 2004b). GlpT also imports the phosphate-containing antibiotic fosfomycin into the cell and glpT defective strains have decreased antibiotic uptake and enhanced fosfomycin resistance (Nilsson et al., 2003; Castañeda-García et al., 2013).

In addition to GlpT, E. coli produces a second transporter, UhpT that imports glucose-6phosphate as well, as fosfomycin (Kadner \& Shattuck-Eidens, 1983; Castañeda-García et al., 2013). This is also an antiporter exchanging internal phosphate ( $\mathrm{P}_{\mathrm{i}}$ ) for glucose-6-phosphate (Sonna et al., 1988). In P. aeruginosa and C. jejuni, UhpT is absent, but GlpT is present (Castañeda-García et al., 2009; Castañeda-García et al., 2013).

Intriguingly, the C. jejuni ghpT genes are genetically variable due to indels at various specific locations, which is discussed in detail in Chapter 5. For example, $11168 \mathrm{H} g / \phi T$ is annotated as a pseudogene, composed of three overlapping ORFs due to two frameshift mutations. The function of $C$. jejuniglp $T$ is not known. The location of $g / p T$ adjacent to peb3 might suggest a related function for the corresponding proteins. A plausible hypothesis is that PEB3 is the periplasmic binding partner for transport of 3-PG via GlpT. In this study, I investigated the roles of PEB3 and GlpT in C. jejuni NCTC 11168 H by constructing a $g \not \equiv T$ insertional knockout mutant and genetic complement of previously constructed peb3 mutants, these were examined for 3-PG dependent growth and susceptibility to fosfomycin.

## Results

### 4.2 Confirmation that PEB3 is not produced in the insertional knockout mutant

An insertional knockout strain of peb3 (11168H peb3), and a genetic complement (11168H $p e b 3^{+}$) whereby peb3 was reintroduced onto the chromosome of 11168 H peb3, were supplied by the Linton lab. Along with the wild-type 11168 H , these strains were tested for PEB3 production. Whole-cell extracts prepared from the harvested cells of overnight plates were standardized to an $\mathrm{OD}_{600}$ of 2.5 in PBS, separated on an SDS-PAGE gel, blotted onto a nitrocellulose membrane and probed with an anti-PEB3 antiserum (Linton \& Wren, unpublished). A band of $\sim 28 \mathrm{kDa}$ was produced for both NCTC 11168 H and 11168 H peb3 ${ }^{+}$, but not for the 11168 H peb3 strain, confirming the knockout strain does not produce PEB3 (Figure 4.1-Lanes 2 \& 3). The blot also shows that although PEB3 production is restored in the genetically complemented strain, it is not to the same level as the WT strain (Figure 4.1Lanes $2 \& 4$ ).

### 4.3 Growth characteristics of WT and peb3 mutants

Growth curves of C. jejuni WT NCTC 11168H, 11168H peb3 and 11168 H peb3 ${ }^{+}$were generated to determine if PEB3 was important for in vitro growth in complex media (Figure 4.2). Cultures were standardised to a starting $\mathrm{OD}_{600}$ of 0.05 in MH broth without antibiotics, and growth was monitored periodically by measuring $\mathrm{OD}_{600}$ (see Chapter 2). The 11168 H peb3 and 11168 H peb $3^{+}$strains initially grew at a slower rate compared to the WT strain, but at approximately 16 hours, all three had similar $\mathrm{OD}_{600}$ values. All three cultures grew to a maximal $\mathrm{OD}_{600}$ of about 0.7 by $\sim 24$ hrs (Figure 4.2). This was in agreement with previous experiments in the lab and with published data (Davis \& DiRita, 2008).


Figure 4.1 Immunoblot of $\boldsymbol{C}$. jejuni WT and peb3 mutant strains. Wholecell lysates of 11168 H (lane 2), 11168 H peb3 (lane 3) and 11168 H peb3 ${ }^{+}$(lane 4) were separated by SDS-PAGE and blotted onto a nitrocellulose membrane. The membrane was probed with a rabbit anti-PEB3 antiserum (Linton \& Wren, unpublished). Bands consistent with the predicted PEB3 Mr of approximately 28 kDa , were observed in 11168 H and $11168 \mathrm{H} \mathrm{peb3}{ }^{+}$(lanes 2 and 4 , respectively), but not in 11168 H peb 3 (lane 3 ).

### 4.4 Confirmation of the role of PEB3 in 3-PG dependent growth promotion in MEM $\alpha$

 PEB3 binds phosphate-containing compounds more specifically 3-PG. The replacement of WT peb3 with site-directed mutant versions T138A/S139A and K135E at the 3-PG binding site abolished 3-PG dependent growth promotion (Min et al., 2009). To verify these data, I similarly examined the 3-PG dependent growth promotion in $11168 \mathrm{H}, 11168 \mathrm{H}$ peb3 and 11168 H peb3 ${ }^{+}$(Figure 4.3). Cultures were grown to mid-log phase in MH broth (Figure 4.2) and inoculated in MEM- $\alpha$ with 0.1 mM FeSO 4 and either 0,1 or $5 \mathrm{mM} 3-\mathrm{PG}$ to an initial $\mathrm{OD}_{600}$ of 0.05 (see Chapter 2). Cultures were incubated under microaerobic conditions at 42 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 24 hours with gentle shaking and the $\mathrm{OD}_{600}$ measured. The addition of 5 mM 3-PG to the minimal media resulted in significantly enhanced growth of 11168 H . This enhanced growth was not observed for 11168 H peb3 and was partially restored for 11168 H peb3 when supplemented with 0 or 1 mM 3 -PG. These results confirm work by Min and co-workers that PEB3 is required for 3-PG dependent growth promotion in MEM $\alpha$ medium.

Figure 4.2 Growth of $11168 \mathrm{H}, 11168 \mathrm{H}$ peb3 and 11168 H peb3 ${ }^{+}$in MH broth. Growth curves of C. jejuni NCTC 11168 H (grey diamonds), 11168 H peb 3 (blue triangles) and 11168 H peb $3^{+}$(yellow squares). Cultures were grown overnight and inoculated into fresh pre-warmed MH broth and growth was monitored by measuring the $\mathrm{OD}_{600}$. Error bars represent standard error where $n=3$.


Figure 4.3 PEB3 is required for 3-PG dependent growth promotion of NCTC 11168H. All strains were grown in MEM $\alpha$ media supplemented with 0,1 and 5 mM 3 -PG and for 24 hours at $42^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ in triplicate. Error bars represent standard error where $\mathrm{n}=3$.

### 4.5 The gene adjacent to peb3 encodes a putative 3-PG transporter

The enhanced growth of 11168 H in MEM $\alpha$ media supplemented with 3-PG was dependent on PEB3, perhaps due to PEB3 providing 3-PG to a membrane transport protein (Min et al., 2009). The location of peb3 in the NCTC 11168H genome (Accession: AL111168.1 Parkhill et al., 2000) was examined using the Artemis genome browser (Rutherford et al., 2000). This identified a $g \not \hbar T$ gene, encoding a putative phosphoglycerate transporter, adjacent to peb3. However, this gene is annotated as a pseudogene, with two frameshift mutations resulting in three overlapping ORFs (Figure 4.4 A ).

### 4.6 Verification of the genetic structures of the $g l p T$ gene from 11168 H

The $g l \phi T$ gene structure was confirmed in our laboratory strain of 11168 H using PCR and sequencing. Genomic DNA was obtained from 11168 H , and $g / \hbar T$ was amplified with primers 1203 and 1204 (Figure 4.4 A) (Appendix Table S1). The amplified product of 1.3 kbp (Figure 4.4 B) was sequenced with primers 1204, 1194, 1195 and 1196 (Appendix Table S1). The sequence data obtained was identical to genome sequence data confirming the presence of two in-frame stop codons.


Figure 4.4 Amplification of $g l p \boldsymbol{T}$ from $\boldsymbol{C}$. jejuni 11168 H . A) The $g / p T$ gene from NCTC 11168 H was amplified with primers $1203 / 1204$. B) The amplified product was analysed on a $1 \%$ agarose gel and the predicted band size of 1.3 kbp (lane 1) observed.

### 4.7 Insertional knockout of the 11168 H glp $T$ gene

In MEM $\alpha$ medium, PEB3 is involved in the 3-PG dependent growth promotion of 11168 H (Figure 4.3). I proposed that GlpT is involved in the transport of 3-PG. This hypothesis was examined by generating an $11168 \mathrm{H} g / \$ T$ insertional knockout. Primers 1190/1191 (Appendix Table S1) were used to amplify $g / p T$ along with 400 bp of the flanking sequence from the neighbouring gene peb3. The 1.7 kbp fragment was ligated into pGEM-T Easy (Promega) vector to produce $\mathrm{p} g / \hbar T$ (Figure 4.5 B-Lane 1). This was modified by site-directed mutagenesis to introduce a BamHI site, within $g \not \hbar T$ with primers $1188 / 1189$, to create $\mathrm{p} g \nmid \mathrm{~TB}$. The $\mathrm{p} g \nRightarrow T \mathrm{~B}$ plasmid was digested with BamHI, and a BamHI pre-digested kanamycin cassette ligated into this site to produce $\mathrm{p} g / \mathrm{p} T \mathrm{~B}:: \mathrm{kan}$ (Appendix Table S2). The presence of the kanamycin resistance cassette was verified by PCR with the primers 1190/1191, which produced a PCR product of 3.2 kbp (Figure $4.5 \mathrm{~A} \&$ B-Lane 2). The primers 513, 535, 1190 and 1911 (Appendix Table S1) were used to confirm that the kanamycin resistance cassette was in the same transcriptional orientation as $g / p T$ in $\mathrm{p} g / \mathrm{p} T \mathrm{~B}:$ :kan (Figure $4.5 \mathrm{~A} \& \mathrm{~B}$ ). This plasmid was electroporated (See Chapter 2) into competent cells of C. jejuni 11168H resulting in strain $11168 \mathrm{H} g \not \equiv T$. Confirmation that homologous recombination was successful, and that $g l p T$ onto the chromosome was disrupted by a kanamycin cassette was verified by colony PCR (data not shown).
3.2 kbp

B


Figure 4.5 PCR verification of $\mathrm{p} g l p \mathrm{~TB}:: \mathrm{kan}$. A) Schematic diagram of $g l p T$ (blue) with the inserted kanamycin resistance cassette (grey). The orientation of the kanamycin resistance cassette, with respect to the $g / \phi T$ gene, was verified using primers 1190, 1191, 513 and 535 (Appendix Table 1). B) PCR products of pglp7B::kan. Amplified products were analysed on a $1 \%$ agarose gel and band sizes indicated by a DNA Hyper ladder 1 marker (M). The original pg/pT plasmid without a kanamycin cassette, containing only $g / p T$ was used as control. The $g / \hbar T$ gene was amplified with primers 1190/1191 producing a product of 1.7 kbp (lane 1). The $\mathrm{p} g / \hbar \mathrm{B}$ ::kan, containing the ligated kanamycin cassette ( 1.5 bp ) into the BamHI site of $g / \hbar T$ was amplified with 1190/1191 primers revealed a band of 3.2 kbp (lane 2). Further verification of the orientation of the kanamycin cassette was performed with a combination of $1190 / 1191$ and 513/535. The primers $1190 / 535$ yielded no PCR product (lane 3). Amplification with primers 1190/513 and 1191/535 produced a 0.9 kbp (lane 4) and 1.1 kbp (lane 5), respectively. The primer pair 1191/513 yielded no PCR product (lane 6).

### 4.8 The reintroduction of $g l p T$ onto the chromosome of the 11168 H glpT::kan mutant

 to generate a genetic complementThe $g / \hbar T$ gene was reintroduced onto the chromosome of the $11168 \mathrm{H} g \nmid \bar{T}$ mutant strain using plasmid $p C J 0223::$ atat, a pUC18 derivative, containing a region of the C. jejuni pseudogene cj0223, and a chloramphenicol cassette that has an associated promoter but lacks a terminator (Figure 4.6 A) (Wang \& Taylor, 1990). The 11168H $g / \overline{ } T$ gene and a 70 base upstream region were amplified using primers 1228/1229 (Appendix Table S1). The primer 1228 contained a PciI restriction site, and primer 1229 contained a SpeI restriction site along with a $\operatorname{His}_{10}$ tag. The PCR product was digested with restriction enzymes PciI and SpeI and cloned into $p C J 0223$ :: cat plasmid downstream of the cat cassette to give $p C J 0223::$ cat glp $T$ (Figure 4.6 B). The arrangement of $g l \hbar T$ in $p C J 0223::$ act $g l p T$ plasmid was verified by PCR (Figure 4.7 A \& B). The sequence of $g / p T$ in $p C J 0223::$ cat $g \mid \hbar T$ was verified by sequencing with primers 311, 66, 1192 and 1193 (Appendix Table S1). The plasmid $p C J 0223::$ cat $g / p T$ was then electroporated (see Chapter 2) into $11168 \mathrm{H} g / \hbar T$ competent cells. Following selection on plates containing chloramphenicol, colonies were subcultured and analysed by PCR using primers 1063, 1064, 1192 and 1193 (Appendix Table S1) to verify successful homologous recombination onto the chromosome (Figure $4.8 \mathrm{~A} \& B$ ).


Figure 4.6 Schematic diagram illustrating the cloning strategy used to generate the $p C J 0223$ : cat $\operatorname{glp} T$ plasmid. A) A plasmid map of the plasmid $p C J 0223:$ cat. The cj0223 gene (grey) flanks the inserted cat resistance cassette (yellow). B) The $g l p T$ gene ligated into the pCJ 0223 plasmid. The $g / p T$ gene (blue) was ligated downstream of the cat cassette (yellow) in the pCJ0223 plasmid, using restriction enzymes PciI and SpeI, to create the $p C J 0223::$ at $g / p T$ plasmid. The schematic is not drawn to scale.

A


## B



Figure 4.7 PCR verification of $p C J 0223:$ :cat glp $T$. A) Schematic diagram of $g l p T$ (blue) in complementation vector $p$ CJ0223::cat. The pseudogene region cj0223 showing the cassette (yellow) and downstream $g \not \rho T$ (coloured blue). The orientation of the cat resistance cassette, with respect to the $g \nRightarrow T$ gene, was verified using specific primers 311, 66, 1192 and 1193 (Appendix Table 1), as indicated. B) PCR products from $p$ CJ0223:: cat glp $T$ plasmid. Amplified products were analysed on a $1 \%$ agarose gel and band sizes indicated by a DNA Hyper ladder 1 marker (M). The $g / p T$ gene inserted into the $p C J 0223$ ::cat plasmid was amplified with primers $311 / 66$ yielding a PCR product of 1.5 kbp (lane 1). The glpT gene amplified with the primer pair 311/1192 showed no PCR band (lane 2). Further verification of the orientation of $g / \hbar T$ gene was verified with primer pairs, $311 / 1193$ and $66 / 1192$, which produced bands of 1.5 kbp (lane 3/4). Lane 5, shows the amplification of the region between 311 and 66 without $g / p T$ and produces a PCR product of 0.18 bp . This can be compared with Lane 1, which contains the $g l \phi T$ gene in this region. The primer pair 66/1193 yielded no PCR product (lane 6).


Figure 4.8 PCR verification of 11168 H glp $T^{+}$strain. A) Schematic of the predicted structure of the 11168 H glp $T^{+}$chromosomal structure in the Cj 0223 region following electroporation and selection on chloramphenicol. The pseudogene region cj0223 showing the cassette (yellow) and an upstream $g / p T$ (coloured blue). The primer combinations are shown 1063/1064 and 1192/1193 along with predicted sizes. B) PCR products from 11168 H glp $\boldsymbol{T}^{*}$. Amplified products were analysed on a $1 \%$ agarose gel and band sizes indicated by a DNA Hyper ladder 1 marker (M). Primers 1063/1064 producing a PCR product of 4.4 kbp (lane 1). Primer pairs 1064/1192 and 1063/1193 produced PCR products of 2.3 (lane 2) and 3.5 kbp (lane 3), respectively. In Lane 4, using gDNA of 11168 H , the cj0223 pseudogene (empty) was the amplified with primers 1063/1064, producing a PCR product of 2.2 kbp .

### 4.9 Growth characteristics of $C$. jejuni $11168 \mathrm{H}, 11168 \mathrm{H}$ glp $T$ and 11168 H glp $T^{+}$

Growth curves of $11168 \mathrm{H}, 11168 \mathrm{H} g / D T$ and $11168 \mathrm{H} g / \not T^{+}$were generated to determine if mutation of $g / \hbar T$ affected growth in complex media (Figure 4.9). Cultures were standardised to a starting $\mathrm{OD}_{600}$ of 0.05 in MH broth without antibiotics and growth was monitored by periodically measuring $\mathrm{OD}_{600}$ (see Chapter 2). $11168 \mathrm{H} g / p T$ initially grew at a slower rate, but by approximately 16 hours, $\mathrm{OD}_{600}$ values were similar to 11168 H . All cultures grew to a maximal $\mathrm{OD}_{600}$ of about 0.7 by $\sim 24$ hrs. $11168 \mathrm{H} g / \not T^{+}$grew as well as 11168 H (Figure 4.9).

### 4.10 3-PG dependent growth involves GlpT

The minimal media MEM $\alpha$ used in previous growth assays (Figure 4.3) was composed of 49 components: 21 amino acids, 11 vitamins, six inorganic salts, ribonucleotides, deoxyribonucleotides, and carbon sources. Recently, a much simplified minimal media for C. jejuni was described (Alazzam et al., 2011). This minimal medium (MCLMAN) contains only twelve components: four amino acids, one vitamin and seven inorganic salts. MCLMAN medium can support the growth of 11168 (Parkhill et al., 2000) and other C. jejuni strains to a similar $\mathrm{OD}_{600}$ as MEM $\alpha$ (Alazzam et al., 2011). Previous metabolic studies showed that lactate is used by C. jejuni and converted into pyruvate (Alazzam et al., 2011; Thomas et al., 2011; Stahl et al., 2012). Additionally, C. jejuni uses pyruvate as a carbon source, however, a transporter for this compound has not been identified (Velayudhan \& Kelly, 2002; Stahl et al., 2012). As previously discussed, the ligand for PEB3 is 3-PG a compound that potentially could be fed into the lower part of the glycolytic cycle and hence be used as an energy source by C. jejuni.

Growth assays were repeated using MCLMAN to determine compounds capable of supporting growth of $11168 \mathrm{H}, 11168 \mathrm{H}$ peb3, and $11168 \mathrm{H} g / \phi T$ mutant strains along with their corresponding genetically complemented strains $11168 \mathrm{H} p e b 3^{+}$and $11168 \mathrm{H} g / \hbar T^{+}$. Cultures grown overnight in MH broth were standardised to a starting $\mathrm{OD}_{600} 0.05$ in fresh warm MH broth. Cells were grown to mid-log phase $\left(\mathrm{OD}_{600} 0.2-0.4\right)$ (Figure 4.2 \& Figure
4.9), harvested by centrifugation, and re-suspended in warm MCLMAN media supplemented with either 10 mM pyruvate, lactate, 3-PG or G3P to a starting $\mathrm{OD}_{600}$ of 0.05 . The WT 11168 H strain grew well in the presence of pyruvate, lactate and 3-PG but not with G3P (Figure 4.10). 11168H peb3 in the presence of 3-PG grew well in contrast with previous experiments with MEM $\alpha$ (Figure 4.3). $11168 \mathrm{H} g / \phi T$ grew well on pyruvate, but not with 3PG nor G3P (Figure 4.10). The observed difference between 11168H and $11168 \mathrm{H} g / \phi T$ was statistically significant ( $\mathrm{p}<0.01$ ). $11168 \mathrm{H} \mathrm{g} / \mathrm{p} \mathrm{T}^{+}$grew well in the presence of 3-PG, pyruvate, lactate and some growth was observed for G3P (Figure 4.10). Restoration of the $g / p T$ gene by complementation rescued this phenotype and the observed difference was statistically significant ( $\mathrm{p}<0.01$ ) (Figure 4.10). These data demonstrate that 11168H 3-PG dependent growth in MCLMAN requires GlpT but not PEB3 and this is despite two in-frame stop codons in $g / \hbar T$.


Figure 4.9 Growth of $11168 \mathrm{H}, 11168 \mathrm{H} \mathrm{glp} T$ and $11168 \mathrm{H} \mathrm{glp} T^{+}$in MH Broth. Comparative growth curve of 11168 H (blue triangles), 11168 H g/p $T$ (grey squares) and $11168 \mathrm{H} g / \mathrm{hF}^{+}$(yellow circles). Cultures were grown overnight and inoculated in to fresh pre-warmed MH broth and growth monitored by measuring the $\mathrm{OD}_{600}$. Error bars represent standard error where $\mathrm{n}=3$.


Figure 4.10 11168H GlpT is required for 3-PG dependent growth. All strains were grown in MCLMAN minimal media and supplemented with 10 mM 3-PG, G3P, pyruvate or lactate, as indicated. Cultures with a starting $\mathrm{OD}_{600}$ of 0.05 were incubated for 24 hours at $42^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ in triplicate. $11168 \mathrm{H} \mathrm{g} / \mathrm{p} T$ displayed a reduced ability to use 3-PG compared to WT 11168 H and $11168 \mathrm{H} g / \mathrm{p} T^{+}$. Error bars represent standard error n=3. * denotes a statistical difference using a paired sample student t test $(\mathrm{P} \leq 0.01)$ between 11168 H and $11168 \mathrm{H} g / \hbar T$ and between 11168 H and $11168 \mathrm{H} g / \hbar T^{+}$in $3-\mathrm{PG}$ dependent growth. ${ }^{* *}$ denotes a statistical difference ( $\mathrm{P} \leq 0.05$ ) between $11168 \mathrm{H} g / p T$ and 11168 H $g l p T^{+}$in G3P growth.

### 4.11 Impaired function of $g l p T$ confers fosfomycin resistance

The antibiotic fosfomycin inhibits the first step in peptidoglycan biosynthesis by acting as a PEP analogue and binding to MurA, an enzyme essential for peptidoglycan biosynthesis (Castañeda-García et al., 2013). In E. coli fosfomycin enters cells via GlpT and UhpT transporters and isolates that have defective GlpT and UhpT transporters are resistant to fosfomycin (Kadner \& Shattuck-Eidens, 1983; Castañeda-García et al., 2013). 11168H, 11168 H peb3 and $11168 \mathrm{H} g h T$ strains were tested for their susceptibility to fosfomycin using E-Test strips (see Chapter 2). The MIC of fosfomycin for 11168 H was $24 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}$, for 11168 H $g h T T 4 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}$, and $24 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}$ for $11168 \mathrm{H} \mathrm{g} \phi \mathrm{T}^{+}$. The MIC of fosfomycin for 11168 H peb3 and the 11168 H peb $3^{+}$was 24 and $12 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}$, respectively (Table 4.1). To confirm these data a spot plate method for determining fosfomycin MICs was used (see Chapter 2) (Jeong et al., 2001; Ribardo et al., 2010). Using this method, the MIC of fosfomycin for 11168 H was $32 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}$ for $11168 \mathrm{H} g \nmid T 128 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}$ and for $11168 \mathrm{H} g / \not T^{+} 32 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}$. The MIC of fosfomycin for both 11168 H peb3 and $11168 \mathrm{H} \mathrm{peb3}^{+}$was $24 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}$ (Table 4.1).

| Fosfomycin <br> MIC $(\mu \mathrm{g} / \mathrm{ml})$ |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Strains | E-Test | Spot Plate |
| 11168 H | 24 | 32 |
| 11168 H peb3 | 24 | 24 |
| $11168 \mathrm{H} g / p T$ | 64 | 128 |
| $11168 \mathrm{H} p e b 3^{+}$ | 12 | 24 |
| $11168 \mathrm{H} g \phi T^{+}$ | 24 | 32 |

Table 4.1 C. jejuni NCTC 11168H with defective glpT gene has increased fosfomycin resistance. For the E-Test, cells were grown to mid-log phase (Figure 4.2 \& 4.9) and inoculated onto MH plates. The zone of inhibition was read, and the MIC noted. For the spot plate method, cells were standardised to an OD of 1.0 , diluted by tenfold dilutions and plated in triplicate onto plates containing $0,8,12,24$, $32,48,64,96$ and $128 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}$ fosfomycin. The MIC was determined by examining the lowest fosfomycin concentration resulting in a 10 -fold decrease in CFU compared to growth on MH agar without fosfomycin. All plates were incubated at $42^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 48 hours.

### 4.12 Functionality of NCTC 11168H GlpT suggested the "pseudogene" may encode

## a functional protein

Given that interrupted $11168 \mathrm{H} g / p T$ produced a phenotype for both 3-PG dependent growth and decreased sensitivity to fosfomycin, I sought to investigate whether a full-length protein was produced from the interrupted gene. This was done by examining GlpT protein production in the $11168 \mathrm{H} g / \phi T^{+}$that expresses a 10X-histidine (His) tag at the GlpT Cterminus. Experiments were performed in both E. coli and C. jejuni. A whole-cell lysate of E. coli XL1-Blue competent cells containing the $p C J 0223::$ at $g l p T$ plasmid was separated by SDSPAGE, blotted onto nitrocellulose and probed with anti-His antibody. The predicted band size of $\sim 51 \mathrm{kDa}$ was not detected (data not shown). A whole cell lysate of C. jejuni 11168H $g / \hbar T^{+}$was separated by SDS-PAGE, and blotted onto nitrocellulose probed with anti-His antibody. The predicted band of $\sim 51 \mathrm{kDa}$ was not observed (data not shown). A membrane preparation was purified using Ni-NTA beads. Purified protein was probed with an anti-His antibody but again no bands of the expected size of $\sim 51 \mathrm{kDa}$ were detected. In summary, the production of intact GlpT expressed from the upstream chloramphenicol promoter was not observed in E. coli nor C. jejuni.

### 4.13 Attempt to increase expression level of 11168 H GlpT in $C$. jejuni

In order to increase expression, the $11168 \mathrm{H} g / p T$ gene was cloned into a $p C J 0223$ plasmid containing one of two strong promoters, porA or fla $A$ (Jervis et al., 2015). Genomic DNA was obtained from 11168 H , and $g l \phi T$ amplified with primers, $g l \Rightarrow T_{\text {NoTag }} \mathrm{F} / g / \phi T \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{Term}_{\text {His }} \mathrm{R}$ or $g / \neq \mathrm{N}-\mathrm{Term}_{\mathrm{HA}} \mathrm{F} / g \not / \mathrm{TC}-$ Term $_{\text {His }} \mathrm{R}$, each containing an NdeI restriction site. The amplified PCR product was ligated into pGEM-T Easy (Promega) vector to create $\mathrm{p} g / p T_{\text {His }}$ and р $_{\mathrm{H}} g / \nmid T_{\text {His }}$ and sequenced with primers $80 / 81$. The insert was digested with restriction enzyme NdeI and cloned into an NdeI pre-digested $p C J 0223$ por $A$ or $p C J 022 f l a A$ vector. This produced $p C J p o r A g h \neq T_{\text {His }}, p C J p o r A_{\text {HA }} g / \hbar T_{\text {His }}$ and $p C J f l a A_{\text {Ha }} g h \neq T_{\text {His }}$ as verified by PCR with primers 65, 546, 1192 and 1193 (data not shown) (Appendix Table S1).

Plasmids $p C J p o r A g l p T_{\mathrm{His}}, p C J p o r A_{\mathrm{HA} g} g T_{\mathrm{His}}$ and $p C I f l a A_{\mathrm{HA}} g \nmid \overline{\mathrm{His}}$ were electroporated into $11168 \mathrm{H} g / p T$ competent cells resulting in $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ por $A g / D T^{+}{ }_{\text {His }}, \Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ por $A_{\text {HA }} g / D T^{+}{ }_{\text {His }}$ and $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ fla $A_{\mathrm{H}} \mathrm{g} g / \mathrm{F} T^{+}$His. . Following selection on plates containing chloramphenicol, colonies were subcultured and analysed by PCR using a combination of primers 1063/1064 and 1192/1193 (Appendix Table S1) to verify homologous recombination on the chromosome (Figure $4.11 \mathrm{~A} \& B$ ).


Figure 4.11 PCR verification of $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ porAglp $T^{+}{ }_{\mathrm{His}}, \Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ por $A_{\mathrm{HA}} g l p T^{+}{ }_{\mathrm{His}}$ and $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ fla $A_{\text {HA }} g l p T_{\text {His }}{ }^{\text {. }}$ A) A schematic diagram of predicted structure of the $11168 \mathrm{H} g l p T$ chromosomal structure in the Cj 0223 region following electroporation and selection on chloramphenicol. The $g / p T$ is upstream of the cat cassette (yellow) and expression is driven by the por $A$ or fla $A$ promoter (black arrow) in plasmid pcj0223. The primer combinations are shown 1063/1064 and 1192/1193 along with predicted sizes. B) PCR products from $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ porAglp $T^{+}{ }_{\text {His }}, \Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ por $_{\mathrm{HA}} g I p T^{+}{ }_{\text {His }}$ and $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ fla $A_{\mathrm{HA}} g I p T^{+}{ }_{\text {His. }}$. Amplified products were analysed on a $1 \%$ agarose gel and band sizes indicated by a DNA Hyper ladder 1 marker (M). Primers 1063/1064, which flank the pseudogene, produced a PCR product of 4.6 kbp (Lane 1). Primers 1064/1192 (lane 2) and 1063/1193 (lane 3) produced PCR products of 3.0 and 2.5 kbp respectively.

### 4.14 Phenotypic analysis of $C$. jejuni strains expressing glp $T$ tagged inserts

The $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ por Agh $T^{+}{ }_{\text {His }}, \Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ fla $A_{\mathrm{H} g} g / T^{+}{ }_{\text {His }}$ and $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ por $A_{\mathrm{H}} g / \phi T^{+}{ }_{\text {His }}$ strains were tested for 3-PG dependent growth and fosfomycin sensitivity. Cultures grown overnight in MH broth were standardised to a starting OD of 0.05 in fresh MH broth. Cells were grown to mid-log phase (Figure 4.2 \& 4.9), harvested by centrifugation and re-suspended in warm MCLMAN media supplemented with 10 mM pyruvate, lactate, 3-PG or G3P to a starting $\mathrm{OD}_{600}$ of 0.05 . The WT 11168 H strain grew well in the presence of pyruvate, lactate and 3PG but not with G3P as seen in previous assays (Figure 4.10 \& Figure 4.12). 11168H ghpT grew well on pyruvate, but not with 3-PG nor G3P (Figure 4.10 \& Figure 4.12). All three strains, $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ porAg $\phi T^{+}{ }_{\mathrm{His},}, \Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ por $A_{\mathrm{HA} g} / \phi T^{+}{ }_{\mathrm{His}}$ and $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ fla $A_{\mathrm{H} \mathrm{g}} g \nmid T^{+}{ }_{\mathrm{His}}$, grew well in the presence of pyruvate, lactate and 3-PG and there was some limited growth in the presence of G3P with $g / \hbar T$ expressed from porA or fla $A$ promoters (Figure 4.12). The $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ por $A g \nmid \hbar T^{+}{ }_{\text {His }}, \Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ por $A_{\mathrm{H} \lambda} g \nmid T^{+}{ }_{\text {His }}$ and $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ fla $A_{\mathrm{H} A} g \nRightarrow T^{+}{ }_{\text {His }}$ strains were tested for susceptibility to fosfomycin using E-Test strips (Table 4.2) (see Chapter 2). The MIC of fosfomycin for WT $11168 \mathrm{H}, \Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ por $A g / \Rightarrow T^{+}{ }_{\text {His }}$ and $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ fla $A_{\mathrm{H} \Delta} g / \$ T^{+}{ }_{\text {His was }}$ $24 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}$ and $24 / 32 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}$ for $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ por $A_{\mathrm{H} \alpha} g / \rho T^{+}{ }_{\text {His }}($ Table 4.2). To confirm these data, a spot plate method for determining the fosfomycin MIC was used (see Chapter 2) (Jeong et al., 2001; Ribardo et al., 2010). The MIC of fosfomycin for all strains was $32 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}$ (Table 4.2). These data confirm that genetic complementation of the $11168 \mathrm{H} g / \hbar T$ with the highly expressed tagged variants of $g / \hbar T$ restores ability to grow with 3-PG and sensitivity to fosfomycin.


Figure 4.12 Effect of genetic complementation with tagged versions of 11168 H glp $T$ expressed from porA or fla $A$ promotes growth with various carbon sources. All strains were grown in MCLMAN minimal media and supplemented with 10 mM 3PG, G3P, pyruvate and lactate, as indicated. Cultures with a starting $\mathrm{OD}_{600}$ of 0.05 were incubated for 24 hours at $42^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ in triplicate. Error bars were based on standard error $\mathrm{n}=3$.

| Strain | Fosfomycin MIC $(\mu \mathrm{g} / \mathrm{ml})$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | E-Test | Spot Plate |
| 11168H WT | 24 | 32 |
| 11168H gh T | 64 | 128 |
| $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ por Agl $T^{+}{ }_{\text {His }}$ | 24 | 32 |
| $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ fla $A_{\text {HAg }} \mathrm{g}$ ¢ $T^{+}{ }_{\text {His }}$ | 24 | 32 |
| $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ por $A_{\mathrm{Hg} \mathrm{g} / \mathrm{F} T^{+}{ }_{\text {His }} \text { }}$ | 24/32 | 32 |

Table 4.2 Effect of genetic complementation with tagged versions of 11168 H $g l p T$ expressed from porA or $\operatorname{fla} A$ are sensitive to fosfomycin. For the E-Test, cells were grown to mid-log phase (Figure 4.2 \& 4.9) and inoculated onto MH plates. The zone of inhibition was read and the MIC noted. For the spot plate method cells were standardised to an OD of 1.0, diluted by tenfold dilutions and plated in triplicate onto plates containing $0,8,24,32,48,64,96$ and $128 \mu \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{ml}$ fosfomycin. The MIC was determined by examining the lowest fosfomycin concentration resulting in a 10 -fold decrease in CFU compared to growth on MH agar without fosfomycin. All plates were incubated at $42^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 48 hours.

### 4.15 Production of GlpT in C. jejuni 11168H

Next, I sought to investigate whether a full-length protein was produced from the interrupted 11168 H glp $T$ gene, when expressed from the fla $A$ and $p o r A$ promoters. This was done by purifying the GlpT protein from strains where the expression of GlpT was driven by these promoters. These strains express either a 6x His-Tag at the GlpT C-terminus or both NTerminus HA-Tag and C-Terminus 6x His-Tag. Experiments were performed in both E. coli and C. jejuni. Whole-cell lysates from three E. coli XL1-Blue competent strains containing the pCJ0223porAghp $T_{\text {His }}, p C J 0223$ por $A_{\text {HA } g} g \nmid T_{\text {His }}$ and $p C J 0223$ fla $A_{\text {Has }} g \nRightarrow T_{\text {His }}$ was separated by SDSPAGE, western blotted, and probed with anti-His antibody. The predicted band of $\sim 52 \mathrm{kDa}$ was not detected from these three strains (Figure 4.13).

Whole-cell lysate from $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ porAgh $T^{+}{ }_{\text {His }}, \Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ fla $A_{\text {H } \alpha} / \nmid T^{+}{ }_{\text {His }}$ and $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ por $A_{\text {HA }} g \nmid T^{+}{ }_{\text {His }}$ were separated on SDS-PAGE (data not shown), blotted onto nitrocellulose, and probed with anti-HA or anti-His antibody (Figure $4.14 \mathrm{~A} \& \mathrm{~B}$ ). An anti-HA antibody blot showed bands consistent with the predicted Mr of $\sim 52 \mathrm{kDa}$ in lanes containing $\Delta$ 11168 H fla $A_{\text {Hig } g / p T^{+}}{ }_{\text {His }}$ and $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ por $A_{\mathrm{H} g} g / \rho T^{+}$His whole cell lysates (Figure 4.14 A-lanes 1 and 2). The nitrocellulose probed with the anti-His antibody produced bands of 52 kDa in the lanes containing extracts from $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ por $\operatorname{Ag} / T^{+}{ }_{\text {His }}, \Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ fla $A_{\mathrm{HA}} g / D T^{+}{ }_{\text {His }}$ and $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ por $A_{\text {H }} g \nmid \nmid T^{+}{ }_{\text {His }}$ (Figure 4.14 B-lanes 1, 2 and 3). These data demonstrate production of an apparently full length Glp $T$ from 11168 H disrupted $g / p T$ gene.


Figure 4.13 Immunoblotting of $E$. coli whole cell lysates confirms that GlpT is asbent. Immunoblot of whole cell lysates probed with anti-His antibody. Whole cell lysates were separated on a SDS-PAGE then blotted onto a nitrocellulose membrane andprobed with an anti-His antibody. Expected bands of approximately 52 kDa consistent with the GlpT Mr were not observed in E. coli XL1-Bluepor $A_{\text {на }} g / D T^{+}{ }_{\text {His }}($ lane 2$)$, E. coli XL1-Blue fla $A_{\text {на }} g / D T^{+}{ }_{\text {His }}$ (lane 3), and E. coli XL1-BlueporAglp $T_{\text {His }}^{+}$(lane 4). Controls were a PglB His-tagged protein approximately 53 kDa (lane 5), E. coli XL1-BluepCJ0223porA (lane 6) and E. coli XL1-Blue containing the original complement plasmid $p C J 0223:$ cat glpT.

### 4.16 GlpT production detected from purified membrane fractions

Membrane fractions from harvested cells of $11168 \mathrm{Hg} / \nmid T^{+}, \Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ por Ag/p $T^{+}{ }_{\text {His }}, \Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ fla $A_{\text {HA } g / p T^{+}}{ }_{\text {His }}$ and $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ por $A_{\text {HA }} g \nmid T^{+}{ }_{\text {His }}$ were inoculated into Tris-containing buffer. The cells were disrupted via French press and subjected to two rounds of centrifugation resulting in a supernatant and pellet. The pellet containing the total membrane was retained and resuspended in Tris-containing buffer with Triton. After ultracentrifugation samples were purified with anti-HA immunoprecipitation and Ni-NTA beads in an attempt isolate a fulllength GlpT. Purified proteins from $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ por $A g / p T^{+}{ }_{\text {His }}, \Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ fla $A_{\mathrm{H} A} g / \bar{\rho} T^{+}$His and $\Delta$ 11168 H por $A_{\mathrm{H} A} g / \nmid T^{+}$His were separated on SDS-PAGE, blotted onto nitrocellulose, and probed with anti-His antibody. The SDS-PAGE bands of $\sim 52 \mathrm{kDa}$ in lanes containing $\Delta$ 11168 H por $A g h \nmid T^{+}{ }_{\mathrm{His}}, \Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ fla $A_{\mathrm{HA}} g / D T^{+}{ }_{\text {His }}$ and $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ por $A_{\mathrm{HA}} g / \phi T^{+}{ }_{\mathrm{His}}$, but not 11168 H $g / D T^{+}$(Figure 4.15 A-Lanes 1, 2, 3 and 4). A western blot probed with anti-His antibody reacted with $\sim 52 \mathrm{kDa}$ bands containing $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ fla $A_{\text {HA }} g / \neq T^{+}{ }_{\text {His }}$ and $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ por $A_{\text {H }} g / \hbar T^{+}{ }_{\text {His }}$ (Figure 4.15 B-Lanes 1 and 2).

Purified proteins from HA-immunoprecipitation beads were separated by SDS-PAGE, blotted onto nitrocellulose, and probed with anti-HA antibody. The SDS-PAGE showed a 52 kDa size band in lanes containing $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ por $A_{\mathrm{H} \lambda} g / D T^{+}{ }_{\text {His }}$ and $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ fla $A_{\mathrm{HA}} g / \phi T^{+}{ }_{\text {His }}$ (Figure 4.16 A-Lane 2 \& 3). A western blot probed with anti-HA antibody reacted with these $\sim 52 \mathrm{kDa}$ bands (Figure 4.16 B-Lane $2 \& 3$ ). These data demonstrate production of an apparently full length GlpT protein which can be purified via HA and His-Tag purification. In an attempt to identify the proteins mass spectrometry was used, however, results were unsuccessful.


Figure 4.14 Immunoblotting of $C$. jejuni whole cell lysates reveals detectable bands the size of the GlpT Mr. A) Immunoblot of whole cell lysates probed with anti-HA antibody. Whole cell lysates were separated on a SDS-PAGE then blotted onto a nitrocellulose membrane probed with an anti-HA antibody. Detectable bands of approximately 52 kDa consistent with the GlpT Mr were observed in $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ por $A_{\mathrm{HA}} g / D T_{\text {His }}^{+}($lane 1$)$ and $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ fla $A_{\mathrm{HA}} g / p T^{+}{ }_{\text {His }}$ (lane 2 ). Bands of the size of the GlpT Mr were not detected in $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ porAglp $T^{+}{ }_{\text {His }}$ (lane 3), 11168 H WT (lane 4) and 11168 H $g \not p T$ (lane 5). The control (lane 6) is a HA-Tagged W1130 protein that is approximately 30 kDa . B) Immunoblot of whole cell lysates probed with anti-His antibody. Whole cell lysates were separated on an SDS-PAGE then transferred to a nitrocellulose membrane probed with an anti-His antibody. Detectable bands of approximately 52 kDa consistent with the GlpT Mr were observed in $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ porAglp $T_{\text {His }}^{+}$(lane 1 ), $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ por $A_{\text {HA }} g / p T_{\text {His }}^{+}$(lane 2) and in $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ fla $A_{H} g / p T_{\text {His }}^{+}$lane (3). No bands of this size could be detected in, 11168 H WT (lane 4) and 11168 H g/pT strain (lane 5). The control (lane 6) a PglB His-tagged protein is approximately 53 kDa .


Figure 4.15 Purification of GlpT via Ni-NTA affinity chromatography. A) SDSPAGE of $C$. jejuni GlpT purification via the His-Tag. A membrane protein preparations was purified using Ni-NTA beads. Following elution in 500 mM imidazole fractions were separated by SDS-PAGE. Bands of 51,52 and 20 kDa were observed in $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ por $A_{\mathrm{HA}} g / D T_{\text {His }}^{+}$(lane 1), $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ fla $A_{\mathrm{HA} g} \not \boldsymbol{D} T_{\text {His }}$ (lane 2) and $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ porAglp $T_{\text {His }}^{+}$(lane 3) strains, but not in $11168 \mathrm{Hg} g / p T^{+}$(lane 4). B) Immunoblotting of purified His-Tagged GlpT protein. Purified protein from (A) was blotted onto a nitrocellulose membrane and probed with anti-His antibody. Bands of approximately 52 kDa were present in both $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ por $A_{\mathrm{HA}} g / p T_{\text {His }}^{+}\left(\right.$lane 1) and $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ fla $A_{\mathrm{HA}} g / D T_{\text {His }}^{+}$ (lane 2).


Figure 4.16 Purification of GlpT via HA affinity chromatography. A) SDS-PAGE of $C$. jejuni GlpT purification via the HA-Tag. HA-tagged protein from membrane fractions of strains, $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ porAglp $T_{\text {His, }} \Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ por $A_{\mathrm{HA}} g / p T_{\text {His }}$ and $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ fla $A_{\mathrm{HA}} g / p T_{\text {His }}$ were purified using HA immunoprecipitation beads. Following a final elution in SDS-PAGE sample buffer fractions were separated by SDS-PAGE. Bands of 52 kDa were observed in $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ por $A_{\text {HA }} g / p T_{\text {His }}$ (lane 2) and $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ fla $A_{\text {HA }} g / p T_{\text {His }}$ strains (lane 3), but not $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ porAg/p $T_{\text {His }}$ (lane 1). B) Immunoblotting of purified HA-Tagged GlpT protein. Purified protein from $(\mathbf{A})$ was blotted onto nitrocellulose membrane and probed with anti-HA antibody. Bands of approximately 52 kDa were present in both
 $\Delta 11168 \mathrm{H}$ porAglp $T_{\text {His }}$ (lane 1).

### 4.17 Discussion

PEB3 binds 3-PG, and may deliver it to a transporter protein (Min et al., 2009). Adjacent to the peb3 gene is $g / \hbar T$, encoding a putative phosphoglycerate transporter. In $11168 \mathrm{H}, g / \nmid T$ is annotated as a pseudogene with three overlapping ORFs due to indels at specific locations within the gene. Despite this, evidence presented in this chapter indicates that GlpT, and not PEB3, is required for 3-PG dependent growth in MCLMAN and fosfomycin susceptibility.

Initially, I focused on reproducing experiments performed by Min et al., 2009. Growth assays in this study tested 3-PG dependent growth for a 11168 H WT, knockout 11168 H peb3 and complement 11168 H peb $3^{+}$strain in MEM $\alpha$ media. The knockout and complement strains were not included in the previous Min and co-workers study. Another difference in the experimental design was the incubation temperature for the 3-PG growth assays. In this study, a temperature of $42{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ was used instead of $37^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. However, this did not have a significant influence on the utilisation of 3-PG as these experiments confirmed the requirement for PEB3 in 3-PG dependent growth in MEM $\alpha$ (Figure 4.3). In comparison to the Min et al. data, identical levels of growth were observed in the 11168H WT. This growth could be partially restored by the genetic complementation, but not to WT levels, perhaps due to the low-level expression of peb3 from the cat gene promoter (Figure 4.1). As expected, the 11168 peb3 could not utilise 3-PG.

To test the role of $g \not \equiv T$ in 3-PG dependent growth, I switched to a simpler medium known as MCLMAN (Alazzam et al., 2011). This medium was supplemented with various carbon sources, including pyruvate, lactate, G3P and 3-PG. In contrast to experiments in MEM $\alpha$, PEB3 was not required for 3-PG dependent growth in MCLMAN. Significant growth was observed for the 11168 H peb3 mutant in the presence of 3-PG (Figure 4.10). However, this growth was not displayed in the MEM $\alpha$ growth experiments (Figure 4.3). One explanation may be that the concentration of 3-PG in the MCLMAN experiments was 10 mM compared
to only 5 mM in the MEM $\alpha$-based growth experiments. This increased 3-PG concentration may overcome the necessity for a periplasmic-binding partner such as PEB3.

The carbon sources pyruvate and lactate promoted growth of 11168 H WT, $11168 \mathrm{H} \mathrm{g} / \mathrm{p} T$ and 11168 H peb3 and respective genetic complements. Pyruvate and lactate are known to be utilised by C. jejuni and produced similar $\mathrm{OD}_{600}$ values as previously reported (Figure 4.10) (Velayudhan \& Kelly, 2002; Velayudhan et al., 2004; Alazzam et al., 2011; Thomas et al., 2011; Stahl et al., 2012). Growth of C. jejuni 11168H, but not $11168 \mathrm{H} g \nmid \hbar T$ was promoted by 3-PG in MCLMAN media (Figure 4.10) and this phenotype was genetically complemented with $11168 \mathrm{H} g / p T^{+}$(Figure 4.10). This demonstrated that in the MCLMAN system GlpT, and not PEB3, is required for 3-PG dependent growth promotion in spite of the fragmented $g \nmid T T$ structure. This is consistent with GlpT from other bacterial species in which a periplasmic partner is not needed to gain substrate from the environment (Lemieux et al., 2004a; Lemieux et al., 2004b). Uptake of G3P by GlpT is well documented and might allow G3P to promote C. jejuni growth, but this was not the case as C. jejuni strains demonstrated limited growth with G3P in MCLMAN (Figure 4.10). However, G3P growth was improved in $g / \hbar T^{+}$strains where $g l p T$ expression is driven by fla $A$ or por $A$ promoters (Figure 4.12). This suggests that when expressed at relatively high levels GlpT may allow some limited transport of G3P to promote growth.

In addition, to 3-PG dependent growth promotion, a second phenotype associated with GlpT transporters is susceptibility to the antibiotic, fosfomycin. In C. jejuni, inactivation of $g / \hbar T$ led to fosfomycin resistance and this phenotype was restored by genetic complementation (Table 4.1). These data confirm requirement for the fragmented $g / \hbar T$ gene in two independent phenotypes namely, 3-PG dependent growth and fosfomycin resistance (Figure 4.10 \& Table 4.1).

One explanation for these data is that a full-length functional GlpT protein was produced from the fragmented $g / p T$ gene. To test this hypothesis, various versions of the $11168 \mathrm{H} g / \phi T$ gene were constructed with N - and C - terminal His/HA tags. These were recombined onto the C. jejuni chromosome downstream of a strong porA or fla $A$ promoter and I hoped to detect the production of intact GlpT. A protein of the apparently correct Mr of GlpT was detected on SDS-PAGE gels and blots in strains where the expression of $g l p T$ was driven by a por $A$ or fla $A$ promoter (Figure 4.14-4.16). It is hypothesised that, C. jejuni may produce a full-length GlpT protein from a pseudogene bearing frameshift mutations, possibly via ribosomal frameshifting (Farabaugh, 1996). Ribosomal frameshifting occurs during translation, when the ribosome skips (+1) or slip ( -1 ) back one nucleotide aided by the presence of a 'slippery sequence' and a pseudoknot (Ketteler, 2012).

In order to investigate the process whereby a full-length Glp T protein was produced. I hoped to use mass spectrometry analysis of these purified GlpT preparations. This would enable accurate intact mass determination and sequencing around the frame-shifting regions. These data would help develop hypotheses as to how a full-length GlpT could be produced, namely what mechanism(s) might be employed. Unfortunately, I was unable to obtain any meaningful MS data and future work should focus on this area. Overall the data obtained in this chapter suggested that an apparent pseudogene can produce a functional protein in $C$. jejuni. The work in the next chapter describes in detail analysis of $g / p T$ gene variation in many C. jejuni strains.

## CHAPTER 5

In silico characterisation of variation in the C. jejuni peb3/glpTlocus

### 5.1 Introduction

The genome sequence of C.jejuni NCTC 11168H was published in 2000 (Parkhill et al., 2000), with further Campylobacter genome sequences published to identify genes associated with disease severity, metabolism and host specificity (Fouts et al., 2005; Hofreuter et al., 2006; Pearson et al., 2007; Poly et al., 2007). Chapter 4, highlighted the presence of a glp $T$ gene adjacent to peb3 and the functional characterisation of both gene products in C.jejuni 11168H. It was shown that NCTC $11168 \mathrm{H} g / p T$, a pseudogene composed of three overlapping ORFs due to indels, was required for 3-PG dependent growth. Lack of 6-phosphofructokinase in C. jejuni means the glycolytic pathway for metabolising glucose is not functional, but enzymes "below" this point are present. Thus, the usage of alternate carbon sources like 3-PG, that could feed into this lower portion of the glycolytic pathway and may be important in certain scenarios e.g. in intracellular environments.

In this study, the peb3/glpT locus was compared among C.jejuni, C. coli, C. lari and C. upsaliensis genome sequences. Initially, the overall arrangement of the peb3/glpT locus was examined and subsequently the detailed structure of $g l p T$ sequence variation characterised. Strains could be categorised into classes based on variation in $g / p T$ sequence and structure. These different classes of $p e b 3 / g l p T$ locus and $g / p T$ structure were placed in their evolutionary context through MLST.

## 5．2 Campylobacter species exhibit variability in the $p e b 3 / g l p T$ locus

In C．jejuni NCTC 11168H（Accession：AL111168．1－Parkhill et al．，2001）the peb3－containing region consists of the following four genes：$\lfloor\lceil\times B$ ，encoding a lipid－A－disaccharide synthetase involved in the condensation of UDP－2，3－diacylglucosamine and 2，3－diacylglucosamine－1－ phosphate；peb3；glpT，encoding a putative 3－PG transporter and surE encoding a stationary phase survival protein．Genome sequences of C．jejuni $(\mathrm{n}=64)$ ，C．coli $(\mathrm{n}=40)$ ，C．lari $(\mathrm{n}=1)$ and C．upsaliensis（ $\mathrm{n}=2$ ）（Appendix Table $\mathrm{S} 5 \& \mathrm{~S} 6$ ），were used to compare the structure of this locus using Artemis and WebACT．This region varied in gene content in different Campylobacter species（Figure 5．1）and among C．jejuni strains（Figure 5．2）．

In $C$ ．coli this region contained $氵 ⿲ 弓 T$ ，encoding a zinc transporter and genes $c d t A B C$ encoding a cytolethal distending toxin（Figure 5．1）．Notably，peb3 was not present in this locus or elsewhere in the genomes of 40 C．coli strains．C．lari lacks $g / \phi T$ ，but does contain peb3 and six ORFs encoding cytolethal distending toxin（three ORFs），two peptidases and a transporter protein，all located between $\mid p \times B$ and surE（Figure 5．1）．C．upsaliensis RM3195 and JV21 lack $p e b 3 / g \nmid T$ and contain four ORFs，between $\not p x B$ and surE，encoding a Type III restriction modification（RM）system and a hypothetical protein（Figure 5．1）．Interestingly， $\mid p x B, s u r E$ and their flanking genes were conserved in all Campylobacter species（Figure 5．1）．

These data demonstrate（i）that the structure of this locus varies in closely related Campylobacter species，（ii）peb3 and glpT are both found in almost all C．jejuni strains，but in closely related species only $g / p T$（C．coli），peb3（C．lari）or neither（C．upsaliensis）are present．
C. jejuni 11168 H

C. coli
$\mathrm{n}=40$

C. lari
$\mathrm{n}=1$

C. upsaliensis
$\mathrm{n}=2$


Figure 5.1 Comparison of the peb3/glpT locus in $C$. jejuni, C. coli, C. lati and $C$. upsaliensis. Abbreviations: che: chemotaxis protein A and V, greA: transcription elongation factor, $\mathbf{l p x B}$ : lipid-A-disaccharide synthetase, PEB3: Pei, Ellison, Blaser protein, glpT: phosphoglycerate transporter, surE: stationary phase survival protein, hyp: hypothetical protein, DNA Methylase: DNA methyltransferase, Type III Res (R): Type III restriction enzyme R protein/restriction endonuclease, $\mathbf{c d t}$ : cytolethal distending toxin subunit $A, B$ and $C$, pepT/pepE: peptidase; zupT: zinc transporter, moeB/ThiF: molybdopterin biosynthesis protein. Arrows indicate putative coding sequences (not drawn to scale).

### 5.3 C. jejuni strains exhibit variation in gene content in the peb3/glpTlocus

A collection of $64 C$. jejuni strains were grouped into thirteen classes (A-M) based on the gene organization of the peb3/g/pT locus (Figure 5.2). The largest group (Class A) including 11168 H consists of 36 strains with a locus structure of $p x B \rightarrow p e b 3 \rightarrow g h \phi T \rightarrow$ surE (Figure 5.2 A). All remaining classes contained six or fewer strains. Classes B, C and K with six, six and one group member(s) respectively, were very similar in structure to Class A, but also contained one or two ORFs encoding hypothetical proteins (Figure 5.2). Classes D, E, F, G, H, I and J, each with between one and three member(s), contained ORFs encoding Type II or Type III RM systems within this locus (Figure 5.2). Other ORFs found within this locus in one or more strains encoded hypothetical proteins, kinases and ATPases. Two Classes L and M contained single members that lacked peb3. In Class L, three ORFs encoding CDT were present between $l p x B$ and $\operatorname{surE}$ (Figure 5.2). Two Classes (J and L) contained single members that lacked $g h T$ (Figure 5.2).

The data demonstrate (i) that the majority of $C$. jejuni strains conserved the Class A, $\lceil p x B \rightarrow$ peb $3 \rightarrow g / T T \rightarrow$ surE, locus arrangement, (ii) for remaining Classes B-M the location between $\$ x B$ and surE was clearly variable in gene content, (iii) both peb3 and $g \nmid T T$ are conserved in almost all C. jejuni strains, but in atypical strains peb3 (C. jejuni 1336 and LMG23216) and $g \not \equiv T$ (C. jejuni 1336 and 414) are absent.


Figure 5.2 Gene arrangement of $C$. jejuni locus bounded by lpxB and surE. Abbreviations: GreA: transcription elongation factor, lpxB: lipid-A-disaccharide synthetase, PEB3: Pei, Ellison, Blaser protein, GlpT: phosphoglycerate transporter, SurE: stationary phase survival protein, NT: nucleotidyltransferase, DNA Methylase: DNA methyltransferase, S/T Kinase: serine/threonine protein kinase, Type II/III Res (R): Type III restriction enzyme R protein/restriction endonuclease, RM Res (M): Type III restriction enzyme M protein, RM Meth: Restriction modification methyltransferase, Res subunit: Type III restriction-modification system res enzyme, CDT: cytolethal distending toxin subunit $\mathrm{A}, \mathrm{B}$ and C . Arrows indicate putative coding sequences (not drawn to scale).

## 5.4 peb3 is generally conserved in structure among $C$. jejuni strains

Among 64 C. jejuni isolates, peb3 was present in all strains apart from 1336 and LMG23216.

For 59 strains peb3 was present as a single ORF of 753 bases whilst for three strains (129258, 1997-7 and 33560, forming Class H), the peb3 coding sequence was fragmented into 5 ORFs due to single nucleotide indel events and two in-frame stop codons (Figure 5.3 \& Figure 5.4).


Figure 5.3 Diagrammatic representations of the peb3 gene coding sequence. The peb3 of 11168 H is full-length consisting of 1 ORF. The peb3 coding sequences of $C$. jejuni 129-258, 1997-7 and 33560 (Class H) strains consisted of 5 ORFs due to indel events and in-frame stop codons. The 129-258 gl力T structure shown is identical in strains 1997-7 and 33560. The black vertical lines represent stop codons.

| $\begin{aligned} & 11168 \mathrm{H} \\ & 129-258 \end{aligned}$ | $\square$ ATGAAAAAAATTATTACTTTATTTGGTGCATGTGCCTTAGCTTTT ATGAAAAGAAACACTATTAAAAAAATTATTACTTTATTTGGTGCATGCGCCTTAGCTTTT **。*****************************, ************ 60 |
| :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & 11168 \mathrm{H} \\ & 129-258 \end{aligned}$ | AGTATGGCAAATGOAGATGTAACCTTTACGGA CAAGGTGGCCCACACACGGCCTTA AA AGTATACAA* |
| $\begin{aligned} & 11168 \mathrm{H} \\ & 129-258 \end{aligned}$ | AGATATAGCAAACAAATATAGCGAAAAAACAGGCGTTAAAGTAAATGTAAATTTTGGCCC <br>  |
| $\begin{aligned} & 11168 \mathrm{H} \\ & 129-258 \end{aligned}$ | TCAAGCGACTTGGTTTGAAAAGGCTAAAAAAGATGCAGATATTTTATTTGGCGCTTCAGA TCAAGCGACTTGGTTTGAAAAGGCTAAAAAAGATGCAGATATTTTATTTGGCGCTTCAGA *************************************************************** 240 |
| $\begin{aligned} & 11168 \mathrm{H} \\ & 129-258 \end{aligned}$ | TCAATCGGCTTTAGCTATAGCGAGTGATTTTGGAAAAGATTTTAATGTGAGTAAAATCAA TCAATCGGCTTTAGCTATAGCGAGTGATTTTGGAAAAGATTTTAATGTGAGTAAAATCAA ************************************************************* 300 |
| $\begin{aligned} & 11168 \mathrm{H} \\ & 129-258 \end{aligned}$ | GCCTTTATATTTTAGAGAAGCCATCATACTTACTCAAAAAGGCAATCCTTTAAAAATCAA GCCTTTATATTTTAGAGAAGQTATCATACTTACTCAAAAAGGCAATCCTTTAAAAATCAA <br>  |
| $\begin{aligned} & 11168 \mathrm{H} \\ & 129-258 \end{aligned}$ | AGGTTTAAAAGATTTGGCTAATAAAAAAGTAAGAATCGTTGTGCCTGAAGGTGCTGGAAA AGGTTTAAAAGATTTGGCCAATAAAAAAGTAAGAATCGTTGTGCCTGAAGGTGCTCGAAA AGGTTTAAAAGATTTGGCCAATAAAAAAGTAAGAATCGTTGTGCCTGAAGGTGCTC |
| $\begin{aligned} & 11168 \mathrm{H} \\ & 129-258 \end{aligned}$ | GAGCAATACTTCTGGAACTGGAGTTTGGGAAGATATGATAGGTAGAAOTCAAGATATAAA GAGCAATACTTCTGGAACTGGAGTTTAGGAAGATATGATAGGCAGAACCAAGATATAAA GAGCAATACTTCTGGAACTGGAGTTTAGGAAGATATGATAGGCAGAACCCAAGATATAAA $* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *)$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & 11168 \mathrm{H} \\ & 129-258 \end{aligned}$ | AACCATACAAAATTTTAGAAACAATATCGTGGCTTTGTTCCAAATAGTGGAAGTGCAAG AACCATACAAAATTTTAGAAACAATATCGTAGCTTTTGTTCCAAATAGTGGAAGTGCAAG ******************************.**.**************************** 540 |
| $\begin{aligned} & 11168 \mathrm{H} \\ & 129-258 \end{aligned}$ | AAAGCTTTTCGCACAAGATCAAGCCGATGCTTGGATCACTTGGATTGACTGGTCAAAAAG AAAGCTTTTCGCACAAGATCAAGCCGATGCTTGGATCACTTGGATTGACTGATCAAAAAG ***************************************************.********** 600 |
| $\begin{aligned} & 11168 \mathrm{H} \\ & 129-258 \end{aligned}$ | CAATCCTGACATAGGAACTGCCGTAGCTATAGAAAAAGATTTGGTTGTTTATAGAAGTTT CAATTCTGACATAGGAACTGTCGTAGCTATAGAAAAAGACTTGGTTGTTTATAGAAG-TT ****.***************.******************.********************* 60 |
| $\begin{aligned} & 11168 \mathrm{H} \\ & 129-258 \end{aligned}$ | TAATGTGATAGGTAAAGAAGGTGCGAGCAAAGAAACACAAGATTTTATTGCTTATTTAAG TAATGTGGTAGCCAAGGAAGGTGCGAGCAAAGAAACACAAGATTTTATTGCTTATTTAAG *******.****.**。*********************************************** 720 |
| $\begin{aligned} & 11168 \mathrm{H} \\ & 129-258 \end{aligned}$ | TTCTAAGGAAGCTAAAGAAATTTTTAAAAAATACGGCTGGAGAGAATAA TTCTAAGGAAGCTAAAGAAATTTTTTAAAAAATACGGCTGGAGAGAATAA 769 <br> *************************************************** |

Figure 5.4 Nucleotide alignment of peb3 genes from 11168 H and 129-258. The peb3 sequences of 129-258, 1997-7 and 33560 were identical with the exception of 33560 , which differs by single base $(\mathrm{A} \rightarrow \mathrm{G})$ at position 307 (bolded and underlined in blue). An insertion was observed at position 118 and a deletion at 658 (boxed and shaded). A total of four premature stop codons were observed in 129-258 (underlined in red). The single strain 129-258 is a representative of Class H strains.

### 5.5 The diversity of the $g l p T$ genetic structure in $C$. jejuni

When $g \nmid T$ gene sequences from 64 C. jejuni strains were aligned using Clustal O significant diversity in gene sequence and structure was observed (Figure 5.5 \& Appendix Figure S1). In only five strains (81116, 327, 2008-894, LMG9872 and LMG23216), $g \phi T$ is present as a single ORF that lacked frameshift mutations. Two strains, C. jejuni 1336 and 414, lacked $g / \hbar T$, but in 57 strains $g l p T$ was distupted by in-frame stop codons due to, in the majority of cases, small indel ( $1 / 2 \mathrm{nt}$ ) mutations. In a smaller number of strains ( $\mathrm{n}=7$ ) larger ( $>10 \mathrm{nt}$ ) deletions were present. This variation is highly unusual suggesting atypical selection pressure on the gh $T$ gene.


Figure 5.5 Overview of $g l p T$ variations in $C$. jejuni

Five strains (81116, 327, LMG23216, 2008-894, and LMG9872) possessed an intact $g \nmid \phi T$ single ORF. These $g / p T$ genes of 1371 bp encoded GlpT proteins of 456 aa that had high levels of sequence identity at the nucleotide (98-100 \%) (data not shown) and amino acid (97-100 \%) level (Figure 5.6).

Among the 57 strains that contained a distupted $g \nRightarrow T$, seven strains (81-176, 2008-831, M1, 1997-7, 129-258, 33560 and LMG9879) contained single large deletions of $>10$ nucleotides (Figure 5.7 A \& Appendix Figure S2). Strains 81-176 and 2008-831 had identical 277 nt deletions, following base 140 relative to $81116 \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{p} T$. Strain M1 had a 50 nt deletion following nucleotide 335. Strains 1997-7, 129-258 and 33560 contained a 45 nt deletion following nucleotide 1315. Finally, LMG9879 had a 13 nt deletion following base 519. All $7 \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{p} T$ genes with $>10$ nt deletions did not encode a single ORF due to these large deletion events and/or other 1 or 2 nucleotide indel events. The various arrangements of the $g l p T$ ORFs are depicted in Figure 5.7 B.

### 5.6 Small indels clustered in Indel region 1 and/or 2

Among the remaining 50 strains with only small indels two groups were evident, 33 strains with indels in specific regions 1 and/or 2 only (see below) and a second group of 17 strains with indels outside of and within region 1 and/or 2 (Figure 5.8). Of these 17 strains, five (1893, 1798, 140-16, 129-258 and 1997-7) had a single nucleotide deletion at nt 929, whilst four strains (1213, 110-21, 1928 and 84-25) had two nt deletions at residues 668, 669. In a further eight strains a variety of further small indel events outside of region 1 and 2 were present (Figure 5.8).

The majority of $g / p T$ small indel events were present in two regions of the gene (Figure 5.9). These were located around nucleotides 278-290 and 1243-1255, termed indel region 1 and 2, respectively (Figure 5.9). In the five strains with in-frame $g \phi T$ sequences these regions had

LMG23216
LMG9872
81116
327
2008－894

LMG23216
LMG9872
81116
327
2008－894

LMG23216
LMG9872
81116
327
2008－894

LMG23216 LMG9872
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2008－894

LMG23216
LMG9872
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327
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LMG23216
LMG 9872
81116
327
2008－894

MFDFFKPKAKATKFPK田ILPRYYKMRTWSLSGVFIGYMGYYLVRNNITLSTPFIQNQLD MFDFFKPKAKATKFPKKEILPRYYKMRTWSLSGVFIGYMGYYLVRNNITLSTPFIQNQLD MFDFFKPKAKATKFPKEEILPRYYKMRTWSLSGVFIGYMGYYLVRNNITLSTPFIQNQLD MFDFFKPKAKATKFPKEEILPRYYKMRTWSLSGVFIGYMGYYLVRNNITLSTPFIQNQLD MFDFFKPKAKAMKFPKEEILPRYYKMRTWSLSGVFIGYMGYYLVRNNITLSTPFIQNQLD


LSKSDIGTITGSMLIAYGISKGAMSVISDKADPKKYMALGLILCALVNVLLGFSNSFYAY LSKSDIGTITGSMLIAYGISKGAMSVISDKADPKKYMALGLILCALVNVLLGFSNSFYAY LSKSDIGTITGSMLIAYGISKGAMSVISDKADPKKYMALGLILCALVNVLLGFSNSFYAY LSKSDIGTITGSMLIAYGISKGAMSVISDKADPKKYMALGLILCALVNVLLGFSNSFYAY LSKSDIGTITGSMLIAYGISKGAMSVISDKADPKKYMALGLILCALVNVLLGFSNSFYAY

VGFVIALGVFQGMGVGPSFITLANWYPKKERGIYTAIWNISHNIGGGIVAPIVSLSGFAL VGFVIALGVFQGMGVGPSFITLANWYPKKERGIYTAVWNISHNIGGGIVAPIVSLSGFAL VGFVIALGVFQGMGVGPSFITLANWYPKKERGIYTAVWNISHNIGGGIVAPIVSLSGFAL VGFVIALGVFQGMGVGPSFITLANWYPKKERGIYTA VWNISHNIGGGIVAPIVSLSGFAL VGFVIALGVFQGMGVGPSFITLANWYPKKERGIYTAVWNISHNIGGGIVAPIVSLSGFAL

AALLGVSMADFNETYWHMNHFYAPAACAVIISLYVLYAVKGSPKNEGLVDITEINEMRGI AALLGVSMADFNETYWHMNHFYVPAACAVI ISLYVLYAVKGS PKNEGLVDITEINEMRGI AALLGVSMADFNETYWHMNHFYVPAACAVIISLYVLYAVKGSPKNEGLIDITEINEMRGI AALLGVSMADFNETYWHMNHFYVPAACAVI ISLYVLYAVKGSPKNEGLIDITEINEMRGI AALLGVSMADFNETYWHMNHFYAPAACAVIISLYVLYAVKGSPKNEGLVDITEINEMRGI

KTEEIKA円E同PNLSSFEIFYRYVLKNKNAWYVAWMDTFVYMVRFGLISWLPIYLLETKGF KTEEIKAVESPNLSSFEIFYRYVLKNKNAWYVAWMDTFVYMVRFGLISWLPIYLLETKGF KTEEIKAIETPNLSSFEIFYRYVLKNKNAWYVAWMDTFVYMVRFGLISWLPIYLLETKGF KTEEIKAVETPNLSSFEIFYRYVLKNKNAWYVAWMDTFVYMVRFGLISWLPIYLLETKGF KTEEIKAIETPNLSSFEIFYRYVLKNKNAWYVAWMDTFVYMVRFGLISWLPIYLLETKGF ＊＊＊＊＊＊＊：＊：＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊）

NKEQMGIAFWLFEWAAIPSTLLAGYISDKIFKGYRMPPAIGAMVIIFFMIIGYFTSNNLY NKEQMGIAFWLFEWAAIPSTLLAGYISDKIFKGYRMPPAIGAMVIIFFMIIGYFTSNNLY NKEQMGIAFWLFEWAAIPSTLLAGYISDKIFKGYRMPPAIGAMVIIFFMIIGYFTSNNLY NKEQMGIAFWLFEWAAIPSTLLAGYISDKIFKGYRMPPAIGAMVIIFFMIIGYFTSNNLY NKEQMGIAFWLFEWAAIPSTLLAGYISDKIFKGYRMPPAIGAMVIIFFMIIGYFTSNNLY

MVIFFAAMAGCLVYIPQFLASVQTMEVVPAFAVGSCVGLRGFMSYVVGASLGTKAIGWAV MVIFFAAMAGCLVYIPQFLASVQTMEVVPAFAVGSCVGLRGFMSYVVGASLGTKAIGWAV MVIFFAAMAGCLVYIPQFLASVQTMEVVPAFAVGSCVGLRGFMSYVVGASLGTKAIGWAV MVIFFAAMAGCLVYIPQFLASVQTMEVVPAFAVGSCVGLRGFMSYVVGASLGTKAIGWAV MVIFFAAMAGCLVYIPQFLASVQTMEVVPAFAVGSCVGLRGFMSYVVGASLGTKAIGWAV

DYYGSWNAGLIMLLSACILCILCSTLCHFSAKKKYA
LMG23216 DYYGSWNAGLIMLLSACILCILCSTLCHFSAKKKYQ DYYGSWNAGLIMLLSACILCILCSTLCHFSAKKKYQ DYYGSWNAGLIMLLSACILCILCSTLCHFSAKKKYQ DYYGSWNAGLIMLLSACILCILCSTLCHFSAKKKYQ
＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊＊ 456
Figure 5．6 Alignment of the full length GlpT proteins in C．jejuni strains 81116， LMG23216，LMG9872， 327 and 2008－894．The amino acid alignment of the five $C$ ．jejuni strains，which possess a full－length GlpT protein．The grey boxes indicate changes in the amino acid sequence．
sequences, AAAAAATACAT (Region 1) and AAA(A/G)GCAT (Region 2). Fourteen further $g l p T$ sequences that contained these sequences at Region 1 and 2 do not produce a single ORF, as they contain indels of various types that result in failure to produce a single ORF.

Further characterisation of this area revealed additional in-frame and out-of-frame sequences. Strains ( $n=7$ ) with in-frame sequence AAAAAATACAT (region 1), but out-offrame sequence AAAAGCAT in Indel region 2, were observed. A large number of strains ( $\mathrm{n}=26$ ) contained an out-of-frame Indel Region 1 sequence: AAAAAAATAT, AAAAAATCAT, AAAAAACAT, AAAAATCAT and AAAAATACAT and an out-offrame Indel Region 2 sequence: AAAAGCATAG and AAGGCTTAT. Lastly, strains with an out-of-frame Indel region 1 sequence: AAAAAAATAT, AAAAAATCAT, AAAAAACAT, AAAAATCAT and AAAAATACAT and in-frame Indel region 2 AAAAGCTATAG was observed among 12 strains. Strains 81-176 and 2008-831 lack an indel region 1, however contain an Indel region 2 (Figure 5.9). In 81-176 the Indel region 2 is out-of-frame, but in-frame in 2008-831.

In summary, $g l p T$ is diverse and this diversity is characterised by indel events. These events are also diverse but two regions are particular hot spots for small indel events.


Figure 5.7 Diagrammatic representations of the C. jejuni glp $T$ genes that contain large deletions (A) and their corresponding ORFs (B). Arrows indicate the coding sequence of $g l \hbar T$ genes from strains, 81-176, 2008-831, M1, LMG9879, 33560, 1997-7 and 129-258. Deletions ( $\boldsymbol{\Delta}$ ) of 277, 50,45 and 13 nt , respectively, compared with $81116 \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{p} T$ are shown below the arrow and starting positions of the deletion above the arrow. B) The glpT gene structure viewed with the Artemis genome browser. A number of ght $T$ gene structures contained multiple overlapping and non-overlapping ORFs (2-5). The black vertical lines represent stop codons.


Figure 5.8 Schematic diagram of $g l p T$ genes containing indels in scattered locations. A) The arrows indicate the coding sequence of $17 \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{p} T$ genes (not drawn to scale) that contain indels outside of Indel regions 1 and 2. Deletions and insertions, are represented by $\Delta$ (blue lines) and $\uparrow$ (yellow lines), respectively, along with nt position. B) Structure of $g l p T$ gene coding sequence with indel events outside of regions 1 and 2. The Artemis genome browser view of $17 \mathrm{~g} \mid \hbar T$ genes were shown to contain multiple ORFs (2-5). Black vertical lines represent stop codons.


Figure 5.9 Sequence patterns associated with glpTIndel Region 1 and 2. A schematic diagram of the full length $g / \hbar T$ of 81116 is shown with arrows indicating the positions of Indel regions $1 \& 2$. In the remaining C. jejuni strains an alignment of the various sequence patterns in these regions and strain number (n) is provided. It should be noted strains 81-176 and 2008-831 lack indel region 1 due to a 277 nt deletion hence $n=60$, rather than 62 . These sequences could be categorised as inframe $(+)$ or out-of-frame ( $(-)$. Highlighted regions indicate deletions and substitutions in the sequences.

### 5.7 In silico MLST of $64 C$. jejuni strains

In order to compare the evolutionary history of C. jejuni strains with both the variation in gene arrangement in the $\mid p \times B /$ surE region and the sequence variation in $g / p T$ itself I carried out in silico MLST for all 64 C. jejuni strains analysed (Appendix Table S7). MLST utilises the sequences of seven genes associated with intermediary metabolism to categorise isolates by sequence type (ST) (not shown) and clonal complex (ST-CC) (Dingle et al., 2001).

### 5.7.1 Sequence types (ST) and clonal complexes (ST-CC) of C. jejuni population

A total of 54 sequence types (STs) were identified among the 64 strains (Appendix Table S7). All strains were assigned to clonal complexes (ST-CCs) apart from strains 414, LMG23216, LMG23210, 1854, 2008-979, 1997-10, LMG23223, 305, 60004, and 2008-894 (Figure 5.10). The allelic profiles (Appendix Table S7) of these strains were used to construct a UPGMA tree (bootstrap with 500 replications) (Figure 5.10) using START2 software (see Methods). The six most prevalent ST-CCs (all with 3 or more strains) comprised 33 ( $52 \%$ ) of all isolates and were (ST-21 [n=11], ST-353 [n=7], ST-48 CC [n=6], ST-354 CC [n=3], ST-61 CC [n=3] and ST-45 [n=3]). Five ST-CC's (ST-206 ST-42, ST-362, ST-22 and ST-52) contained two strains each. Eleven ST-CC’s (ST-508, ST-283, ST-1275, ST-841, ST-403, ST-677, ST-179, ST-446, ST-574, ST-658 and ST-677) contained only one isolate each.


353

| Strain | Locus Class | $\begin{aligned} & g_{\text {structure }} \end{aligned}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 414 | J | - |  |
| 1336 | L | - |  |
| LMG23216 | M | + |  |
| 327 | I | + |  |
| M1 | A | $\Delta \mathrm{L}$ | $\Delta 50 @ 335$ |
| 55037 | C | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| 81116 | F | + |  |
| LMG23210 | A | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| 1997-11 | A | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| HB93-13 | A | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| CG8486 | D | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| 260.94 | A | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| ICDCCJ07001 | A | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| 129-258 | H | $\Delta \mathrm{L}$ | 445@1315 |
| 81-176 | A | $\Delta \mathrm{L}$ | 4277@140 |
| LMG23211 | A | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| 1213 | B | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| 1798 | A | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| 1997-7 | H | $\Delta \mathrm{L}$ | 445@1315 |
| 140-16 | A | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| 1854 | A | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| S3 | A | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| RM1221 | A | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| NW | A | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| CG8421 | A | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| LMG9081 | A | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| 2008-979 | A | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| 1997-10 | E | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| LMG9217 | D | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| 87549 | A | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| D2600 | F | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| 1997-14 | B | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| 51037 | C | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| 51494 | B | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| 53161 | C | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| LMG23269 | A | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| LMG23263 | A | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| LMG23223 | C | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| 110-21 | B | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| CF93-6 | G | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| 2008-831 | D | $\Delta \mathrm{L}$ | 4277@140 |
| 2008-1025 | A | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| 87330 | A | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| 84-25 | A | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| DFVF1099 | A | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| IA3902 | A | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| LMG9879 | A | $\Delta \mathrm{L}$ | -13@519 |
| 305 | A | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| LMG23264 | A | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| 11168 | A | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| 1928 | B | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| H22082 | A | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| P110B | A | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| LMG23218 | A | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| 1893 | A | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| 2008-988 | A | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| 86605 | E | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| 60004 | K | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| 1997-4 | C | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| 1997-1 | A | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| 2008-894 | C | + |  |
| LMG23357 | A | $\Delta \mathrm{S}$ |  |
| LMG9872 | A | + |  |
| 33560 | H | $\Delta \mathrm{L}$ | -45@1315 |

Figure 5.10 MLST UPGMA tree showing the evolutionary relation of 64 strains. UPGMA-based tree constructed with MLST allelic profiles (Appendix Table S7). The clonal complex (ST-CC), peb3/ghT locus arrangement class (A-M) and type of $g / p T$ structure: full-length $(+)$, large deletion $(\Delta \mathrm{L})$, small deletion $(\Delta \mathrm{S})$ and absent $(-)$ are provided.
5.7.2 Association of $C$. jejuni glpT/peb3 locus gene arrangement with MLST clonal complexes

Gene arrangements, A, B, C, D, E, F, H, comprised of 36, 6, 6, 3, 2, 2 and 3 members respectively, were distributed throughout the phylogenetic tree and did not cluster with specific clonal complexes (Figure 5.10). Of the gene arrangements with single members (G, J, K, L and M) classes J, L and M formed another group, whilst G, I and K clustered with other strains.

### 5.7.3 Association of $g l p T$ structure with MLST clonal complexes

Two strains (414 and 1336) lacked $g \not \equiv T$ (designated as ( - ) in the $g l \phi T$ structure column of Figure 5.10) and these were outliers of the MLST tree (Figure 5.10). Strains with larger deletions ( $\mathrm{n}=7$ ) were found throughout the tree and those with large identical deletions at the same positions were not closely related. For example, 81-176 is located in a completely different lineage (ST-42) to strain 2008-831 (ST-21) yet both have a 277 nt deletion at base 140. These data on $g \not p T$ locus arrangement and $g / p T$ structure indicate that these variations do not correlate with strain evolutionary history as inferred by MLST.

### 5.8 Discussion

In this chapter it was demonstrated that the genetic locus between $\not p x B$ and surE contains both inter and intra-species diversity among Campylobacter. This diversity was particularly prominent in the $C$. jejuni glp $T$ gene.

In 36 C. jejuni strains, this locus consisted of $\not p x B$, $p e b 3$, $g \nmid p T$ and $s u r E$ (Figure 5.2), but in $C$. coli, C. lari and C. upsaliensis, and 28 C. jejuni strains, additional genes were found within this locus (Figure 5.1 \& 5.2). These findings suggest this is a hypervariable locus. Such hypervariable loci identified by microarray analysis include the capsule, LOS, and flagellum (Dorrell et al., 2001; Taboada et al., 2004; Karlyshev et al., 2005). These loci encode surface features needed for the survival, transmission, and pathogenesis of C. jejumi. This contrasts with the $\lceil x B /$ surE locus that does not encode such surface features, which might be under strong selection for structural diversification. The sequencing of the 11168 strain revealed the genetic diversity of these hypervariable regions do not result from transposons, phage association or insertion sequence elements (Dorrell et al., 2001). However, other mechanisms such as phase variation due to homopolymeric tracts, horizontal gene transfer, recombination and intragenomic variation are known to contribute to genetic diversity (Wassenaar et al., 1995; Karlyshev et al., 2005).

One of the genes in the C. jejuni $p x B /$ surE locus is peb3. This gene was relatively conserved in structure/sequence (Figure 5.3) with 59/64 strains having an uninterrupted gene. The $g \not \equiv T$ gene is much more diverse with the majority of strains having an interrupted gene. This suggests differing evolution pressures on these physically linked genes. In the previous chapter, I provide evidence that a disrupted $g \nmid \phi T$ gene in 11168 H can still encode a functional protein. So some of these other disrupted genes may similarly encode functional proteins. In genome sequence annotations, these disrupted genes are termed pseudogenes and in individual $C$. jejuni strains there are a number of pseudogenes. For example, in reference
strains C. jejuni 11168, 81116 and 81-176 there are 19, 19, and 17 pseudogenes, respectively (Parkhill et al., 2000; Hofreuter et al., 2006; Pearson et al., 2007; Gundogdu et al., 2007). It may therefore also be the case that some of these pseudogenes encode functional proteins. Further examination of $g / \hbar T$ genes revealed that they were interrupted due to diverse genetic events including both larger deletions of between 13 and 277 bases (Figure 5.7) and a variety of smaller indels (Figure 5.8). Larger deletions would likely mean that a functional protein could not be produced. The majority of strains contained smaller indels that were in many cases clustered into two regions of $g \nmid T$ and it is unclear why this has occurred (Figure 5.9).

To relate these various genetic events to the evolutionary history of $C$. jejuni strains an MLST based tree was used to superimpose both arrangement/composition of the $\$ x B /$ surE locus and $g l \phi T$ structure on the tree (Figure 5.10). This revealed that neither correlated with evolutionary relationships. Previous studies used microarrays to identify regions of genetic diversity in C. jejuni (Dorrell et al., 2001; Pittenger et al., 2012) however, $g / / T$ has not been identified as a gene with sequence diversity. This is presumably due to the low overall level of sequence diversity. Furthermore, areas containing small deletions, gene rearrangements, intergenic regions and mutations are typically excluded from DNA microarrays and comparative genome indexing (Pittenger et al., 2012). Nevertheless, the presence of even small indel events have a profound effect on gene structure and function.

Atypical strains, 414 and 1336, lacking $g l p T$ are distinct from the main group of $C$. jejuni strains (Hepworth et al., 2011) and belong to a Water/Wildlife associated lineage. However, all typical C. jejuni strains contain glpT.

Further work should address the reason $g / p T$ has diverse structures in different C. jejuni strains. Given the MLST data it would seem that these variants are not vertically inherited. Instead data suggest variation in genetic structure may arise very frequently/independently
or are passed among strains via horizontal gene transfer. If these mutations render $g / T T$ nonfunctional then it would seem that $C$. jejuni is losing the $g \nRightarrow T$ gene and does not require this gene product for survival. This may be associated with some shift in niche/habitat. If these mutations, at least in some cases, do not disrupt function as suggested by data in Chapter 4, then what is their role or advantage over conserving $g l p T$ sequence? Furthermore, $g h T T$ is not found in water/wildlife strains suggesting that it may not be involved in interactions with some host species. These questions will require further study of both $g l p T$ function and diversity in C. jejuni strains.

## CHAPTER 6

## Conclusions

### 6.1 Introduction

The initial focus of this thesis was to characterise the PEB3 protein, present in the genome of pathogenic bacterium, C. jejuni 11168H. PEB3 was first identified alongside PEB1, PEB2 and PEB4 proteins (Pei et al., 1991). Prior to this study, PEB3 was shown to bind GAGs, like heparin (Linton unpublished). PEB3 also binds 3-PG (Min et al., 2009). However, the role of PEB3 in vivo remained unclear as it may deliver 3-PG to a transporter protein (Min et al., 2009). Scrutiny of the 11168 H genome revealed an uncharacterised gene adjacent to peb3, a $g \not \equiv T$ gene, encoding for a putative phosphoglycerate transporter. This discovery might suggest a related function for the corresponding proteins. Regardless, the location of these genes was not sufficient for the assignment of the gene product function. As such, an investigation into the functionality of both PEB 3 and GlpT was required.

### 6.2 Identification of $\boldsymbol{C}$. jejuni heparin-binding proteins

In Chapter 3, results confirmed that C. jejuni binds heparin. Five heparin-binding adhesins were identified in this study. However, additional experiments are needed to confirm the heparin-binding features of these proteins identified in silico. Experimental work via modelling where possible, site-directed mutagenesis, and heparin-affinity chromatography would provide more detailed information and establish how the C. jejuni protein/Heparin interaction is facilitated. For one of these adhesins, PEB3, further work was carried out as a prior study indicated that PEB3 binds heparin (Linton Lab unpublished). Further to this study, the role of two putative PEB3 heparin-binding sites: ${ }_{62} \mathrm{KKAKD}_{66}$ and ${ }_{122} \mathrm{NKKVRI}_{127}$ was investigated. This was approached with molecular visualisation (PyMol) and docking software (ClusPro), site-directed mutagenesis and heparin-affinity chromatography. Molecular visualisation models showed these sites to be surface exposed. A series of docking models via the ClusPro server were carried out utilising the published PEB3 and heparin tetrasaccharide structures. In silico models indicated heparin interacted with three residues from PEB3 site ${ }_{122} \mathrm{NKKVRI}_{127}$, but no residues from ${ }_{62} \mathrm{KKAKD}_{66}$. These results were tested
with site-directed mutagenesis and heparin-affinity chromatography. The WT and sitedirected PEB3 mutants were suitable for testing the validity of the modelling predictions, experimentally. In these mutants, two basic residues K123 and K124 were removed, leaving only R126 unchanged. The removal of K123 and K124 in single and double mutant mutants resulted in decreased heparin-binding. Lastly, a triple mutant resulted in the removal of R126. It was expected when this mutant was subjected to heparin-affinity chromatography, it would either not bind or its affinity would be reduced. However, the deletion of R126 in a triple mutant failed to disrupt the heparin-binding affinity of PEB3. These data indicate that R126 does not play a critical part in PEB3/Heparin interactions. Furthermore, the experimental data is consistent with the results from the docking models, which shows that residue R126 is not orientated in a way conducive to participating in heparin-binding. Even so, at this stage, no final conclusions can be made regarding this matter as heparin-binding is not wholly abolished in these experiments. As it was explained in Chapter 3, in silico models identified additional residues N122, K113, K115 and N159, interacting with heparin.

In regards to the ${ }_{62} \mathrm{KKAKD}_{66}$ binding site, residues K 64 and K 65 were replaced with alanine residues experimentally. In silico results showed no participation of these residues in heparinbinding. Nonetheless, the removal of these residues resulted in reduced heparin-binding. This shows the in silico predictions for this area are incorrect. One explanation for this difference is the ClusPro programme treats the heparin ligand as rigid, with minimal flexibility in structure, which may not allow for binding to this region of PEB3 (Mottarella et al., 2014). However, in the heparin-chromatography the heparin ligand may provide flexibility allowing for interaction with this PEB3 site. Lastly, an attempt to remove K62 was unsuccessful. This may be due to the position/combinations of substituted residue(s) or possibly the size of the site-directed residue. Even so, this would necessitate further investigation and perhaps an alternative approach to introduce this mutation.

In summary, PEB3 binds heparin. In silico findings suggest additional residues in addition those proposed in this work maybe involved. However, generating and testing the effect that all the substitutions have on the heparin-binding ability of the PEB3 protein is likely to be a laborious task. Furthermore, issues arose in the attempted to generate of a K62/K64/K65 mutant. Alternative approaches to the site-directed technique could employ a peptide-based approach. This would involve identifying key heparin-binding residues of PEB3, synthesising peptides and then assessing heparin-binding.

Further research should focus on the bigger picture (i.e. the immunological advantages) of heparin-binding. Fascinatingly, heparin is shown to protect Neisseria and Helicobacter species from host serum defences (Chen et al., 1995; Dubreuil et al., 2004; Serruto et al., 2010). In Neisseria species heparin is bound/adsorbed by surface adhesins (i.e. OPA+ proteins-high pI, adhesin GNA2132) (Chen et al., 1995; Serruto et al., 2010). This forms a negatively charged 'pseudocapsule' which serves as camouflage and aids in the evasion of host defences. Future work beyond this thesis may involve (i) investigating how heparin might confer protection C. jejuni from human responses and (ii) does PEB3 absorb heparin in the same manner as adhesins in Neisseria species.

In conclusion, this work identifies (a) C. jejuni heparin-binding proteins and (b) two sites important for the PEB3/Heparin interaction.
6.3 The role of $C$. jejuni 11168H PEB3 and GlpT in 3-PG dependent growth and fosfomycin sensitivity

In Chapter 4, I build upon the work by Min et al., 2009 whereby PEB3 is shown to bind 3PG. However, the role of PEB3 in vivo remained unclear as it may deliver 3-PG to a transporter protein (Min et al., 2009). Genomic analysis showed that PEB3, is located next to $g / p T$ gene, encoding for a putative phosphoglycerate transporter. However, this gene is
annotated as a pseudogene, due to frameshift mutations resulting in three ORFs. The results from phenotypic analysis of both PEB3 and GlpT proteins, namely for 3-PG dependent growth and fosfomycin susceptibility, were investigated. The role of both PEB3 was studied, which required the disruption of this gene and then reintroduction of a functional copy on to the bacterial chromosome. This was successfully achieved in C. jejuni 11168H for PEB3, whereby a PEB3-specific antibody is available (Linton and Wren unpublished). The PEB3 band was present in WT and complemented strains, but absent in the peb3 insertional knockout. This result clearly confirmed the insertion of the kanamycin cassette in the peb3 gene resulting in the loss of gene product. The 11168 H peb3 deletion mutant grew on agar plates and in complex media. Furthermore, differences in the observed phenotype between the WT and PEB3 knockout indicate a functional role for PEB3. Specifically, in MEM $\alpha$ supplemented with 3-PG where the peb3 knockout is unable to demonstrate 3-PG dependent growth, but growth is observed in the WT and partially in the complement.

The same techniques were employed to investigate the role of GlpT. Like PEB3, growth of $g l p T$ mutant strains was assessed in complex media, whereby the knockout showed a slower rate of growth, however, this was not detrimental. Further to this, growth in MCLMAN medium, a simplified media for C. jejuni, was assessed for WT, peb3 and $g / p T$ mutants. One of the most striking findings of this study is that the deletion of $g \nmid p T$ showed a significant decrease in 3-PG dependent growth. However, this was not observed with the peb3 knockout. These findings confirm that (i) PEB3 is not required for 3-PG dependent growth in MCLMAN, (ii) GlpT does not require a periplasmic binding partner and (iii) GlpT despite being a pseudogene is functional and necessary for 3-PG dependent growth.

A second phenotype, tested the sensitivity to the antibiotic fosfomycin in the form of the ETest. These were applied to all strains, in order to assess the effect of the inactivation of both peb3 and ghT. The WT and peb3 mutants displayed identical MIC values. Surprisingly, the
glpT knockout exhibited fosfomycin resistance, which was restored to WT levels with a genetic complement. A second test, in the form of a spot plate confirmed these data. In summary, these data further strengthened the hypothesis that GlpT is functional despite being a pseudogene. This is the first report of a functional pseudogene in C. jejuni.

Lastly, I attempted to purify the GlpT protein. Successful purification of this GlpT protein followed after optimisation in C. jejuni whereby expression of $g / p T$ was driven promoters, fla $A$ and porA. Upon SDS-PAGE analysis a dominate band of 52 kDa was present in por $A /$ fla $A$ samples processed from whole cell lysates and membrane fractions, purified with His/HA-Tag chromatography. However, when analysed with mass spectrometry, the identity of these bands could not be confirmed.

Future research should focus on renewed efforts in identifying the GlpT protein via mass spectrometry. Although, this study provides phenotypic data indicating GlpT is functional more direct evidence is needed. One issue with GlpT is the minimal tryptic cleavage sites present. To effectively cleave proteins for identification with trypsin, lysine and arginine residues must be plentiful and accessible. Proteins with few tryptic sites make obtaining the appropriate size peptides within the target mass range for MS analysis very difficult. Further work beyond this study should focus on employing other strategies for effective cleavage of bands suggested to be GlpT. This maybe approached by combining trypsin digestion with alternatives such as cyanogen bromide or chymotrypsin (Griffin \& Schnitzer, 2011), which have been proven to increase protein cleavage of membrane proteins. Further suggestions for effective cleavage of membrane proteins include the use of proteases such as Proteinase K, elastase and pepsin (Griffin \& Schnitzer, 2011).

This work may entail obtaining GlpT RNA-sequence data and checking for slippery sequences or pseudoknots, which are associated with this mechanism. In conclusion, these
data indicate that (a) GlpT, not PEB3 is required for 3-PG dependent growth and (b) GlpT is a functional pseudogene involved in 3-PG dependent growth and fosfomycin resistance.

### 6.4 In silico characterisation of variation in the $C$. jejuni peb3/glpT locus

In Chapter 4, genomic analysis of the C. jejuni 11168H revealed a possible transporter adjacent to the peb3 gene, a glpT gene, encoding for a 3-PG transporter. This discovery led to further analysis of the $p e b 3 / g l p T$ locus in 11168 H , whereby these genes are bound by $h x \times B$ and surE. This is the first report on the peb3/glpT locus.

The majority of strains contained loci arrangement $\not p x B-p e b 3-g / p T-s u r E$. However, further comparison of this region in other C. jejuni and closely relate species C. coli, C. lari and C. $u p$ saliensis showed genes between $\mid p \times B$ and surE to be hypervariable with addition and deletion of other genes. Other hypervariable loci identified in C. jejuni include LOS, capsule and flagella which encode for surface structure integral to $C$. jejuni pathogenesis. In contrast with other hypervariable loci of $C$. jejuni the peb3/gh $T$ locus does not encode for such surface features (i.e. flagella, capsule). Interestingly, this locus has not been identified in previous genetic diversity studies. This may be because regions which code for metabolic, biosynthetic, cellular, and regulatory processes, are conserved due to limited sequence diversity (Dorrell et al., 2001). This is evident with regions encoding the CDT toxin, the PEB proteins and other proteins such as CiaB and CadF (Dorrell et al., 2001).

Peb3 was present in the majority, but not all strains. In three strains, peb3 had multiple ORFS due to in-frame stop codons. Interestingly, the atypical C. jejuni 1336 strain, representative of the WW group and C. jejuni LMG23216, isolated from a chicken source, lacked peb3. Surprisingly, was $g / p T$ was not present in atypical strains, 414 and 1336, from the WW group (Hepworth et al., 2011). Both peb3 and $g l p T$ are found in almost all $C$. jejuni strains, but in closely related species only $g / \hbar T$ (C. coli), peb3 (C. lari) or neither (C. upsaliensis) are present.

The absence of the peb3 and $g l p T$ genes may indicate evidence of evolution of the genome leading to niche/habitat specialisation. Therefore, it would be of significant importance to examine other atypical WW group strains for the presence/absence of peb3 and $g / p T$ in order and what disadvantage/advantage this may confer.

One of the most interesting findings was the genetic diversity and structure observed among $g l p T$ from $64 C$. jejuni strains. Analysis of the $g \not p T$ gene sequences showed indels located in two hotspots termed Indel regions 1 and 2. It is unclear why these mutations occur at these two distinct sites. It is possible that these regions facilitate ribosomal frameshifting (i.e. slippery sequence), which may explain how $g \nmid \phi T$ from 11168 H is produced. However, this will require further investigation of the two frameshifting sites in the $11168 \mathrm{H} g / \mathrm{p} T$, which is beyond the scope of this study. In addition to these hot spots several strains contained larger deletions or smaller indel events. Furthermore, a majority of these $g l \phi T$ genes were shown to be disrupted, containing indels, which suggests selective pressure on $g l \hbar T$. In Chapter 4, I provided evidence that the $11168 \mathrm{H} g / p T$ pseudogene was functional. Interestingly, a number of strains possess a $g \nmid T T$ gene with identical sequence and structure to the $11168 \mathrm{H} g \nmid T T$ pseudogene, therefore, it would be of considerable interest to test these genes for 3-PG dependent growth and fosfomycin sensitivity. As it may be plausible that these pseudogenes are also functional. As with pseudogenes, it is not always apparent when pseudogenes are no longer transcribed or translated. Further work may evaluate the $g / p T$ gene region in the form of a RNA-sequence analysis, which would provide evidence of transcription and indicate if the inactivation of these $g / p T$ genes is recent.

Further work should investigate possible mechanisms in the production of GlpT. These include transcriptional slippage and ribosomal frameshifting. The process of transcriptional slippage occurs during the transcribing of homopolymeric-like nucleotide patterns such as poly A or T tracts (8-11 nucleotide runs) (Baranov et al., 2005). This results in the insertion
or deletion of one or more nucleotides and the synthesis of more than one protein from the gene product (Baranov et al., 2005). Due to this insertion or deletion the mRNA product will be shorter or longer than the DNA sequence template. The purpose of transcriptional slippage is to correct the frameshift and restore the open reading frame (Baranov et al., 2005). A second mechanism, known as programmed ribosomal frameshifting (PRF) occurs during translation whereby the ribosome shifts from the initial frame (0) to the -1 or +1 frame (Ketteler et al., 2012). This process is aided by the presence of signals within the mRNA such as a slippery sequence, spacer region and a secondary RNA structure (Ketteler et al., 2012; Caliskan et al., 2015). The resulting protein may be truncated, or contain two frameshift events that produce a sequence of three different frames such as seen in GlpT.

In transcriptional slippage differences between the DNA and mRNA due to the insertion or deletion of nucleotides would be present (Baranov et al., 2005). In order to define which mechanism aids the production of GlpT an RNA-sequence analysis would need to be performed. This sequence could also be used to determine if +1 or -1PRF is responsible as the FDSB and FSCAN can be used to search the mRNA sequence for the slippery sequence, spacer region and secondary RNA pseudoknot structures or if -1PRF, for the presence of a shifty stop sequence (Moon et al., 2007; Liao et al., 2009; Ketteler et al., 2012). It is possible that there is a -1PRF slippery sequence signal (AAAAAA T(U)), in Indel Region 1 and AAAG in Indel Region 2 (Figure 5.9) (Ketteler et al., 2012). However, this would require further work as the mRNA sequence may differ from DNA. If the mRNA mirrors the DNA sequence the presence and efficiency of these frameshifting sites can be studied. A common approach that experimentally tests these signals would involve fusing a $g / p T$ DNA fragment that contains these two putative frameshift motifs to a lacZ gene. If the $g / p T$ gene is expressed by -1PRF the frameshift can then be measured by $\beta$-galactosidase activity thus establishing whether or not-1PRF is involved (Miller, 1992; Chen \& Hu 2006).

In genome sequence annotations, disrupted genes are termed pseudogenes. In reference strains C. jejuni 11168, 81116 and 81-176 there are 19, 19, and 17 pseudogenes, respectively (Parkhill et al., 2000; Hofreuter et al., 2006; Pearson et al., 2007; Gundogdu et al., 2007). This number of pseudogenes is small compared to the 337 pseudogenes present in Yersinia pestis CO92 and 1133 pseudogenes present in M. leprae, whose genome is decaying (Lerat \& Ochman, 2005; Muro et al., 2013). As +1 and -1 PRF signals are present in viruses, bacteria and humans there is potential for this mechanism to apply to other bacterial pseudogenes (Ketteler et al., 2012).

Lastly, the peb3/gh $T$ locus arrangement and $g / p T$ structure was correlated with in silico MLST data. The relative position of the strains on the MLST tree indicated that these genes were not inherited by vertical transmission. For example, strains with large deletions, of the same peb3 size and location, in the $g / p T$ gene were observed in multiple CC-ST. This suggests that these deletions may have arisen independently, maybe more than once, or are horizontally transferred. In summary, these data show a) the region bound by $\not p x B$ and surE is hypervariable, b) is quite conserved, c) $g / p T$ displays genetic diversity and d) the peb3/ghT locus and $g \not \hbar T$ is not acquired through vertical transmission.

### 6.5 Concluding Remarks

The focus of this thesis was to improve our understanding of the PEB3 and GlpT Protein in the foodborne pathogen C.jejuni. From the assays and experiments conducted in this study it would seem that PEB3 is a heparin-binding protein and is likely to be associated with $C$. jejuni pathogenesis. Interestingly, the location of the gene peb 3 in 11168 H is adjacent to a $g \not \equiv T$ gene encoding for a putative phosphoglycerate transporter. This discovery may suggest a related function for the corresponding proteins in 3-PG dependent growth. However, the findings of this study show that GlpT, not PEB3, is essential for this phenotype. Additionally, GlpT is shown to be involved in fosfomycin sensitivity. These data indicate that this protein
is important for C. jejuni metabolism and antibiotic resistance, which may influence pathogenesis of this microbe. By conducting further work suggested throughout this discussion it is hoped that a better understanding of $C$. jejuni and PEB3/heparin interactions and the production/expression of the GlpT pseudogene can be gained.

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Appendix Table S1 Primers used for PCR amplification. Primers were used for the amplification and site-directed mutagenesis of Campylobacter jejuni genes and to confirm the correct construction of plasmids and knock-out mutants. Primers are all shown in the 5' to 3 ' orientations.

| \# | Primer Name | Sequence (5'-3') |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 321 | peb3SDMK64AF | TGG TTT GAA AAG GCT GCA AAA GAT GCA GAT ATT |
| 322 | peb3SDMK64AR | ATA TCT GCA TCT TTT GCA GCC TTT TCA AAC CA |
| 776 | peb3SDMK65A/K64AF | TGG TTT GAA AAG GCTG CAG CAG ATG CAG ATA TT |
| 777 | peb3SDMK65A/K64AR | AAT ATC TGC ATC TGC TGC AGC CTT TTC AAA CC |
| 299 | peb3SDMK123AF | GAT TTG GCT AAT GCA AAA GTA AGA ATC GTT |
| 300 | peb3SDMK123AR | AAC GAT TCT TAC TTT TGC ATT AGC CAA ATC |
| 301 | peb3SDMK124AF | GAT TTG GCT AAT AAA GCA GTA AGA ATC GTT |
| 302 | peb3SDMK124AR | AAC GAT TCT TAC TGC TTT ATT AGC CAA ATC |
| 774 | peb3SDMK123A/K124A F | GAT TTG GCT AAT GCA GCA GTA AGA ATC GTT |
| 775 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { peb3SDMK123A/K124A } \\ & \mathrm{R} \end{aligned}$ | AAC GAT TCT TAC TGC TGC ATT AGC CAA ATC |
| 801 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { peb3DMK123A/K124A/ } \\ & \text { R126AF } \end{aligned}$ | GAT TTG GCT AAT GCA GCA GTA GCA ATC GTT |
| 802 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { peb3SDMK123A/K124A } \\ & \text { /R126AR } \end{aligned}$ | AAC GAT TGC TAC TGC TGC_ATT AGC CAA ATC |
| 327 | S-TAGR | ATT TCG GTG ACA CTA TAG AAT |
| 81 | T7F | TAA TAC GAC TCA CTA TAG |
| 80 | SP6 | ATT AGG TGA CAC TAT AG |
| 1190 | glpTF | ATG AGA ACT TGG AGT TTA AG |
| 1191 | glpTR | CCA AAA TCA CTC GCT ATA GCT AAA G |
| 1188 | glpTSDMBamHIF | GTG GCT TGG ATG GAT CCT TTT GTT TAT ATG |
| 1189 | glpTSDMBamHIR | CAT ATA AAC AAA AGG ATC CAT CCA AGC CAC |
| 1203 | 11168outF | ATT TTA CCT AGA TAT TAC AAA |
| 1204 | 11168outR | CAA ATT TTA CTT TTG CTT GCA A |
| 1192 | 11168glpTF | AAA TTT TAC CTA GAT ATT ACA AA |
| 1193 | 11168glpTR | TTG CAA GCA AAA GTT AAA ATT G |
| 1194 | 11168glpTSeqF1 | TGC AAA CTG GTA TCC TAA AAA |
| 1195 | 11168glpTSeqF2 | TTT ATA TGG TGC GTT TTG GG |
| 1196 | 11168glpTSeqF3 | AAC AAA AGC ATA GGT TGG GC |
| 513 | KanFout | AAA TAT GGC GCT TCA TAG AC |
| 535 | KanRout | ATC AAG CCT GAT TGG GAG AA |
| 311 | Cat EndSeqF | GTG ACG GCT TTC ATG TTT GCC G |
| 66 | Cam148SeqR | GAT CAA AGC ATA ATC AAC CCT GC |
| 1063 | Pcam148F Flank | GTG AAT TTG AAG TGA TGC AAA AAG G |
| 1064 | Pcam148R Flank | CAT AAG CGT GTA TTC TAG CAT G |
| 1228 | glpTPci1F | GCT ACA TGT TTT GAT TTT TTC AAA CCT AAG GCA AAA |
| 1229 | glpTSpeIR | GAC ACT AGT TTA GTG ATG GTG ATG GTG ATG GTG ATG GTG ATG TTG ATG CTT CTT TTT AGC GCT AAA ATG |
| 1230 | $g / p T$ N-TermHAF | CAAA CATATG TAC CCG TAC GAC GTT CCC GAC TAC GCT AGA ACT TGG AGT TTA AGT GGG |
| 1231 | $g / p$ TNoTagF | CAAA CAT ATG AGA ACT TGG AGT TTA AGT GGG |
| 1232 | $g l p$ TC-TermHisR | CAC CAT CAC CAT CAC TAA ACT AGC ACT AGT AAT TGT ACA CAT ATG GCG |
| 65 | Cam148F | TCA ATA TCC GGG GAT TCT GG |
| 546 | Cam148R | CTT GGA AAG GAA CAC GGC CG |

Appendix Table S2 Plasmid List A * denotes a site-directed plasmid.

| Plasmid | Description |
| :---: | :---: |
| pETpeb3GST | pET41a (+) containing peb3 without signal peptide and with a N-terminal His-tag. Generated prior to my PhD. |
| * $\mathrm{pET}-41 \mathrm{a}(+) \mathrm{PEB3}_{\mathrm{K}} 64_{\text {A }}$ | Mutant pET-41a(+)PEB3 plasmid expressing alanine instead of lysine at position 64. Generated prior to my PhD. |
| * $\mathrm{pET}-41 \mathrm{a}(+)$ PEB3 ${ }_{\mathrm{K}} 64_{\mathrm{A}} /{ }_{\mathrm{K}} 65_{\text {A }}$ | Mutant pET-41a(+)PEB3 plasmid expressing alanine instead of lysine at position 64 and 65. |
| * $\mathrm{pET}-41 \mathrm{a}(+) \mathrm{PEB} 3{ }_{\mathrm{K}} 123_{\mathrm{A}}$ | Mutant pET-41a(+)PEB3 plasmid expressing alanine instead of lysine at position 123. Generated prior to my PhD. |
| * $\mathrm{pET}-41 \mathrm{a}(+) \mathrm{PEB} 3 \mathrm{k} 124_{\text {a }}$ | Mutant pET-41a(+)PEB3 plasmid expressing alanine instead of lysine at position 124. |
| * $\mathrm{pET}-41 \mathrm{a}(+) \mathrm{PEB}^{\mathrm{K}}$ 123 ${ }_{\mathrm{A}} / \mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{K}} 124_{\mathrm{A}}$ | Mutant pET-41a(+)PEB3 plasmid expressing alanine instead of lysine at position 123 and 124. |
| $\begin{aligned} & * \text { pET }^{*} 41 \mathrm{a}(+) \mathrm{PEB} 3_{\mathrm{K}} 123_{\mathrm{A}} / \mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{K}} 124_{\mathrm{A}} / \\ & \mathrm{R}^{126_{\mathrm{A}}} \end{aligned}$ | Mutant pET-41a(+)PEB3 plasmid expressing alanine instead of lysine at position 123 and 124 and alanine instead of arginine at position 126. |
| $\mathrm{p} g / \mathrm{p} T$ | pGEM-T easy plasmid containing the $g / p T$ gene |
| ${ }^{*} \mathrm{p} g / \mathrm{T}$ 佰 | pGEM-T easy plasmid containing the $g / p T$ gene with a site-directed BamHI restriction site. |
| pglpTB::kan | pGEM-T easy plasmid containing the $g \not \equiv T$ gene interrupted with a kanamycin resistance cassette. |
| pCJ0223::cat glp $T$ | Complementation vector expressing $g l p T$ with an 10x CTerminal His-Tag whereby expression is driven by a chloramphenicol promoter. |
| $\mathrm{p} g / p T_{\text {His }}$ | pGEM-T easy plasmid containing the $g \not p T$ gene $C$ Terminal 6x His-Tag |
| phaglp $T_{\text {His }}$ | pGEM-T easy plasmid containing the $g l p T$ gene N Terminal HA-Tag and C-Terminal 6x His-Tag |
| pCJporAglp $T_{\text {His }}$ | Complementation vector expressing $g l p T$ with an $C$ Terminal 6x His-Tag whereby expression is driven by a porA promoter |
| $p C J p o r A_{\text {Hag }} g / p T_{\text {His }}$ | Complementation vector expressing $g l p T$ with an N Terminal HA-Tag and C-Terminal 6x His-Tag whereby expression is driven by a por $A$ promoter |
| pCJfla $A_{\mathrm{HA}} \mathrm{g} / \mathrm{p} T_{\text {His }}$ | Complementation vector expressing $g l p T$ with an N Terminal HA-Tag and C-Terminal 6x His-Tag whereby expression is driven by a fla $A$ promoter |

Appendix Table S3 C. jejuni strains. The genetic manipulation of the peb3 and glpT (insertional knockout and genetic complement) was carried out in C. jejuni 11168H. The strains were created in or provided by* the Linton laboratory for this thesis.

| C. jejuni Strain | Genotype Description |
| :---: | :---: |
| *NCTC 11168H | Wild type genome sequence strain |
| *NCTC 11168H peb3 | Knockout mutant |
| *NTCT 11168H peb3 ${ }^{+}$ | 11168H peb3::kan complemented with peb3 |
| NTCT 11168H $g / p T$ | Knockout mutant |
| NTCT 11168H $g$ gT ${ }^{+}$ | 11168 H glpT:: kan complemented with $g \mid$ T $T$-His $0_{0 x}$ |
| $\Delta \mathrm{NCTC} 11168 \mathrm{H}$ porAghp $\mathrm{T}^{+}{ }_{\text {His }}$ | 11168 H glpT:: kan complemented with glpT-His ${ }_{\text {SX }}$ |
| $\Delta \mathrm{NCTC11168H}$ por $A_{\mathrm{H} ⿵} g / \hbar T^{+}{ }_{\text {His }}$ | 11168H glpT::kan complemented with HAglpT$H_{i s}{ }_{6 x}$ |
| $\Delta \mathrm{NCTC} 11168 \mathrm{H}$ fla $A_{\text {HA }} \mathrm{g} / \mathrm{p} T^{+}{ }_{\text {His }}$ | 11168H g/pT::kan complemented with HAghpTHis ${ }_{6 x}$ |

Appendix Table S4 E. coli strains. Listed are E. coli strains used for molecular biology, gene expression and protein production, along with a genotype description.

| E. coli Strain | Genotype Description |
| :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { DH5 } \alpha \\ \text { (Linton Lab) } \end{gathered}$ | F' Phi80dlacZ DeltaM15 Delta(lacZYA-argF)U169 deoR recA1 endA1 bsdR17(rK-mK+)phoA supE44 lambda- thi-1 |
| $\mathrm{BL21-AI}$ (Invitrogen) | $F^{-}$ompT gal dom lon hsdS $S_{B}\left(r_{B^{\prime}} m^{*}{ }^{\prime}\right)$ araB::T7RN AP-tet $A$ |
| XL1-Blue <br> (Stratagene) | recA1 endA1 gyrA96 thi-1 bsdR17 supE44 relA1 lac [F' proAB lacIqZ 4 M15 Tn10 (Tetr)] (Note: Prior to use 1.7 ul $\beta$ mercaptoethanol was added to cells and incubated on ice for 10 minutes with gentle mixing) |

Appendix Table S5: $C$. jejuni strain accession numbers for peb3/glpTlocus

| C. jejuni strain | $p e b 3 / g 1 p T$ <br> locus | Accession | Total Contigs |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| D2600 | AGTF01000007 | AGTF00000000.1 | AGTF01000001-AGTF01000056 |
| IA3902 | CP001876 | CP001876.1 | CP001876.1 |
| RM1221 | NC_003912 | NC_003912 | NC_003912 |
| 11168 | NC_002163 | NC_002163 | NC_002163 |
| 81116 | NC_009839 | NC_009839 | NC_009839 |
| 81-176 | NC_008787 | NC_008787 | NC_008787 |
| 33560 | AIOL01000013 | AIOL00000000 | AIOL01000001-AIOL01000220 |
| c414 | ADGM01000031 | NZ_ADGM00000000 | ADGM01000001-ADGM01000035 |
| 1336 | ADGL01000005 | ADGL00000000 | ADGL01000001-ADGL01000035 |
| S3 | CP001960 | CP001960.1 | CP001960.1 |
| NW | AGTE01000012 | AGTE00000000 | ADHK01000001-ADHK0100007 |
| DFVF1099 | ADHK01000039 | ADHK00000000.1 | ADHK01000001-ADHK01000071 |
| 305 | ADHL01000162 | ADHL00000000.1 | ADHL01000001-ADHL01000333 |
| ICDCCJ07001 | NC_014802 | NC_014802 | NC_014802 |
| 129-258 | AINY01000001 | AINY00000000 | AINY01000001-AINY01000102 |
| 51494 | AINZ01000014 | AINZ00000000 | AINZ01000001-AINZ01000215 |
| 84-25 | AANT02000003 | NZ_AANT00000000 | AANT02000001-AANT02000005 |
| 260.94 | AANK01000002 | NZ_AANK00000000 | AANK01000001-AANK01000010 |
| CG8486 | AASY01000013 | NZ_AASY00000000 | AASY01000001-AASY01000019 |
| HB93-13 | AANQ01000003 | NZ_AANQ00000000 | AANQ01000001-AANQ01000035 |
| M1 | CP001900 | CP001900.1 | CP001900.1 |
| CF93-6 | AANJ01000001 | NZ_AANJ00000000 | AANJ01000001-AANJ01000014 |
| 327 | ADHM01000004 | ADHM00000000.1 | ADHM01000001-ADHM01000048 |
| P110B | AEIO01000010 | AEIO00000000 | AEIO01000001-AEIO01000029 |
| H22082 | AEIP01000001 | AEIP00000000 | EIP01000001-AEIP01000028 |
| LMG23216 | AIOA01000011 | AIOA00000000 | AIOA01000001-AIOA01000121 |
| LMG23218 | AIOB01000025 | AIOB00000000 | AIOB01000001-AIOB01000106 |
| LMG 23223 | AIOC01000011 | AIOC00000000 | AIOC01000001-AIOC01000105 |
| LMG23263 | AIOD01000020 | AIOD00000000 | AIOD01000001-AIOD01000172 |
| 60004 | AIOE01000021 | AIOE00000000 | AIOE01000001-AIOE01000143 |
| LMG23264 | AIOF01000046 | AIOF00000000 | AIOF01000001-AIOF01000147 |
| LMG23269 | AIOG01000038 | AIOG00000000 | AIOG01000001-AIOG01000124 |
| 55037 | AIOH01000005 | AIOH00000000 | AIOH01000001-AIOH01000104 |
| LMG9879 | AIOI01000021 | AIOI00000000 | AIOI01000001-AIOI01000129 |
| 86605 | AIOJ01000014 | AIOJ00000000 | AIOJ01000001-AIOJ01000120 |
| LMG23357 | AIOK01000007 | AIOK00000000 | AIOK01000001-AIOK01000126 |
| LMG9081 | AIOM01000014 | AIOM00000000 | AIOM01000001-AIOM01000108 |
| 53161 | AION01000013 | AION00000000 | AION01000001-AION01000123 |
| LMG 9217 | AIOO01000007 | AIOO00000000 | AIOO01000001-AIOO01000118 |
| 2008-1025 | AIOP01000003 | AIOP00000000 | AIOP01000001-AIOP01000139 |
| 2008-894 | AIOQ01000054 | AIOQ00000000 | AIOQ01000001-AIOQ01000116 |
| 2008-988 | AIOS01000033 | AIOS00000000 | AIOS01000001-AIOS01000206 |
| 1997-1 | AIOT01000012 | AIOT00000000 | AIOT01000001-AIOT01000112 |
| 2008-979 | AIOU01000013 | AIOU00000000 | AIOU01000001-AIOU01000217 |
| 2008-831 | AIOV01000005 | AIOV00000000 | AIOV01000001-AIOV01000120 |
| 1997-4 | AIOW01000041 | AIOW00000000 | AIOW01000001-AIOW01000129 |
| 1997-7 | AIOX01000035 | AIOX00000000 | AIOX01000001-AIOX01000076 |
| 1997-10 | AIOY01000011 | AIOY00000000 | AIOY01000001-AIOY01000193 |
| 1997-11 | AIOZ01000033 | AIOZ00000000 | AIOZ01000001-AIOZ01000115 |
| 1997-14 | AIPA01000006 | AIPA00000000 | AIPA01000001-AIPA01000196 |
| 51037 | AIPB01000032 | AIPB00000000 | AIPB01000001-AIPB01000207 |
| 110-21 | AIPC01000014 | AIPC00000000 | AIPC01000001-AIPC01000113 |


| 87330 | AIPD01000012 | AIPD00000000 | AIPD01000001-AIPD01000107 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 87459 | AIPE01000032 | AIPE00000000 | AIPE01000001-AIPE01000201 |
| $140-16$ | AIPF01000026 | AIPF00000000. | AIPF01000001-AIPF01000123 |
| 1213 | AIPG01000033 | AIPG00000000 | AIPG01000001-AIPG01000125 |
| 1798 | AIPIO1000018 | AIPI00000000 | AIPI01000001-AIPI01000106 |
| 1854 | AIPJ01000006 | AIPJ00000000 | AIPJ01000001-AIPJ01000110 |
| 1893 | AIPK01000044 | AIPK00000000 | AIPK01000001-AIPK01000101 |
| 1928 | AIPL01000001 | AIPL00000000 | AIPL01000001-AIPL01000127. |
| LMG9872 | AIPM01000030 | AIPM00000000 | AIPM01000001-AIPM01000091 |
| LMG23210 | AIPN01000024 | AIPN00000000 | AIPN01000001-AIPN01000164 |
| LMG23211 | AIPO01000006 | AIPO00000000 | AIPO01000001-AIPO01000112 |
| CG8421 | ABGQ01000004 | ABGQ00000000 | ABGQ01000001-ABGQ01000020 |

Appendix Table S6: Campylobacter species accession numbers for peb3/glpTlocus

| C. lari | peb3/glpTlocus | Accession | Total Contigs |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| RM1200 | NC_012039 | NC_012039 | NC_012039-NC_012041 |
| C. upsaliensis | peb3/glpTlocus | Accession | Total Contigs |
| JV21 | AEPU01000011 | AEPU00000000 | AEPU01000001-AEPU01000049 |
| RM3195 | AAFJ01000001 | AAFJ00000000 | AAFJ01000001- AAFJ01000020 |
| C. coli strain | peb3/glpTlocus | Accession | Total Contigs |
| RM2282 | AAFL01000003 | AAFL00000000 | AAFL01000001-AAFL01000038 |
| JV20 | AEER01000027 | AEER0000000 | AEER01000001-AEER01000034 |
| 86119 | AIMU01000004 | AIMU00000000 | AIMU01000001-AIMU01000120 |
| LMG23336 | AINM01000033 | AINM00000000 | AINM01000001-AINM01000120 |
| LMG23341 | AINN01000004 | AINN00000000 | AINN01000001-AINN01000118 |
| 132-6 | AINA01000029 | AINA00000000 | AINA01000001-AINA01000148 |
| H56 | AINW01000004 | AINW00000000 | AINW01000001-AINW01000134 |
| 202/204 | AINH01000006 | AINH00000000 | AINH01000001-AINH01000104 |
| 2548 | AIML01000019 | AIML00000000 | AIML01000001-AIML01000162 |
| LMG23344 | AINP01000028 | AINP00000000 | AINP01000001-AINP01000192 |
| LMG9853 | AINR01000007 | AINR00000000 | AINR01000001-AINR01000085 |
| LMG9854 | AINL01000001 | AINL00000000 | AINL01000001-AINL01000118 |
| LMG9860 | AINS010000039 | AINS000000000 | AINS01000001-AINS01000187 |
| 2680 | AIMN01000006 | AIMN00000000 | AIMN01000001-AIMN01000128 |
| 2685 | AIMO01000028 | AIMO00000000 | AIMO01000001-AIMO01000103 |
| 2688 | AIMP01000017 | AIMP00000000 | AIMP01000001-AIMP01000209 |
| 2698 | AIMR01000005 | AIMR0000000 | AIMR01000001-AIMR01000141 |
| 317/04 | AINJ01000002 | AINJ00000000 | AINJ01000001-AINJ01000133 |
| 37/05 | AINK01000040 | AINK00000000 | AINK01000001-AINK01000122 |
| 151-9 | AINQ01000001 | AINQ00000000 | AINQ01000001-AINQ01000107 |
| 1909 | AINC01000035 | AINC00000000 | AINC01000001-AINC01000133 |
| 1948 | AINE01000046 | AINE00000000 | AINE00000001-AINE01000105 |
| 1957 | AINF01000009 | AINF00000000 | AINF01000001-AINF01000123 |
| 1961 | AING01000009 | AING00000000 | AING01000001- AING01000128 |
| 59-2 | AIND01000004 | AIND00000000 | AIND01000001-AIND01000140 |
| 67-8 | AINI01000007 | AINI000000000 | AINI01000001-AINI01000137 |
| 7-1 | AIMZ01000004 | AIMZ00000000 | AIMZ01000001-AIMZ01000099 |
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| 90-3 | AIMJ01000007 | AIMJ00000000 | AIMJ01000001- AIMJ01000121 |
| H6 | AINT01000001 | AINT00000000 | AINT01000001 AINT01000122 |
| H8 | AINU01000020 | AINU00000000 | AINU01000001- AINU01000191 |
| H9 | AINV01000003 | AINV00000000 | AINV01000001- AINV01000091 |
| 1091 | AIMV01000025 | AIMV00000000 | AIMV01000001- AIMV01000132 |
| 1098 | AIMW0100025 | AIMW00000000 | AIMW01000001- AIMW01000126 |
| 111-3 | AIMI01000023 | AIMI00000000 | AIMI01000001- AIMI01000122 |
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| Z163 | AIMK01000002 | AIMK0000000 | AIMK01000001- AIMK01000105 |
| 84-2 | AIMS01000028 | AIMS00000000 | AIMS01000001- AIMS01000099 |

Figure S1 Nucleotide alignment of 64 C. jejuni glp $T$ genes. The sequence in highlighted light grey areas indicate (-) deletions, highlighted/bolded letters indicate insertions and dark grey highlighting indicates nucleotide substitutions. Indel Regions 1 and 2 are boxed in blue. * indicate fully conserved residues; . indicate weak conservation; blank space indicates no conservation. The alignment was compiled using MAFFT in Clustal format and modified in Jalview. The conserved consensus sequence is given below the alignment.

2008-831 ATGTTTGATTTTTTCAAACCTAAGGCAAAAGCTATTAAATTTCCTCTTTAGGAAATTTTA

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Consensus


#### Abstract

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#### Abstract

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| 51494 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－AAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
| 1997－14 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－AAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
| 33560 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAAAAAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCTGTTTGGAATA |
| 1997－7 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－AAGAGAGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
| 129－258 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－AAGAGAGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
| CG84－86 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－A－GAGCGGGGAATTTATACAGCTATTTGGAATA |
| 140－16 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－AAGAGAGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
| LMG23263 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－AAGAGAGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
| 1798 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－AAGAGAGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
| 1893 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－AAGAGAGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
| LMG23216 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－AAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCATTTGGAATA |
| M1 | CACTCTTGCAAACTAGTATCCTAAAA－A－GAGCGAGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
| 2008－894 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCCAAAA－AAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
| LMG23357 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCCAAAA－AAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
| LMG23211 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－AAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
| 55037 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAA－－AAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
| 1997－1 | CACTCTTACAAACTGATATCCTAAAA－AAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
| 1854 | CACTCTTACAAACTGATATCCTAAAA－AAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
| LMG23223 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－AAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
| LMG 9872 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－AAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
| 81116 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－AAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
| 327 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－AAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
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| CG84－21 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－AAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
| P110B | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－AAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
| LMG 9081 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－AAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
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| 110－21 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－AAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
| 1928 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－AAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
| 84－25 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－AAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
| 86605 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－AAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
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| LMG9879 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－AAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
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| HB93－13 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－AAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
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| LMG23264 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－AAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
| 60004 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－AAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
| 305 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－AAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
| IA3902 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－AAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
| H22082 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－AAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
| 1997－11 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－AAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCATTTGGAATA |
| 53161 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－AAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
| 2008－988 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－AAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
| 51037 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－AAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
| D2600 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－AAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
| CF93－6 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－AAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA |
| 1997－4 | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAA－AAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA <br>  |
| Consensus | CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAAAAAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAAT |

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CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATAC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTC-------CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTC-------CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTC------CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGCTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATACTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGCGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTGCTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTAGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATAC CTGTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATAC *********.*********.*.****。**********************.***...*... 1320

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TTTGTATACTTTGTTCTACTTTATGTCATTTTAGCGCTAAAAAGAAGCATCAATAA TTTGTATACTTTGTTCTACTTTATGTCATTTTAGCGCTAAAAAGAAGCATCAATAA TTTGTATACTTTGTTCTACTTTATGTCATTTTAGCACTAAAAAGAAGCATCAATAA TTTGTATACTTTGTTCTACTTTATGTCATTTTAGCACTAAAAAGAAGCATCAATAA TTTGTATACTTTGTTCTACTTTATGTCATTTTAGCACTAAAAAGAAGCATCAATAA TTTGTATACTTTGTTCTACTTTATGTCATTTTAGCGCTAAAAAGAAGCATCAATAA TTTGTATACTTTGTTCTACTTTATGTCATTTTAGCGCTAAAAAGAAGCATCAATAA TTTGTATACTTTGTTCTACTTTATGTCATTTTAGCGCTAAAAAGAAGCATCAATAA TTTGTATACTTTGTTCTACTTTATGTCATTTTAGCGCTAAAAAGAAGCATCAATAA TTTGTATACTTTGTTCTACTTTATGTCATTTTAGCGCTAAAAAGAAGCATCAATAA TTTGTATACTTTGTTCTACTTTATGTCATTTTAGCGCTAAAAAGAAGCATCAATAA TTTGTATACTTTGTTCTACTTTATGTCATTTTAGCGCTAAAAAGAAGCATCAATAA -----------------------------------------AAAAGAAGTATCAATAA
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Figure S2 Nucleotide alignment of the deletion containing glpT genes of LMG9879, M1, 33560, 1997-7, 129-258, 81-176 and 2008-831 with the 81116 glp .
Highlighted light grey areas indicate ( - ) deletions, bolded nucleotide is a insert, dark grey indicates nucleotide subsitutions. * indicate fully conserved residues, . indicate weak conservations, and blank indicates no conservation.

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ATGTTTGATTTTTTCAAACCTAAGGCAAAAGCTATTAAATTTCCTAAAGAGGAAATTTTA ATGTTTGATTTTTTCAAACCTAAGGCAAAAGCTATTAAATTTCCTCTTTAGGAAATTTTA ATGTTTGATTTTTTCAAACCTAAGGCAAAAGCTATTAAATTTCCTAAAGAGGAAATTTTA ATGTTTGATTTTTTCAAGCCTAAGGCAAAAGCTATTAAATTTCCTAAAGAGGAAATTTTA ATGTTTGATTTTTTCAAACCTAAGGCAAAAGCTATTAAATTTCCTCTTTAGGAAATTTTA ATGTTTGATTTTTTCAAACCTAAGGCAAAAGCTATTAAATTTCCTCTTTAGGAAATTTTA ATGTTTGATTTTTTCAAACCTAAGGCAAAAGCTATTAAATTTCCTCTTTAGGAAATTTTA ATGTTTGATTTTTTCAAACCTAAGGCAAAAGCTATTAAATTTCCTCTTTAGGAAATTTTA

CCTAGATATTACAAAATGAGAACTTGGAGTTTAAGTGGGGTTTTTATAGGATATATGGGA CCTAGATATTACAAAATGAGAACTTGGAGTTTAAGTGGGGTTTTTATAGGATATATGGGA CCTAGATATTACAAAATGAGAACTTGGAGTTTAAGTGGGGTTTTTATAGGATATATGGGA CCTAGATATTACAAAATGAGAACTTGGAGTTTAAGTGGGG-TTTTATAGGATATATGGGA CTTAGATATTACAAAATGAGAACTTGGAGTTTAAGTGGGGTTTTTATAGGATATATGGGA CTTAGATATTACAAAATGAGAACTTGGAGTTTAAGTGGGGTTTTTATAGGATATATGGGA CCTAGATATTACAAAATGAGAACTTGGAGTTTAAGTGGGGTTTTTATAGGATATATGGGA CCTAGATATTACAAAATGAGAACTTGGAGTTTAAGTGGGGTTTTTATAGGATATATGGGA
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CTCAGTAAATCAGACATCGGAACAATCACAGGCTCAATGCTTATAGCTTACGGGATTAGC CTCAGTAAATCAGACATCGGAACAATCACAGGCTCAATGCTTATAGCTTACGGGATTAGC CTCAGCAAATCAGACATCGGAACAATCACAGGCTCAATGCTTATAGCTTACGGGATTAGC CTCAGTAAATCAGACATCGGAACAATCACAGGCTCAATGCTTATAGCTTACGGGATTAGC CTCAGTAAATCAGACATCGGAACAATCACAGGCTCAATGCTTATAGCTTACGGGATTAGC CTCAGTAAATCAGACATCGGAACAATCACAGGCTCAATGCTTATAGCTTACGGGATTAGC
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AAGGGTGCAATGAGCGTTATAAGCGACAAAGCTGATCCTAAAAAA-TACATGGCTTTAGG AAGGGTGCAATGAGCGTTATAAGCGACAAAGCTGATCCTAAAAAA-T-CATGGCTTTAGG AAGGGTGCAATGAGCGTTATAAGCGATAAAGCTGATCCTAAAAAA-TACATGGCTTTAGG AAÄGTGCAATGAGCGTTATAAGCGATAAAGCTGATCCCAAAAAAATATATGGCTTTAGG AAGGGTGCAATGAGCGTTATAAGCGACAAAGCTGGTCCTAAAAAA---CATGGCTTTAGG AAGGGTGCAATGAGCGTTATAAGCGACAAAGCTGGTCCTAAAAAA---CATGGCTTTAGG

TCTTATTTTATGTGCTCTTGTAAATGTTTTACTTGGTTTTTCAAATTCTTTTTACGCTTA TCTTATTTTATGTGCTCTTGTAAATGTTTTACTTGGTTTTTCAAATTCTTTTTACGCTTA TCTTATTTTATGTGCTCTTGTAAATGTTTTACTT-------------------------------1 TCTTATTTTATGTGCTCTTGTAAATGTTTTACTTGGTTTTTCAAATTCTTTTTACGCTTA TCTTATTTTATGTGCTCTTGTAAATGTTTTACTTGGTTTTTCAAATTCTTTTTACGCTTA TCTTATTTTATGTGCTCTTGTAAATGTTTTACTTGGTTTTTCAAATTCTTTTTACGCTTA --------------------------------------------------------------------1 TGTAGGTTTTGTTATCGCGCTTGGGGTTTTTCAAGGTATGGGGGTAGGTCCTTCTTTTAT TGTAGGTTTTGTTATCGCGCTTGGGGTTTTTCAAGGTATGGGGGTAGGTCCTTCTTTTAT ------------------------GGTTTTTCAAGGTATGGGGGTAGGTCCTTCTTTTAT TGTAGGTTTTGTTATCTCGCTT-GGGTTTTTCAAGGTATGGGAGTGGATCCTTCTTTTAT TGTAGGTTTTGTTATCGCGCTTGGGGTTTTTCAAGATATGAGGGTAGGTCCTTCTTTTAT TGTAGGTTTTGTTATCGCGCTTGGGGTTTTTCAAGATATGAGGGTAGGTCCTTCTTTTAT -----------------------------------------------------------------TAT -----------------------------------------------------------------1AT

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CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCT－AAAAAAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCT－AAAAAAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA CACTCTTGCAAACTAGTATCCT－－AAAAAGAGCGAGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCTAAAAAAAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCTGTTTGGAATA CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCT－AAAAAAGAGAGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCT－AAAAAAGAGAGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCT－AAAAAAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA CACTCTTGCAAACTGGTATCCT－AAAAAAGAGCGGGGAATTTACACGGCCGTTTGGAATA $\star \star * * * * * * * * * * * * . * * * * * * * \quad * * * * * * * * . * . * * * * * * * * * * * * * * . * * * * * * * * * * 480$

TСTCACATAATATAGGAGGCGGGATAGTTGCTCCTATAGTTTCGCTTTCAGGTTTTGCTT TCTCACATAATATAGGAGGCGGGATAGTTGCTCCTATA－－－－－－－－－－－－－－－GTTTTGCTT TCTCACATAATATAGGAGGCGGGATAGTTGCTCCTATAGTTTCGCTTTCTGGATTTGCTT TCTCACATAATATAGGAGGCGAGATAGTTGCTCCTATAGTTTCACTTTCAGGTTTTGCTT TCTCACATAATATAGGAGGCGGGATAGTTGCTCCTATAGTGTCACTTTCTGGATTTGCTT TCTCACATAATATAGGAGGCGGGATAGTTGCTCCTATAGTGTCACTTTCTGGATTTGCTT TCTCACATAATATAGGAGGCGGGATAGTTGCTCCTATAGTTTCGCTTTCAGGTTTTGCTT TCTCACATAATATAGGAGGTGGGATAGTTGCTCCTATAGTTTCGCTTTCAGGTTTTGCTT540

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ATATGGTGCGTTTTGGGCTTATTTCTTGGCTTCCTATTTACTTGCTAGAAACAAAAGGCT ATATGGTGCGTTTTGGGCTTATTTCTTGGCTTCCTATTTACTTGCTAGAAACAAAAGGCT ATATGGTGCGTTTTGGGCTTATTTCTTGGCTTCCTATTTACTTGCTAGAAACAAAAGGCT ATATGGTGCGTTTTGGGCTTATTTCTTGGCTTCCTATTTACTTACTAGAAACAAAAGGCT ATATGGTGCGTTTTGGGCTTATTTCTTGGCTTCCTATTTACTTGCTAGAAACAAAAGGCT ATATGGTGCGTTTTGGGCTTATTTCTTGGCTTCCTATTTACTTGCTAGAAACAAAAGGCT ATATGGTGCGTTTTGGGCTTATTTCTTGGCTTCCTATTTACTTGCTAGAAACAAAAGGCT ATATGGTGCGTTTTGGGCTTATTTCTTGGCTTCCTATTTACTTGCTAGAAACAAAAGGCT . .

TTAATAAAGAACAAATGGGTATTGCCTTTTGGCTTTTTGAATGGGCTGCCATACCTTCTA TTAATAAAGAACAAATAGGTATTGCCTTTTGGCTTTTTGAATGGGCTGCTATACCTTCTA TTAATAAAGAACAAATGGGTATTGCCTTTTGGCTTTTTGAATGGGCTGCTATACCTTCTA TTAATAAAGAACAAATGGGTATTGCCTTTTGGCTTTTTGAATGGGCTGCCATACCTTCTA TTAATAAAGAACAAATAGGTATTGCC-TTTGGCTTTTTGAATGGGCTGCTATACCTTCTA TTAATAAAGAACAAATAGGTATTGCC-TTTGGCTTTTTGAATGGGCTGCTATACCTTCTA TTAATAAAGAACAAATAGGTATTGCCTTTTGGCTTTTTGAATGGGCTGCTATACCTTCTA TTAATAAAGAACAAATGGGTATTGCCTTTTGGCTTTTTGAATGGGCTGCTATACCTTCTA ****************。********* **********************.********** 960

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CTTTACTTGCAGGATATATTTCAGATAAAATTTTTAAAGGCTATAGAATGCCTCCTGCTA CTTTACTTGCAGGATATATTTCAGATAAAATTTTTAAAGGCTATAGAATGCCTCCTGCTA CTTTACTTGCAGGATATATTTCAGATAAAATTTTTAAAGGCTATAGAATGCCTCCTGCTA CTTTACTTGCAGGATATATTTCAGATAAAATTTTTAAAGGCTATAGAATGCCTCCTGCTA CTTTACTTGCAGGATATATTTCAGATAAAATTTTTAAAGGCTATAGAATGCCTCCTGCTA CTTTACTTGCAGGATATATTTCAGATAAAATTTTTAAAGGCTATAGAATGCCTCCTGCTA CTTTACTTGCAGGATATATTTCAGATAAAATTTTTAAAGGCTATAGAATGCCTCCTGCTA CTTTACTTGCAGGATATATTTCAGATAAAATTTTTAAAGGCTATAGAATGCCTCCTGCTA


TAGGCGCCATGGTGATTATTTTCTTTATGATTATTGGATATTTTACTTCAAATAATCTTT TAGGCGCCATGGTGATTATTTTCTTTATGATTATTGGATATTTTACTTCAAATAATCTTT TAGGTGCTATGGTGATTATTTTCTTTATGATTATTGGATATTTTACTTCAAATAATCTTT TAGGTGCTATAGTGATTATTTTCTTTATGATTATTGGATATTTTACTTCAAATAATCTTT TAGGCGCCATGGTGATTATTTTCTTTATGATTATTGGATATTTTACTTCAAATAATCTTT TAGGCGCCATGGTGATTATTTTCTTTATGATTATTGGATATTTTACTTCAAATAATCTTT TAGGCGCCATAGTGATTATTTTCTTTATGATTATTGGATATTTTACTTCAAATAATCTTT TAGGCGCCATGGTGATTATTTTCTTTATGATTATTGGATATTTTACTTCAAATAATCTTT ****。**.**. ************************************************* 1080

ATATGGTTATTTTCTTTGCAGCTATGGCGGGGTGTTTAGTCTATATACCACAATTTTTAG ATATGGTTATTTTCTTTGCAGCTATGGCGGGGTGTTTAGTCTATATACCACAATTTTTAG ATATGGTTATTTTCTTTGCAGCTATGGCGGGGTGTTTAGTCTATATACCACAATTTTTAG ATATGATTACTTTCTTTGCAGCTATGGCGGGGTATTTGGTCTATATACCACAATTTTTAG ATATGGTTATTTTCTTTGCAGCTATGGCAGGGTGTTTAGTCTATATACCACAATTTTTAG ATATGGTTATTTTCTTTGCAGCTATGGCAGGGTGTTTAGTCTATATACCACAATTTTTAG ATATGGTTATTTTCTTTGCAGCTATGGCGGGGTGTTTAGTCTATATACCACAATTTTTAG ATATGGTTATTTTCTTTGCAGCTATGGCGGGGTGTTTAGTCTATATACCACAATTTTTAG


CAAGTGTGCAAACTATGGAAGTCGTTCCTGCTTTTGCAGTAGGATCTTGTGTAGGACTTC CAAGTATGCAAACTATGGAAGTCGTTCCTGCTTTTGCAGTAGGATCTTGTGTAGGACTTC CAAGTGTGCAAACTATGGAAGTCGTTCCTGCTTTTGCAGTAGGATCTTGTGTAGGATTTC CAAGTGTGCAAACTATGGAAGTCGTTCCTGCTTTTGCAGTAGGATCTTGTGTAGGACTTC CAAGTGTGCAAACTATGGAAGTCGTTCCTGCTTTTGCAGTAGGATCTTGTGTAGGATTTC CAAGTGTGCAAACTATGGAAGTCGTTCCTGCTTTTGCAGTAGGATCTTGTGTAGGATTTC CAAGTATGCAAACTATGGAAGTCGTTCCTGCTTTTGCAGTAGAATCTTGTGTAGGACTTC CAAGTGTGCAAACTATGGAAGTCGTTCCTGCTTTTGCAGTAGGATCTTGTGTAGGACTTC GTGGCTTTATGAGTTATGTAGTCGGCGCTTCACTTGGAACAAAAGC-TATAGGTTGGGCT ATGGCTTTATGAGTTATGTAGTCGGCGCTTCACTTGGAACAAAAGC--ATAGGTTGGGCT GTGGCTTTATGAGTTATGTAGTCGGCGCTTCACTTGGAACAAAAGC-TATAGGCTGGGCT GTGGTTTTATGAGTTATATAGTCGGCGCTTCACTTGGAACAAAGGCTTATAGGTTGGGCT GTGGCTTTATGAGTTATGTAGTCGGCGCTTCACTTGGAACAAAAGC-TATAGGTTGGGCT GTGGCTTTATGAGTTATGTAGTCGGCGCTTCACTTGGAACAAAAGC-TATAGGTTGGGCT ATGGCTTTATGAGTTATGTAGTCGGCGCTTCACTTGGAACAAAAGC--ATAGGTTGGGCT GTGGCTTTATGAGTTATGTAGTCGGCGCTTCACTTGGAACAAAAGC-TATAGGTTGGGCT $. * * * . * * * * * * * * * * * * . * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * . * * \ldots * * * * * * * * * * * 1260$

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GTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTCTT GTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTCTT GTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATACTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTCTT GTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTCAAA-----GTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTCAAA------GTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTCAAA----GTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTCTT GTGGATTACTATGGTAGTTGGAATGCTGGTCTTATCATGCTCCTTAGTGCTTGTATTCTT 1320
$\star \star \star \star \star \star * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *, ~ * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * . . ~ * ~$
TGTATACTTTGTTCTACTTTATGTCATTTTAGCGCTAAAAAGAAGTATCAATAA TGTATACTTTGTTCTACTTTATGTCATTTTAGCGCTAAAAAGAAGCATCAATAA TGTATACTTTGTTCTACTTTATGTCATTTTAGCGCTAAAAAGAAGCATCAATAA ----------------------------------------AGAGTATCAATAA ----------------------------------------------AGAAGTATCAATAA -------------------------------------------AGAAGTATCAATAA TGTATACTTTGTTCTACTTTATGTCATTTTAGCGCTAAAAAGAAGCATCAATAA TGTATACTTTGTTCTACTTTATGTCATTTTAGCGCTAAAAAGAAGCATCAATAA 1374

Table S7 Allelic profiles of $\mathbf{6 4} \boldsymbol{C}$. jejuni strains. Sequence types (ST) and clonal complexes (ST-CC) among C. jejuni isolates in this study.

| Strain | (ST- CC) | ST | aspA | $g \ln A$ | gltA | glyA | pgm | tkt | uncA |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1854 | NA | 922 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 83 | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 81-176 | ST-42 | 604 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 27 | 5 | 9 | 3 |
| ICDCJ07001 | ST-362 | 2993 | 1 | 2 | 42 | 4 | 11 | 9 | 8 |
| 129-258 | ST-42 | 459 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 3 |
| 260.94 | ST-362 | 362 | 1 | 2 | 49 | 4 | 11 | 66 | 8 |
| HB93-13 | ST-22 | 22 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 1798 | ST-61 | 61 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 17 |
| 140-16 | ST-61 | 5161 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 225 | 1 | 17 |
| 1213 | ST-508 | 132 | 1 | 6 | 22 | 24 | 12 | 28 | 1 |
| 1997-7 | ST-61 | 61 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 17 |
| 1997-11 | ST-22 | 22 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| LMG23211 | ST-179 | 220 | 1 | 6 | 29 | 2 | 40 | 32 | 3 |
| IA3902 | ST-21 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| 84-25 | ST-21 | 21 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| DFVF1099 | ST-21 | 21 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| 305 | NA | NA | 2 | 1 | nd | nd | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| 11168 | ST-21 | 43 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| CF93-6 | ST-21 | 883 | 2 | 17 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| LMG9879 | ST-21 | 47 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| 60004 | NA | 4836 | 2 | 378 | 27 | 2 | 11 | 3 | 5 |
| LMG23264 | ST-206 | 46 | 2 | 21 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| LMG23218 | ST-48 | 48 | 2 | 319 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 5 |
| P110B | ST-48 | 474 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| H22082 | ST-48 | 474 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| 2008-1025 | ST-21 | 50 | 2 | 1 | 12 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| 86605 | ST-48 | 4840 | 2 | 4 | 27 | 122 | 11 | 1 | 5 |
| 1997-1 | ST-658 | 658 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 19 | 3 | 6 |
| 2008-831 | ST-21 | 50 | 2 | 1 | 12 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| 1997-4 | ST-48 | 475 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 19 | 62 | 5 |
| 110-21 | ST-21 | 982 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| 87330 | ST-21 | 50 | 2 | 1 | 12 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| 1893 | ST-48 | 38 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 5 |
| 1928 | ST-21 | 806 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 140 | 3 | 5 |
| M1 | ST-45 | 137 | 4 | 7 | 10 | 4 | 42 | 7 | 1 |
| 81116 | ST-283 | 267 | 4 | 7 | 40 | 4 | 42 | 51 | 1 |
| 327 | ST-45 | 230 | 4 | 7 | 41 | 4 | 42 | 7 | 1 |
| 55037 | ST-45 | 45 | 4 | 7 | 10 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 1 |
| 2008-988 | ST-206 | 572 | 62 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| D2600 | ST-353 | 452 | 7 | 17 | 12 | 2 | 10 | 3 | 6 |
| CG8486 | ST-574 | 2943 | 7 | 53 | 27 | 15 | 11 | 3 | 3 |
| LMG 23223 | NA | 791 | 7 | 97 | 5 | 2 | 135 | 68 | 26 |
| LMG 23263 | ST-446 | 3504 | 7 | 55 | 5 | 10 | 11 | 68 | 6 |
| LMG 23210 | NA | 380 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 10 | 78 | 37 | 1 |
| 53161 | ST-353 | 4838 | 7 | 17 | 5 | 68 | 11 | 3 | 6 |
| 1997-14 | ST-353 | 5159 | 7 | 17 | 5 | 2 | 167 | 457 | 6 |
| 51037 | ST-353 | 939 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 156 | 3 | 6 |
| 87459 | ST-353 | 452 | 7 | 17 | 12 | 2 | 10 | 3 | 6 |
| RM1221 | ST-354 | 354 | 8 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 12 | 6 |
| S3 | ST-354 | 354 | 8 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 12 | 6 |
| NW | ST-354 | 354 | 8 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 12 | 6 |
| LMG23269 | ST-353 | 4837 | 8 | 17 | 5 | 3 | 10 | 59 | 6 |
| 1997-10 | NA | 4839 | 9 | 17 | 2 | 2 | 86 | 3 | 309 |
| 2008-979 | NA | 2274 | 9 | 17 | 5 | 10 | 350 | 3 | 3 |
| CG8421 | ST-52 | 1919 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 10 | 3 | 5 |
| LMG9872 | ST-677 | 677 | 10 | 81 | 50 | 99 | 120 | 76 | 52 |
| LMG9081 | ST-52 | 52 | 9 | 25 | 2 | 10 | 22 | 3 | 6 |
| 33560 | ST-403 | 403 | 10 | 27 | 16 | 19 | 10 | 5 | 7 |


| 414 | NA | 3704 | 227 | 297 | 253 | 338 | 424 | 337 | 250 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1336 | ST-841 | 841 | 64 | 99 | 78 | 104 | 139 | 108 | 16 |
| 51494 | ST-353 | 4834 | 103 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 156 | 3 | 6 |
| LMG23216 | NA | 4835 | 64 | 89 | 319 | 100 | 94 | 103 | 16 |
| LMG23357 | ST-1275 | 4883 | 27 | 33 | 22 | 49 | 101 | 9 | 31 |
| LMG 9217 | ST-443 | 443 | 24 | 17 | 2 | 15 | 23 | 3 | 12 |
| $2008-894$ | NA | 1962 | 55 | 172 | 21 | 49 | 125 | 83 | 51 |


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