

1 **Benchmarking software to predict antibiotic**  
2 **resistance phenotypes in shotgun**  
3 **metagenomes using simulated data**

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## BENCHMARKING AMR SOFTWARE

2

### 25 **Abstract**

26 The use of shotgun metagenomics for AMR detection is appealing because data can be  
27 generated from clinical samples with minimal processing. Detecting antimicrobial resistance  
28 (AMR) in clinical genomic data is an important epidemiological task, yet a complex  
29 bioinformatic process. Many software tools exist to detect AMR genes, but they have mostly  
30 been tested in their detection of genotypic resistance in individual bacterial strains. It is  
31 important to understand how well these bioinformatic tools detect AMR genes in shotgun  
32 metagenomic data.

33 We developed a software pipeline, hAMRoaster (  
34 <https://github.com/ewissel/hAMRoaster>), for assessing accuracy of prediction of antibiotic  
35 resistance phenotypes. For evaluation purposes, we simulated a short read (Illumina) shotgun  
36 metagenomics community of eight bacterial pathogens with extensive antibiotic susceptibility  
37 testing profiles. We benchmarked nine open source bioinformatics tools for detecting AMR  
38 genes that 1) were conda or Docker installable, 2) had been actively maintained, 3) had an open  
39 source license, and 4) took FASTA or FASTQ files as input. Several metrics were calculated for  
40 each tool including sensitivity, specificity, and F1 at three coverage levels.

41 This study revealed that tools were highly variable in sensitivity (0.25 - 0.99) and  
42 specificity (0.2 - 1) in detection of resistance in our synthetic FASTQ files despite similar  
43 databases and methods implemented. Tools performed similarly at all coverage levels (5x, 50x,  
44 100x). Cohen's kappa revealed low agreement across tools.

### 45 **Importance**

46 Software selection for metagenomic AMR prediction should be driven by the context of  
47 the clinical/research questions and tolerance for true and false negative results. As the prediction

## BENCHMARKING AMR SOFTWARE

3

48 software and databases are in a state of constant refinement, the approach used here—creating  
49 synthetic communities containing taxa and phenotypes of interest along with using hAMRoaster  
50 to assess performance of candidate software—offers a template to aid researchers in selecting the  
51 most appropriate strategy.

52

53 **Keywords:** antimicrobial resistance, bioinformatics, metagenomics

54

55 **Tweet:** Introducing a new pipeline for comparing results from #AMR tools from  
56 @emily\_wissel @tdread\_emory and others!

57

58 hAMRoaster compares detected AMR genes to known resistance, and returns a table with  
59 metrics for comparing results across tools.

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63 **Introduction**

64 Antibiotic resistant bacterial infections pose a serious threat to public health. Particularly  
65 concerning is that the burden of multi-drug resistant pathogens is increasing globally, creating  
66 complex clinical scenarios in which there are limited (if any) therapeutic options. In the United  
67 States alone, multi-drug resistant infections cost over \$4.5 billion annually and kill over 35,000  
68 people each year.<sup>1</sup> Genes that confer antimicrobial resistance (AMR) are increasingly present in  
69 commensal members of the human microbiome and are recognized as an important reservoir for  
70 conferring pathogen resistance through horizontal gene transfer.<sup>2,3</sup> Detecting AMR potential  
71 through non-culture based, high throughput DNA sequencing and bioinformatic approaches is of  
72 growing relevance and importance. Two key approaches to mitigating AMR infections are  
73 antibiotic stewardship and AMR surveillance. While antibiotic stewardship focuses on  
74 prescribing antibiotics appropriately, AMR surveillance focuses on describing AMR genes  
75 already present in a community.

76 AMR surveillance is a key strategy in understanding the threat of AMR. Currently, AMR  
77 surveillance typically relies on phenotypic characterization through culture or genotypic  
78 characterization through molecular diagnostics based on PCR and hybridization techniques.<sup>4</sup>  
79 However, there is a move toward genome-based methods<sup>5</sup> with the Illumina short-read platform  
80 being the dominant platform for data generation at the present time.<sup>6</sup> Direct sequencing of  
81 clinical samples using shotgun metagenomic approaches is of growing interest for minimizing  
82 sample processing and for fully characterizing the commensal members of the microbiome.  
83 However, the bioinformatic tools that currently exist to detect AMR have typically not been  
84 assessed for their performance on shotgun metagenomic sequence data. Further, as is common  
85 with software developed in academic settings, tools are not always maintained or easy to install.

## BENCHMARKING AMR SOFTWARE

5

86 Software managers like conda and docker help to alleviate this problem, however, it can still be  
87 difficult for those without a bioinformatics background to understand the state of the tools and  
88 select the best one for their needs.

89 As shotgun metagenomic sequencing is emerging as a powerful tool for detecting and  
90 controlling AMR,<sup>7</sup> it is essential to understand how well these tools perform with these data. In  
91 addition to testing these tools against a widely available data type, they should be compared  
92 against samples with extensive phenotypic resistance (acquired and mutational AMR genes).

93 This analysis aims to compare a set of existing bioinformatic tools in their ability to  
94 accurately identify AMR genes in a community. We describe a software pipeline, hAMRoaster,  
95 that provides statistics on accuracy of software when the presence of phenotypes is known. As  
96 shotgun metagenomic data is more often used in research and surveillance, and likely soon in  
97 clinical diagnostics,<sup>8</sup> we believe this approach of validating tools using synthetic data will be  
98 important in selecting the most appropriate software.

### 99 **Methods**

100 For a schematic overview of the methods, see **Supplementary Figure One**.

#### 101 **Development of a software pipeline, hAMRoaster, to assess results of antibiotic resistance** 102 **prediction**

103 hAMRoaster was written as a Python script to take three inputs: a) the text output of  
104 AMR prediction run tool on a FASTQ or FASTA test file, such as a text file processed through  
105 hAMRonization,<sup>9</sup> b) a list of known phenotypes associated with the test file and c) (optional) a  
106 tab formatted table which matches antibiotic drugs with their drug class. If option c) is not  
107 specified a default table is used. The outputs of the program are a set of performance metrics that  
108 include sensitivity and specificity. A conda installable version of the software was deposited in

## BENCHMARKING AMR SOFTWARE

6

109 the Bioconda<sup>10</sup> database. The Github site for the software is

110 <https://github.com/ewissel/hAMRoaster>.

111 hAMRoaster requires, as input, a formatted results table of runs by AMR detection tools.

112 This table is identical to that produced by the hAMRonization<sup>9</sup> software. hAMRonization is

113 conda installable and can compile the outputs of many AMR tools into a unified format.

114 shortBRED<sup>11</sup> and fARGene<sup>12</sup> are not included in hAMRonization at the time of analysis, so

115 hAMRoaster can take the path to the raw output for these tools and partially match it to the

116 hAMRonization output.

117 hAMRoaster requires an input to the “known” phenotypic resistance in the mock

118 community (--AMR\_key flag of hAMRoaster), such as a result of susceptibility testing tables

119 that are available from NCBI Biosamples. Antibiotics in the table of known resistances are

120 matched to their respective drug classes. Results classified as “susceptible” or “intermediate” in

121 susceptibility testing are filtered out so only resistant instances are considered. In cases where

122 susceptibility testing occurred with two or more agents, each agent is considered independently

123 (e.g. resistance to “amoxicillin-tetracycline” was treated as resistance to “amoxicillin” and

124 “tetracycline” independently). Each identified AMR gene is labeled with its corresponding drug

125 class for comparison. In instances where a gene confers resistance to multiple drug classes, the

126 detected gene is split into multiple rows so that each conferred resistance can be independently

127 compared to what is known from the susceptibility testing. Gene to drug class linkage is verified

128 using the CARD database<sup>13</sup> when applicable. Any genes corresponding to ‘unknown’ or ‘other’

129 drug classes (including hypothetical resistance genes) are excluded from further analysis. Genes

130 that confer resistance to an antibiotic that was only effective in combination with another drug

## BENCHMARKING AMR SOFTWARE

7

131 (e.g. clavulanic acid in amoxicillin-clavulanic acid) are classified as ‘Other’ and excluded from  
132 analysis.

133 A detected AMR gene is labeled as a true positive by hAMRoaster if the drug class  
134 matched to an AMR gene corresponds to a drug class represented in the mock community.  
135 Similarly, a false positive is coded as a drug class that is called by the software, but tested as  
136 susceptible in the mock community (--AMR key parameter). Observed AMR genes are labeled  
137 “Unknown” if the corresponding drug class is not tested in the mock community and not  
138 included in the AMR key file. Once true/false positives and true/false negatives are determined  
139 per tool, hAMRoaster calculates sensitivity, specificity, precision, accuracy, recall, and percent  
140 unknown.

### 141 **Creation of a synthetic mock communities of antibiotic resistance bacteria**

142 Bacterial members of the base mock community were chosen from NCBI’s BioSample  
143 Database<sup>14</sup> and met the following criteria: (1) the strain had extensive antibiotic susceptibility  
144 testing data using CLSI or EUCAST testing standards as part of the public NCBI BioSample  
145 record; (2) the strain was isolated from human tissue; (3) the strain was the cause of a clinical  
146 infection; (4) the FASTA was available to download from NCBI BioSample Database.<sup>14</sup> Eight  
147 bacteria, each representing a different species, with overlapping resistance to 43 antibiotics  
148 across 18 drug classes, were selected for the mock community (**Table 1**). The included taxa were  
149 *Acinetobacter baumannii* MRSN489669, *Citrobacter freundii* MRSN12115, *Enterobacter*  
150 *cloacae* 174, *Escherichia coli* 222, *Klebsiella pneumoniae* CCUG 70742, *Pseudomonas*  
151 *aeruginosa* CCUG 70744, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* SW0011, and *Staphylococcus aureus* LAC  
152 (Table 1).

## BENCHMARKING AMR SOFTWARE

8

153 Paired-end FASTQs were simulated by ART<sup>15</sup> using default parameters for HiSeq 2500  
154 at three levels of average sequence coverage (5x, 50x, and 100x) and are available on FigShare  
155 (<https://figshare.com/account/home#/projects/125974>). Simulated FASTQs were subsequently  
156 concatenated to resemble shotgun metagenomics reads, and metaSPAdes<sup>16</sup> was used to create  
157 assembled contigs. The FASTQs were simulated with approximately equal numbers of reads of  
158 each genome.

### 159 **Running antibiotic prediction software on mock communities**

160 All tools for AMR prediction were run on the mock community at all coverage levels  
161 using default settings for either simulated FASTQ or assembled contigs. When both options were  
162 available, assembled contigs were run.

### 163 **Statistical Analysis**

164 Data were analyzed in Python v3.7.7 and plotted in R v4.0.4. In initial runs we found that  
165 some tools provided results with a very high number of observed AMR genes because of  
166 multiple overlapping matches on the same gene. Because of this, we condensed the results so  
167 that the first observed gene is included in the dataset and subsequent genes that start before the  
168 observed end of that gene were not included. Unweighted Cohen's kappa was calculated for each  
169 pairwise combination of tools to test agreement between tools.

### 170 **Data Availability**

171 All data and code is available on the hAMRoaster GitHub repository  
172 (<https://github.com/ewissel/hAMRoaster>) and figshare (for large FASTQ files;  
173 <https://figshare.com/account/home#/projects/125974>)



174 **Results**

175 **Selection of nine open source, conda-installable tools for detection of antibiotic resistance**  
176 **phenotypes**

177 To identify tools for antibiotic resistance prediction, we used a multi-headed search  
178 strategy. We searched PubMed using terms “AMR”, “antibiotic resistance genes”,  
179 “bioinformatics”, and “antimicrobial resistance”. We also searched GitHub using the same set of  
180 terms. Once an initial list of tools was compiled, we performed a second PubMed literature  
181 review including the search terms from above plus the names of the tools (“tool 1” OR “tool 2”).  
182 We also used Twitter to ask the research community what bioinformatic tools they use to  
183 identify AMR (link available in supplementary materials). These searches identified 16 potential  
184 tools to identify AMR genes (**Table 2**). The search for tools concluded on March 1, 2021.

185 In order for an identified tool to be considered eligible for comparison, it had to meet the  
186 following criteria: (1) be conda or Docker installable; (2) have source code publicly available in  
187 a data repository and be actively maintained (defined as tool updates or GitHub responses within  
188 the last year); (3) have an open source license; and (4) take FASTQs or FASTAs as input files.  
189 Nine tools met the criteria to be included in this analysis: ABRicate<sup>17</sup>, fARGene<sup>18</sup> ResFinder<sup>19</sup>,  
190 shortBRED<sup>11</sup>, RGI<sup>20</sup>, AMRFinderPlus<sup>21</sup>, starAMR<sup>22</sup>, sraX<sup>23</sup>, and deepARG<sup>24</sup>. PointFinder  
191 also qualified<sup>25</sup>, but was a subtool of ResFinder and only identified mutational resistance for  
192 some organisms, so it was excluded from analysis. The code used to install and run all tools is  
193 available on the hAMRoaster GitHub.

194 Identified tools fell into two groups - those that aligned reads to a database, and those that  
195 compared reads against some model of AMR (Table 2).

## BENCHMARKING AMR SOFTWARE

10

196 **ABRIcate**

197           ABRIcate v.1.0.1 took contig FASTA files as inputs and compared reads against a large  
198 database created by compiling several existing database, including NCBI AMRFinder Plus,<sup>21</sup>  
199 CARD,<sup>20</sup> ResFinder,<sup>19</sup> ARG-ANNOT,<sup>26</sup> MEGARES,<sup>27</sup> EcOH,<sup>28</sup> PlasmidFinder,<sup>29</sup> VFDB,<sup>30</sup> and  
200 Ecoli\_VF.<sup>31</sup> ABRIcate reported on acquired AMR genes and not mutational resistance.

201 **shortBRED**

202           shortBRED<sup>11</sup> v0.9.3 used a set of marker genes to search metagenomic data for protein  
203 families of interest. The bioBakery<sup>32</sup> team published an AMR gene marker database built from  
204 849 AR protein families derived from the ARDB<sup>33</sup> v1.1 and independent curation alongside  
205 shortBRED, which is used in this study.

206 **fARGene**

207           fARGene<sup>12,18</sup> v.0.1 uses Hidden Markov Models to detect AMR genes from short  
208 metagenomic data or long read data. This was different from most other tools which compare the  
209 reads directly. fARGene has three pre-built models for detecting resistance to quinolone,  
210 tetracycline, and beta lactamases, which were tested in this study.

211 **RGI**

212           RGI<sup>20</sup> v5.1.1 used protein homology and SNP models to predict ‘resistomes’. It used  
213 CARD’s protein homolog models as a database. RGI predicts open reading frames (ORFs) using  
214 Prodigal,<sup>34</sup> detects homologs with DIAMOND,<sup>35</sup> and matches to CARD’s database and model  
215 cut off values.

## BENCHMARKING AMR SOFTWARE

11

### 216 **ResFinder**

217 ResFinder<sup>19</sup> v4.0 was available both as a web-based application or the command line. We  
218 used ResFinder 4 in this study, which was specifically designed for detecting genotypic  
219 resistance in phenotypically resistant samples. ResFinder aligned reads directly to its own  
220 curated database without need for assembly.

### 221 **deepARG**

222 deepARG<sup>24</sup> v.2.0 used a supervised deep learning based approach for antibiotic resistance  
223 gene annotation of metagenomic sequences. It combines three databases—CARD, ARDB, and  
224 UNIPROT—and categorizes them into resistance categories.

### 225 **sraX**

226 sraX<sup>23</sup> v.1.5 was built as a one step tool; in a single command, sraX downloads a  
227 database and aligns contigs to this database with DIAMOND<sup>35</sup>. By default, sraX uses CARD,  
228 though other options can be specified. As we use default settings for all tools, only CARD was  
229 used in this study for sraX.

### 230 **starAMR**

231 starAMR<sup>22,36</sup> v.0.7.2 uses BLAST+<sup>37</sup> to compare contigs against a combined database  
232 with data from ResFinder, PointFinder, and PlasmidFinder.

### 233 **AMR Finder Plus**

234 AMR Finder Plus<sup>21</sup> v.3.9.3 uses BLASTX<sup>38</sup> translated searches and hierarchical tree of  
235 gene families to detect AMR genes. The database was derived from the Pathogen Detection  
236 Reference Gene Catalog<sup>39</sup> and was compiled as part of the National Database of Antibiotic  
237 Resistant Organisms (NDARO).

## BENCHMARKING AMR SOFTWARE

12

### 238 **Performance of selected tools on a mock bacterial community containing 43 laboratory** 239 **confirmed AMR phenotypes**

240 Each software tool was run against a synthetic mock community of 8 bacteria at three  
241 coverage levels that expressed 43 antibiotic resistance phenotypes. To assess sensitivity and  
242 specificity, we developed a new software pipeline called hAMRoaster (Harmonized AMR  
243 Output compAriSon Tool ‘ER’).

### 244 **Range of phenotypes detected**

245 Overall, the number of AMR genes detected across all tools ranged from 13 to over 700  
246 at 100x coverage (**Table 3**). For some tools, genes detected did not match to a tested phenotype  
247 in the mock community, so the prediction fell into the “unknown” category. Among the tools  
248 tested, AMR Finder Plus had the highest degree of unclassifiable/unknown results (observed  
249 AMR gene not testing in the mock community). An overview of these results are available in  
250 **Figure One**.

### 251 **Sensitivity and Specificity**

252 The highest sensitivity for phenotype detection ranged from >0.99 (RGI) to 0.23 (sraX) at  
253 the lowest coverage levels (**Fig. 2**). In general, coverage did not greatly affect sensitivity, with  
254 the exception of sraX, which increased to 0.53 at the highest level. fARGene and deepARG had  
255 a high sensitivity value (>0.90) at all coverage levels. RGI, deepARG, and fARGene are all tools  
256 that compare reads to a model of AMR instead of aligning reads directly to a database, indicating  
257 that this method may be appropriate when high sensitivity values are preferred. As a note, in this  
258 dataset, there were only 2 possible true negatives because only two drug classes were always  
259 susceptible to antibiotics in those two drug classes when tested (nitrofurans and polypeptide).

260 When all software predictions were combined we achieved the 0.99 sensitivity across the  
261 coverage (**Supplementary Table 1**). However this came at the cost of low specificity 0.11 .

## BENCHMARKING AMR SOFTWARE

13

262 Specificity in this study is artificially low for most tools because the number of possible true  
263 negatives is low (only two). Therefore we did not assess this metric.

### 264 **Condensing Results**

265 All tools provide results in which the detected AMR genes are overlapping, where one  
266 gene starts between the start and stop codon of another. If we remove overlapping genes so that  
267 only the first detected gene was included, and all genes that started before its stop codon were  
268 removed, the counts for all tools decrease (**Table 4**). However, this process does not necessarily  
269 improve metrics or counts, and it is unclear that such a tactic is useful for real life uses as there is  
270 no simple way to determine which detected AMR genes to include and which should be filtered  
271 out.

### 272 **Concordance between tools**

273 An analysis of the agreement between tools of detected AMR genes within drug classes  
274 revealed that overall, there was low agreement ( $<0.50$ ) between tools at all coverage levels  
275 (**Table 6**).

## 276 **Discussion**

### 277 **Development of a framework for assessing AMR prediction software performance using** 278 **synthetic data**

279 There is a considerable research effort to develop new software for predicting AMR  
280 using DNA sequence alone. In this dynamic environment, there is a need for researchers and  
281 epidemiologists to understand the relative performance of open source software tools within the  
282 types of sample they may encounter. While some tools currently exist for compiling the results  
283 of several AMR tools together (hAMRonizer and chARMedDb<sup>40</sup>), this study was motivated by

## BENCHMARKING AMR SOFTWARE

14

284 the lack of an open-source pipeline for comparing the results once compiled. hAMRoaster was  
285 built so that several metrics can easily be compared across tools.

286         The central challenge in developing this software was to compare detected AMR genes to  
287 resistance phenotypes. Detected AMR genes needed to be classified by their corresponding drug  
288 class(es) so they could be matched to the known phenotypically resistant drug classes. One  
289 hurdle in this translation is that tools use different databases, and some databases classify genes  
290 differently. For example, shortBRED classifies gene families, while CARD classifies specific  
291 genes. While this analysis checked the drug classification via the DNA/Protein Accession value  
292 in CARD, only around 300 of the >1,000 genes detected could directly map to genes in CARD  
293 by accession value. The hAMRonization tool overcomes this challenge by providing a drug class  
294 column and filling in the values from ChEBI ontology<sup>41</sup> when possible. The hAMRoaster  
295 strategy is to assign a CARD drug class value to every detected AMR gene first by accession  
296 number, then by gene name. If neither of these methods assign a drug class for an AMR gene,  
297 then the drug class provided by hAMRonization is used. Another challenge in converting  
298 detected AMR genes to drug classes is that some drugs are only administered in combination, for  
299 example clavulanic acid with amoxicillin. For these instances, resistance to the drug only used in  
300 combination (e.g. clavulanic acid) is treated as an “other” drug class and excluded from analysis.  
301 In these cases, we used the experience of practicing clinicians to identify combination  
302 antibiotics.

303         The analysis presented here used synthetic data to compare tool performance. Synthetic  
304 data has the benefit of allowing controlled input with known ground truth. Therefore users can  
305 focus on the types of organisms and phenotypes they need to detect in their own datasets,  
306 perform experiments with real samples, and manipulate a range of factors such as relative

## BENCHMARKING AMR SOFTWARE

15

307 abundance and sequencing error. The NCBI BioSample repository (used in this study) is an  
308 invaluable resource for creating such datasets as it contains many samples with AMR phenotypes  
309 determined by international standards. Researchers could also sequence and phenotype  
310 culturable organisms in their own laboratories to provide testing standards to evaluate software.  
311 Here, we exclusively examined synthetic short read Illumina data, but this analysis strategy  
312 could be adapted to understand the effect of using data generated on long read technologies such  
313 as the Pacific Bioscience and Oxford Nanopore platforms.

### 314 **Overall trends in performance and reasons for variability between tools**

315 Tools used one of two basic strategies, either aligning reads to a database of AMR genes  
316 or using a more complex model of sequenced-based AMR detection (**Table 2**). The methods  
317 appear to lead to the different AMR genes detected across tools, as demonstrated in **Figure 1** and  
318 summarized in **Table 3**.

319 We found the sensitivity of almost all tools to be very good ( $>0.80$ ), with the exception  
320 of sraX, which had a proportionally high number of false negatives compared to true positives.  
321 All tools except shortBRED and starAMR detected a large number of genes that were not  
322 associated with a lab-determined phenotype in our mock community. This is a feature of the  
323 approach of limiting focus to a specific set of phenotypes in the testing process. In practice,  
324 researchers and epidemiologists may be only interested in a narrow range of AMR phenotypes.

325 hAMRoaster calculates specificity, precision, accuracy, recall, and F1 (**Table 3**).  
326 However, all of these measures are dependent on false positives and/or true negatives in their  
327 calculations. As these values are inherently low in our mock community due to the robust  
328 resistance profile, these metrics are not particularly informative for understanding how well these  
329 tools detect resistance in this phenotypically resistant sample. Similarly, we calculated all

## BENCHMARKING AMR SOFTWARE

16

330 effective metrics when the results of all tools are combined. While sensitivity in the combined  
331 data was very high ( $>0.99$ ), there was a very high number of overall detected AMR genes,  
332 including overlapping results between genes, thus, it would be difficult for researchers to  
333 meaningfully use this type of result to understand the AMR profile. We calculated Cohen's  
334 kappa to capture the agreement at the drug class level between AMR tools to see if all AMR  
335 tools detected resistance to the same drug classes. We found that agreement was surprisingly  
336 low across all tools (**Table 6**), indicating that some tools may be better suited for detecting  
337 different types of resistance. As such, hAMRoaster provides a table with the number of genes  
338 detected per drug class for each tool.

339 Finally, this research supports the need for the further development of software tools for  
340 the detection of AMR genes in the human microbiome. It is increasingly recognized that the  
341 confined location and genetic diversity of this microbial population provides ideal conditions for  
342 genetic exchange among residential microbes and between residential and transient, including  
343 pathogenic microbes. Notably, rates of horizontal gene transfer among bacteria in the human  
344 microbiome (especially the gastrointestinal tract) are estimated to be many times higher than  
345 among bacteria in other diverse ecosystems, such as soil.<sup>42</sup> Refined tools appropriate for use in  
346 shotgun metagenomic data will be important for tracking the spread of AMR genes from diverse  
347 environmental sources to the human microbiome and across sites in the human body and  
348 understanding whether AMR genes are derived from vertical inheritance or via horizontal gene  
349 transfer, for example.

350 In conclusion, this study compared bioinformatics tools for detecting AMR genes in a  
351 simulated short read metagenomic sample at three coverage levels at one time point. While tools  
352 use slightly different methods and databases, these tools overall had high sensitivity for detection



## BENCHMARKING AMR SOFTWARE

17

353 of AMR genes. Moreover agreement between tools was low, indicating the importance of tool  
354 selection. In our test set we found starAMR had the highest sensitivity value with fewer than  
355 20% unknown detected genes at all coverage levels. We advocate that researchers should test  
356 these software tools using pipelines such as hAMRoaster with a synthetic community that  
357 highlights the resistance profiles and sample of interest. In particular, this assessment of  
358 performance of available tools should take place before the commencement of the study as the  
359 set of tools for detecting AMR genes are actively maintained and undergoing further  
360 improvements.

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### 366 **Author Contributions**

367 EFW and TDR conceptualized and planned the initial project. TDF, VH, AD, and RAP provided  
368 ongoing support in study design and analysis. EFW and BMT processed the data. EFW, BAJ,  
369 and BMT analyzed the data. EFW, BAJ, and RAP created the hAMRoaster software. EFW and  
370 TDR drafted the initial manuscript. All authors reviewed the final manuscript.

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## BENCHMARKING AMR SOFTWARE

22

555 **Figure 1: Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Genes Detected By Software Tools by Drug**

556 **Class**

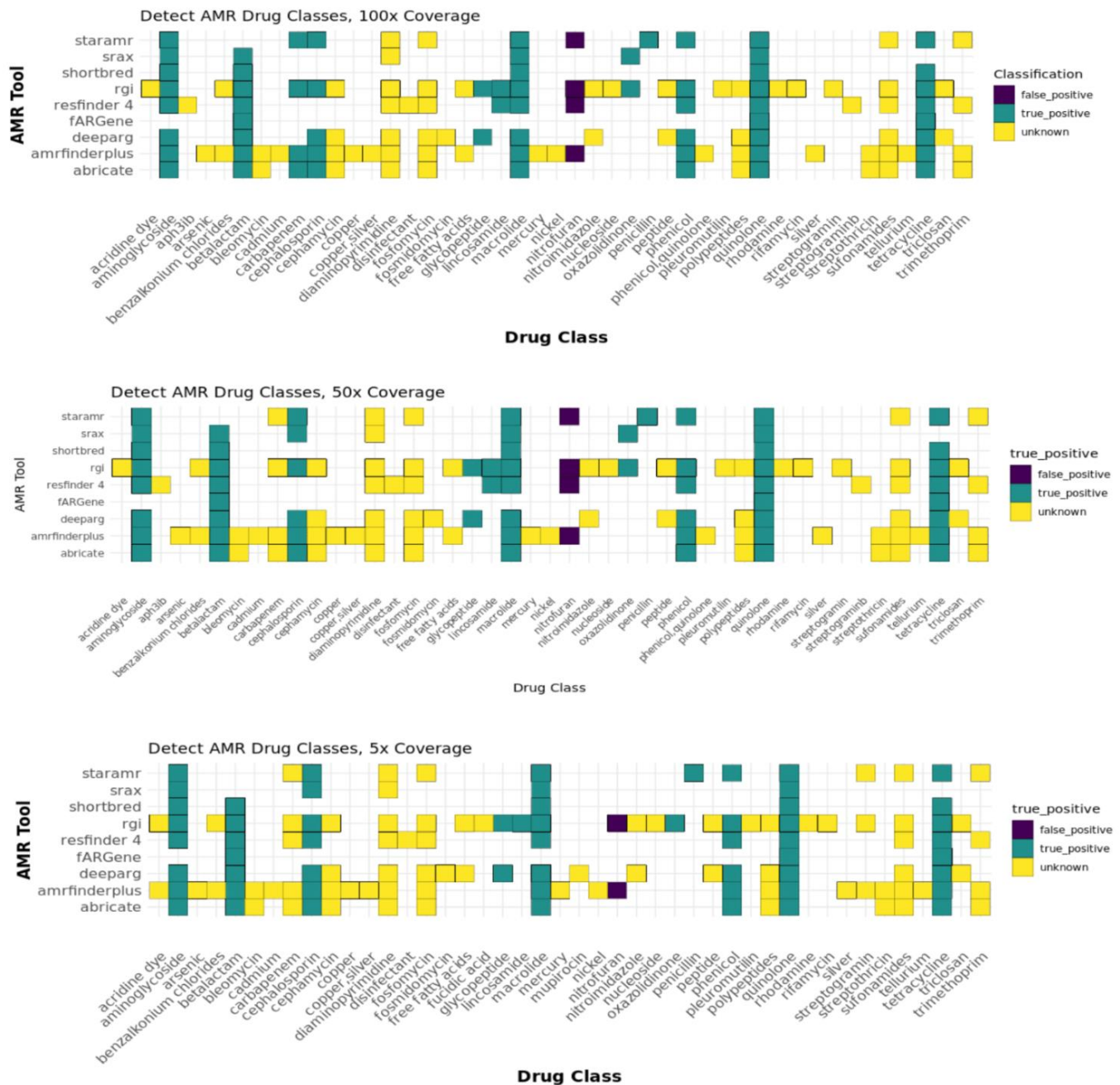
557 AMR Genes detected by each tool across coverage levels, grouped into drug class to which the

558 genes confer resistance with the color coding indicating whether the detection was true positive

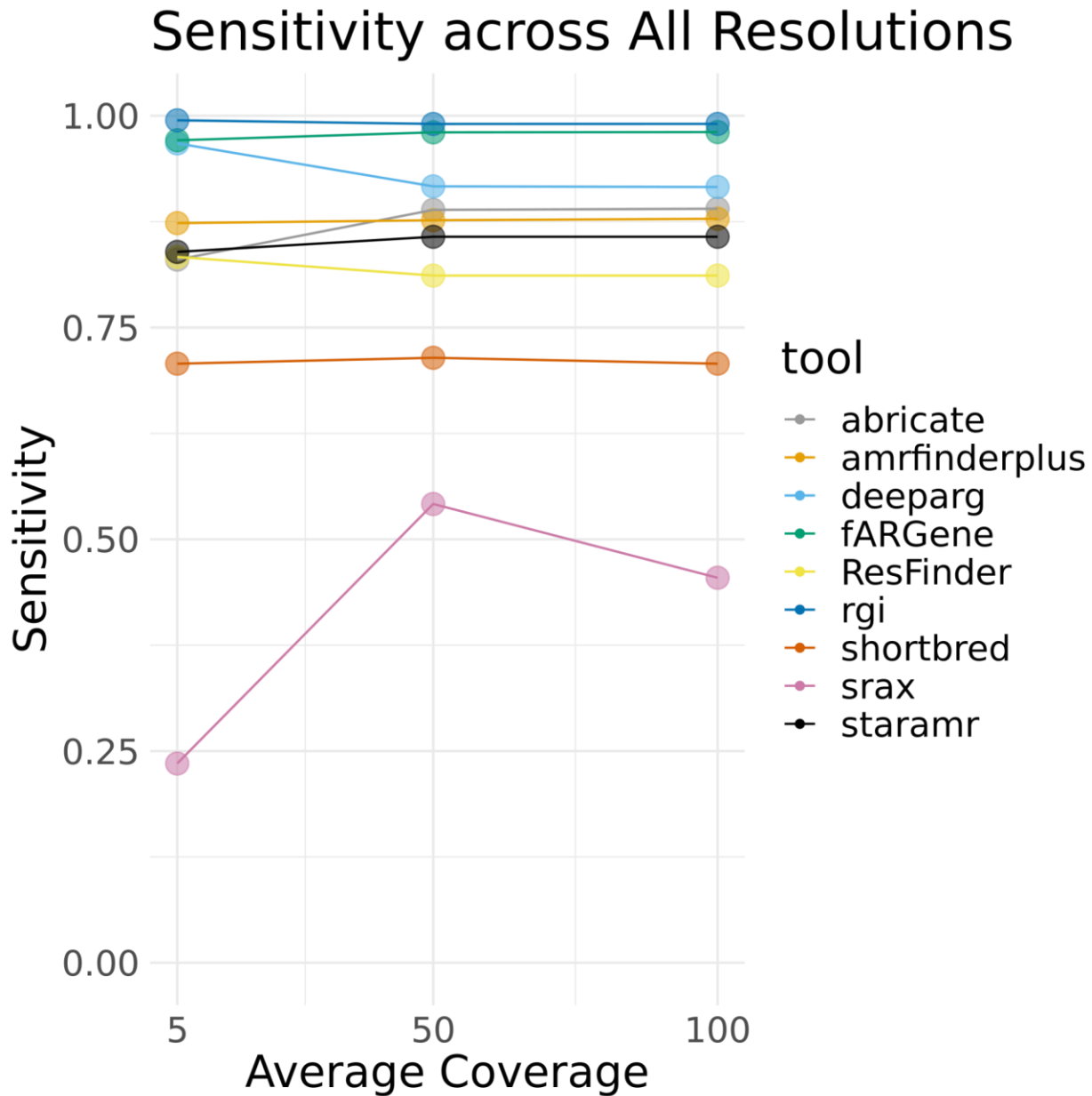
## BENCHMARKING AMR SOFTWARE

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559 (green), false positive (purple) or unknown (yellow). Clear spaces in the plot indicate that AMR  
 560 genes were not detected for the drug class on the x-axis by the tool on the y-axis.



561 **Figure 2 Sensitivity of Software Tools for Detection of Antimicrobial Resistance**  
562 **(AMR) Genes Across Coverage Levels**



563  
564 Sensitivity was calculated as (true positives) / (true positives + false negatives). Most tools were  
565 highly sensitive (greater than 0.80). All genes corresponding to “Other” or “Unknown” drug  
566 classes were not included in these calculations. Similarly, AMR genes corresponding to

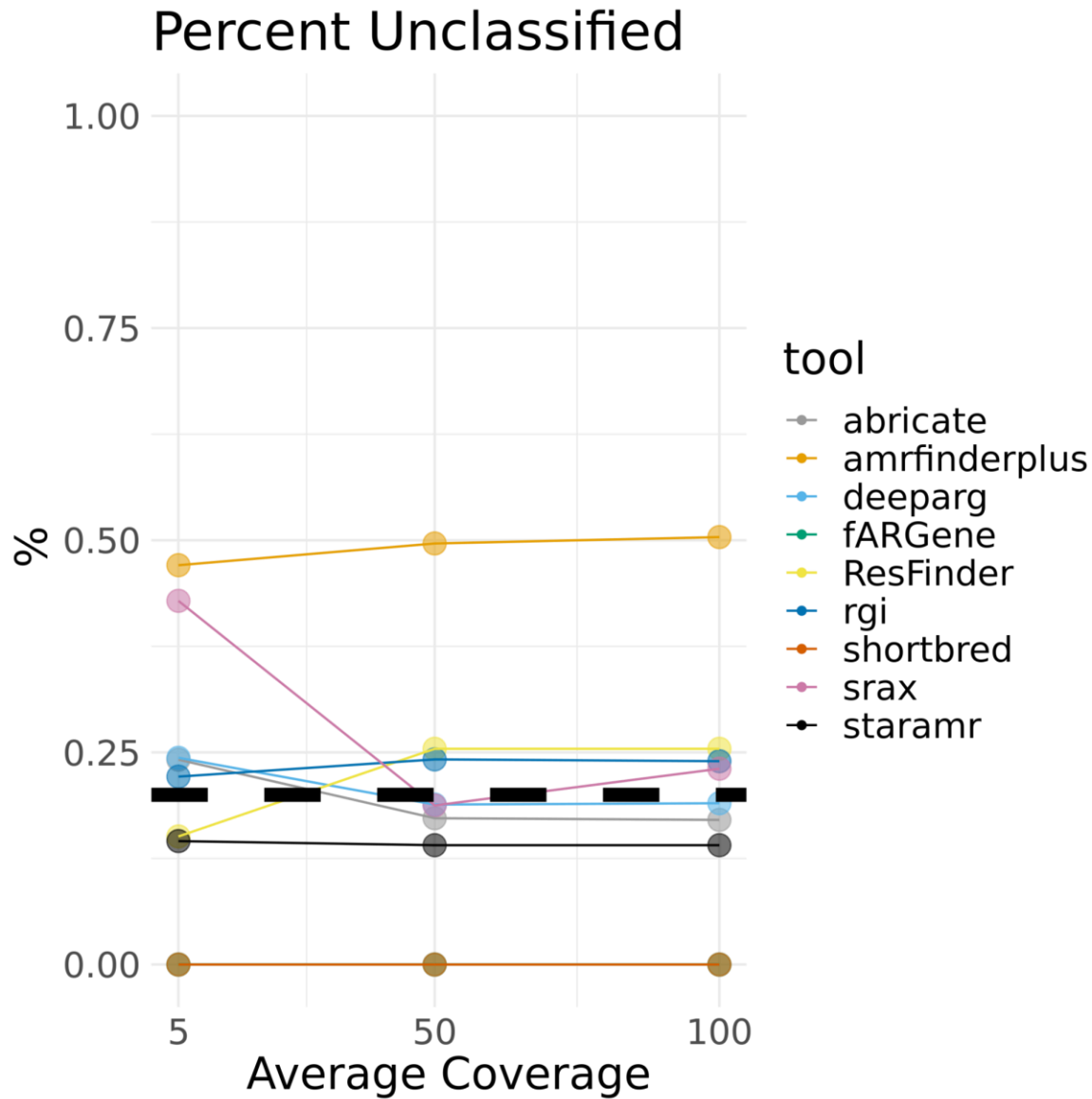


## BENCHMARKING AMR SOFTWARE

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- 567 phenotypic resistance that was not tested in the mock community was considered “Unknown”  
568 and not included in the sensitivity analysis.

569 **Figure 3: Percent Detection of Unknown Antimicrobial (AMR) Resistance Genes Across**  
570 **Coverage**



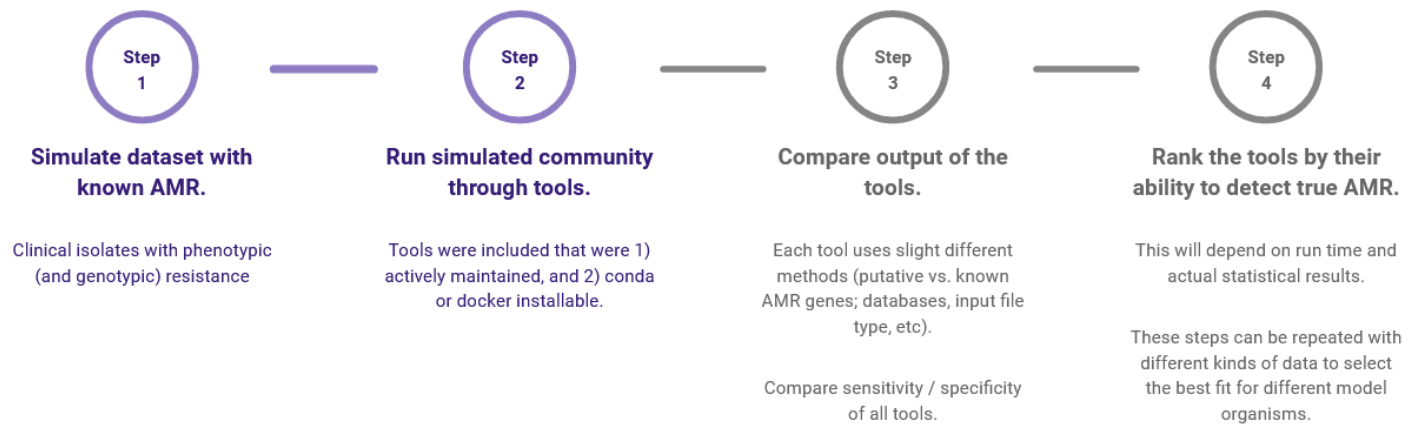
571

572 The percent detection of AMR genes that could not be classified because the material the  
573 gene confers resistance to was not tested in the mock community. A black dashed line is placed  
574 at 0.20, indicating where at least 20% of the detected AMR genes could not be classified.

## BENCHMARKING AMR SOFTWARE

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### 575 **Supplementary Figure 1: Pictorial Methods**



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**Table 1:** Clinical isolates included in the simulated community. (susceptibility test is in

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the spreadsheet, will have to be supplemental bc so big)

Strain	Testing Standard (CLSI or EUCAST)	BioSample ID	Link
<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> SW0011	CLSI	SAMN15960549	<a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/biosample/SAMN15960549">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/biosample/SAMN15960549</a>
<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> CCUG 70742	EUCAST	SAMN07602587	<a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/biosample/SAMN07602587">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/biosample/SAMN07602587</a>
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> CCUG 70744	EUCAST	SAMN07602569	<a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/biosample/SAMN07602569/">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/biosample/SAMN07602569/</a>
<i>Acinetobacter baumannii</i> MRSN489669	CLSI	SAMN12087686	<a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/biosample/SAMN12087686">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/biosample/SAMN12087686</a>
<i>Enterobacter cloacae</i> 174	CLSI	SAMN04456586	<a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/biosample/SAMN04456586">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/biosample/SAMN04456586</a>
<i>Citrobacter freundii</i>	CLSI	SAMN13412315	<a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/biosample/SAMN13412315">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/biosample/SAMN13412315</a>

## BENCHMARKING AMR SOFTWARE

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MRSN12115			<a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/biosample/SAMN13412315">bi.nlm.nih.gov/biosample/SAMN13412315</a>
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> LAC	CLSI	SAMN08391108	<a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/biosample/SAMN08391108">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/biosample/SAMN08391108</a>
<i>Escherichia coli</i> 222	CLSI	SAMN05194390	<a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/biosample/SAMN05194390">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/biosample/SAMN05194390</a>

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BENCHMARKING AMR SOFTWARE

583 Table 2: Tools identified from search methods with the selection criteria and whether  
 584 they subsequently worked or not.

<b>Tool</b>	<b>Conda / Docker Installable?</b>	<b>Actively Maintained?</b>	<b>Input format?</b>	<b>Included in Analysis?</b>	<b>Implementation Method</b>	<b>Database</b>
<b>ABRICate</b>	Yes - conda	Yes	FASTA	Yes	Align reads to database	NCBI AMRFinder Plus, CARD, ResFinder, ARG-ANNOT, MEGARES, EcOH, PlasmidFinder, VFDB, and Ecoli_VF
<b>shortBRED</b>	Yes - Docker & conda	Yes	FASTA	Yes	Align reads to database	AMR gene marker database from 849 AR protein families from the ARDB19 and independent curation

## BENCHMARKING AMR SOFTWARE

<b>fARGene</b>	Yes - conda	Yes	FASTQ	Yes	Compare to AMR model	Hidden markov models for quinolone, tetracycline, and beta lactamases
<b>RGI</b>	Yes - Docker (conda outdated)	Yes	FASTQ	Yes	Compare to AMR model	Prodigal predicts ORF and compared to CARD and WildCARD
<b>ResFinder 4</b>	Yes - Docker (conda broken)	Yes	FASTA	Yes	Align reads to database	ResFinder 4 database
<b>DeepARG</b>	Yes, Docker	Unclear	FASTA	Yes	Compare to AMR model	Supervised deep learning compares reads to antibiotic resistance categories created from CARD, ARDB, and UNIPROT
<b>sraX</b>	Yes - both	Yes	FASTA	Yes	Align reads to database	CARD by default

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<b>starAMR</b>	Yes - conda	Yes	FASTA	Yes	Align reads to database	ResFinder, PointFinder, and PlasmidFinder
<b>AMR Finder Plus</b>	Yes - conda	Yes	FASTA	Yes	Align reads to database	Pathogen Detection Reference Gene Database
<b>ResPipe</b>	No	Yes	FASTQ or BAM	No		
<b>PointFinder</b>	Yes - Docker	Yes	FASTA	No		
<b>PCM: Pairwise Comparative Modelling</b>	No	Yes	FASTA - protein	No		
<b>SRST2</b>	No	No	FASTQ	No		
<b>Arg_Ranker</b>	Yes - conda	Yes	Requires special metadata input	No		
<b>MetaCherchant</b>	Yes - conda	No	FASTA -	No		



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			genomic			
<b>ARIBA</b>	Yes - Docker	No	Paired end FASTQ	No		
<b>ARG- ANNOT</b>	No	No	Unclear	No		
<b>kmerresista nce</b>	No	No	-	No		
<b>c-sstar</b>	No	No	Unkno wn	No - could not track down github		

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587 **Table 3:** Summary Statistics from hAMRoaster: These are the counts and metrics as

588 calculated by the hAMRoaster pipeline. Formulas for all metrics are as follows:

589  $\text{Specificity} = \text{TN} / (\text{TN} + \text{FP})$

590  $\text{Sensitivity} = \text{TP} / (\text{TP} + \text{FN})$

591  $\text{Precision} = \text{TP} / (\text{TP} + \text{FP})$

592  $\text{Accuracy} = (\text{TP} + \text{TN}) / (\text{TP} + \text{FP} + \text{TN} + \text{FN})$

593  $\text{Recall} = \text{true pos} / (\text{true pos} + \text{false neg})$

594  $\text{F1} = 2 * (\text{precision} * \text{recall}) / (\text{precision} + \text{recall})$

595  $\text{Percent\_unknown} = \text{unknown} / (\text{true\_positives} + \text{false\_positives} + \text{unknowns})$

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Full Results, 100x Coverage											
tool	False positive	True positive	unknown	False negative	True negative	sensitivity	specificity	precision	accuracy	recall	Percent unclassified
abricate	0	66	22	9	2	0.8800	1.0000	1.0000	0.8831	7.3333	0.2500
amrfinderplus	2	62	71	9	1	0.8732	0.3333	0.9688	0.8514	5.6364	0.5259
deeparg	0	98	23	8	2	0.9245	1.0000	1.0000	0.9259	12.2500	0.1901
fARGene	0	713	0	13	2	0.9821	1.0000	1.0000	0.9821	54.8462	0.0000
resfinder 4	1	43	15	9	1	0.8269	0.5000	0.9773	0.8148	4.3000	0.2542
rgi	4	559	255	6	1	0.9894	0.2000	0.9929	0.9825	55.9000	0.3117
shortbred	0	29	0	11	2	0.7250	1.0000	1.0000	0.7381	2.6364	0.0000
srax	0	10	3	11	2	0.4762	1.0000	1.0000	0.5217	0.9091	0.2308
staramr	1	52	11	9	1	0.8525	0.5000	0.9811	0.8413	0.2000	0.1719
Full Results, 50x Coverage											
tool	False positive	True positive	unknown	False negative	True negative	sensitivity	specificity	precision	accuracy	recall	Percent unclassified

<b>abricate</b>	0	66	21	9	2	0.8800	1.0000	1.0000	0.8831	7.3333	0.2414
<b>amrfinderplus</b>	2	62	67	9	1	0.8732	0.3333	0.9688	0.8514	5.6364	0.5115
<b>deeparg</b>	0	99	23	8	2	0.9252	1.0000	1.0000	0.9266	12.3750	0.1885
<b>fARGene</b>	0	702	0	13	2	0.9818	1.0000	1.0000	0.9819	54.0000	0.0000
<b>resfinder 4</b>	1	43	15	9	1	0.8269	0.5000	0.9773	0.8148	4.3000	0.2542
<b>rgi</b>	4	557	254	6	1	0.9893	0.2000	0.9929	0.9824	55.7000	0.3117
<b>shortbred</b>	0	30	0	11	2	0.7317	1.0000	1.0000	0.7442	2.7273	0.0000
<b>srax</b>	0	13	3	10	2	0.5652	1.0000	1.0000	0.6000	1.3000	0.1875
<b>staramr</b>	1	52	11	9	1	0.8525	0.5000	0.9811	0.8413	5.2000	0.1719
<b>Full Results, 5x Coverage</b>											
<b>tool</b>	<b>False positive</b>	<b>True positive</b>	<b>unknown</b>	<b>False negative</b>	<b>True negative</b>	<b>sensitivity</b>	<b>specificity</b>	<b>precision</b>	<b>accuracy</b>	<b>recall</b>	<b>Percent unclassified</b>
<b>abricate</b>	0	9	39	19	2	0.8125	1.0000	1.0000	0.8200	4.3333	0.3276
<b>amrfinderplus</b>	1	9	60	58	1	0.8696	0.5000	0.9836	0.8592	6.0000	0.4874

<b>deeparg</b>	0	8	267	86	2	0.9709	1.0000	1.0000	0.9711	33.3750	0.2436
<b>fARGene</b>	0	13	470	0	2	0.9731	1.0000	1.0000	0.9732	36.1538	0.0000
<b>resfinder 4</b>	0	9	43	10	2	0.8269	1.0000	1.0000	0.8333	4.7778	0.1887
<b>rgi</b>	12	6	1015	418	1	0.9941	0.0769	0.9883	0.9826	56.3889	0.2893
<b>shortbred</b>	0	11	29	0	2	0.7250	1.0000	1.0000	0.7381	2.6364	0.0000
<b>srax</b>	0	12	4	3	2	0.2500	1.0000	1.0000	0.3333	0.3333	0.4286
<b>staramr</b>	0	9	44	11	2	0.8302	1.0000	1.0000	0.8364	4.8889	0.2000

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600           **Table 4:** Condensed Summary Statistics: This table contains the counts and metrics if the

601 data were condensed so that overlapping genes are excluded from the count data (i.e. genes that

602 start between the start and stop codon of another gene are not considered in analysis).

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<b>Condensed Results, 100x Coverage</b>											
<b>tool</b>	<b>False positive</b>	<b>True positive</b>	<b>unknown</b>	<b>False negative</b>	<b>True negative</b>	<b>sensitivity</b>	<b>specificity</b>	<b>precision</b>	<b>accuracy</b>	<b>recall</b>	<b>Percent unclassified</b>
abricate	0	21	5	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	0.1923
amrfinderplus	0	22	23	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	0.5111
deeparg	0	2	1	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	0.3333
fARGene	0	713	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	0
resfinder 4	0	12	5	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	0.2941
rgi	1	77	38	0	1	1	0.9872	0.5	0.9872	1	0.32769
shortbred	0	29	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	0
srax	0	10	3	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	0.23078
staramr	1	36	6	0	1	1	0.9730	0.5	0.9737	1	0.1395
<b>Condensed Results, 50x Coverage</b>											
<b>tool</b>	<b>False positive</b>	<b>True positive</b>	<b>unknown</b>	<b>False negative</b>	<b>True negative</b>	<b>sensitivity</b>	<b>specificity</b>	<b>precision</b>	<b>accuracy</b>	<b>recall</b>	<b>Percent unclassified</b>

<b>abricate</b>	0	22	3	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>amrfinderplus</b>	0	20	27	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>deeparg</b>	0	1	1	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>fARGene</b>	0	702	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>resfinder 4</b>	0	11	7	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>rgi</b>	1	75	38	0	1	1	0.98684210 53	0.9868	0.5000	0.9870	1
<b>shortbred</b>	0	30	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>srax</b>	0	13	3	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>staramr</b>	1	29	7	0	1	1	0.96666666 67	0.9667	0.5000	0.9677	1
<b>Condensed Results, 5x Coverage</b>											
<b>tool</b>	<b>False positive</b>	<b>True positive</b>	<b>unknown</b>	<b>False negative</b>	<b>True negative</b>	<b>sensitivity</b>	<b>specificity</b>	<b>precision</b>	<b>accuracy</b>	<b>recall</b>	<b>Percent unclassified</b>
<b>abricate</b>	0	4	3	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	0.4286
<b>amrfinderplus</b>	0	7	11	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	0.6111



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<b>deeparg</b>	0	42	7	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	0.1429
<b>fARGene</b>	0	470	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	0.0000
<b>resfinder 4</b>	0	6	2	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	0.2500
<b>rgi</b>	1	48	30	0	1	1	0.9796	0.5000	0.9800	1	0.3797
<b>shortbred</b>	0	29	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	0.0000
<b>srax</b>	0	4	3	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	0.4286
<b>staramr</b>	0	33	8	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	0.1951

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**Table 5:** Kappa Values: Kappa values (agreement) between tools across coverage levels

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calculated in R using the kappa2 function

5X Kappa	amrfinder...	deeparg	fARGene	resfinder 4	rgi	shortbred	srax	staramr
abricate	0.49231	0.48069	0.22703	0.74419	0.20532	0.36649	0.36649	0.64186
amrfinderp...	0	-0.00797	0.08027	0.30483	-0.1448	0.13652	0.13652	0.30483
deeparg	0	0	0.17564	0.42232	0.3901	0.28868	0.28868	0.32604
fARGene	0	0	0	0.29712	0.07293	0.72671	0.18012	0.15655
resfinder 4	0	0	0	0	0.19561	0.46828	0.46828	0.78164
rgi	0	0	0	0	0	0.12438	0.12438	0.19561
shortbred	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.54872	0.33535
srax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.46828

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50X Kappa	amrfinder...	deeparg	fARGene	resfinder 4	rgi	shortbred	srax	staramr
abricate	0.50185	0.56961	0.22925	0.45902	0.25277	0.36943	0.38964	0.64567
amrfinderp...	0	0.11929	0.08313	0.13699	-0.13445	0.14108	0.12511	0.31513
deeparg	0	0	0.21053	0.32258	0.4548	0.34146	0.35867	0.40529
fARGene	0	0	0	0.25	0.08313	0.72727	0.33824	0.15888
resfinder 4	0	0	0	0	0.13699	0.4	0.30769	0.58621
rgi	0	0	0	0	0	0.14108	0.20118	0.23456
shortbred	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.61702	0.33824
srax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.37326

611

100X Kappa	amrfinder...	deeparg	fARGene	resfinder 4	rgi	shortbred	srax	staramr
abricate	0.50185	0.56961	0.22925	0.45902	0.25277	0.36943	0.32331	0.64567
amrfinderp...	0	0.11929	0.08313	0.13699	-0.13445	0.14108	0.09548	0.31513
deeparg	0	0	0.21053	0.32258	0.4548	0.34146	0.29603	0.40529
fARGene	0	0	0	0.25	0.08313	0.72727	0.39024	0.15888
resfinder 4	0	0	0	0	0.13699	0.4	0.35294	0.58621
rgi	0	0	0	0	0	0.14108	0.17085	0.23456
shortbred	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.68966	0.33824
srax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.29185

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616 Supplementary Table 1: Summary Statistics when results of all tools are combined.

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<b>Combined Stats</b>			
	<b>100x</b>	<b>50x</b>	<b>5x</b>
true_positive	1703	1624	1971
unknown	329	394	605
false_positive	8	8	13
true_negatives	1	1	1
false_negatives	6	6	6
sensitivity	0.996	0.996	0.996
specificity	0.111	0.111	0.071

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621           Supplementary table 2: link to tweet

622           [https://twitter.com/emily\\_wissel/status/1336013892116488195](https://twitter.com/emily_wissel/status/1336013892116488195)

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624           Supplementary table 3: tidy table of data

625           <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bfACqEh0nkS65vCUj5DfMg4PvW0fHxbtrv0P>

626           [gKt1gT4/edit#gid=53644837](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bfACqEh0nkS65vCUj5DfMg4PvW0fHxbtrv0P/gKt1gT4/edit#gid=53644837)