

1 **Genomic Diversity of *Escherichia coli* isolates from healthy children in rural Gambia**

2 Ebenezer Foster-Nyarko^{1,2}, Nabil-Fareed Alikhan¹, Usman Nurudeen Ikumapayi², Sarwar

3 Golam², M Jahangir Hossain², Catherine Okoi², Peggy-Estelle Tientcheu², Marianne

4 Defernez¹, Justin O’Grady¹, Martin Antonio^{2,3}, Mark J. Pallen^{1,4#}

5

6

7 ¹ Quadram Institute Bioscience, Norwich Research Park, Norwich, Norfolk, United Kingdom

8 ² Medical Research Council Unit The Gambia at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical

9 Medicine, Atlantic Boulevard Road, Fajara, the Gambia

10 ³ Warwick Medical School, University of Warwick, Coventry, United Kingdom

11 ⁴ School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey, United Kingdom

12

13

14 **#Corresponding author:** Professor Mark J. Pallen, Quadram Institute Bioscience, Norwich

15 Research Park, Norwich, Norfolk, United Kingdom

16 Email: Mark.Pallen@quadram.ac.uk

17

18 **Abstract**

19 Little is known about the genomic diversity of *Escherichia coli* in healthy children from sub-
20 Saharan Africa, even though this is pertinent to understanding bacterial evolution and
21 ecology and their role in infection. We isolated and whole-genome sequenced up to five
22 colonies of faecal *E. coli* from 66 asymptomatic children aged three-to-five years in rural
23 Gambia (n=88 isolates from 21 positive stools). We identified 56 genotypes, with an average
24 of 2.7 genotypes per host. These were spread over 37 seven-allele sequence types and all
25 eight significant phylogroups of *E. coli*. Immigration events accounted for three quarters of
26 the diversity within our study population, while one quarter of variants appeared to have
27 arisen from within-host evolution. Several study strains were closely related to isolates
28 that caused disease in humans or originated from livestock. Our results suggest that within-
29 host evolution plays a minor role in the generation of diversity than independent immigration
30 and the establishment of strains among our study population. Also, this study adds
31 significantly to the number of commensal *E. coli* genomes, a group that has been traditionally
32 underrepresented in the sequencing of this species.

33

34 **Words: 184**

35 **Keywords:** *Escherichia coli*, genomic diversity, within-host evolution.

36

37

38 **Introduction**

39 Ease of culture and genetic tractability account for the unparalleled status of *Escherichia coli*
40 as “the biological rock star”, driving advances in biotechnology (1), while also providing key
41 insights into biology and evolution (2). However, *E. coli* is also a widespread commensal, as
42 well as a versatile pathogen, linked to diarrhoea (particularly in the under-fives), urinary tract
43 infection, neonatal sepsis, bacteraemia and multi-drug resistant infection in hospitals (3-5).
44 Yet most of what we know about *E. coli* stems from investigation of laboratory strains, which
45 fail to capture the ecology and evolution of this key organism “in the wild” (6) What’s more,
46 most studies of non-lab strains have focused on pathogenic strains or have been hampered by
47 low-resolution PCR methods, so we have relatively few genomic sequences from commensal
48 isolates, particularly from low- to middle-income countries (7-13).

49 We have a broad understanding of the population structure of *E. coli*, with eight major
50 phylogroups loosely linked to ecological niche and pathogenic potential (B2, D and F linked
51 to extraintestinal infection; A and B1 linked to severe intestinal infections such as
52 haemolytic-uraemic syndrome) (14-17), All phylogroups can colonise the human gut, but it
53 remains unclear how far commensals and pathogenic strains compete or collaborate with one
54 another—or engage in horizontal gene transfer—within this important niche (18, 19).

55 Although clinical microbiology typically relies on single-colony picks (which has the
56 potential to underestimate species diversity and transmission events), within-host diversity of
57 *E. coli* in the gut is crucial to our understanding of inter-strain competition and co-operation
58 and also for accurate diagnosis and epidemiological analyses. Pioneering efforts using
59 serotyping and molecular typing have shown that normal individuals typically harbour more
60 than one strain of *E. coli* (20-22), with one individual carrying 24 distinct clones (22-24).
61 More recently, whole-genome sequencing has illuminated molecular epidemiological

62 investigations (9), adaptation during and after infection (25, 26), as well as the intra-clonal
63 diversity in healthy hosts (27).

64 There are two plausible sources of within-host genomic diversity. Although, a
65 predominant strain usually colonises the host for extended periods (28), successful
66 immigration events mean that incoming strains can replace the dominant strain or co-exist
67 alongside it as minority populations (29). Strains originating from serial immigration events
68 are likely to differ by hundreds or thousands of single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs).
69 Alternatively, within-host evolution can generate clouds of intra-clonal diversity, where
70 genotypes differ by just a handful of SNPs (20).

71 Most relevant studies have been limited to Western countries, with the exception of a
72 recent report from Tanzania (21), so little is known about the genomic diversity of *E. coli* in
73 sub-Saharan Africa. The Global Enteric Multicenter Study (GEMS) (30, 31) has documented
74 a high burden of diarrhoea attributable to *E. coli* (including *Shigella*) among children from
75 the Gambia, probably as a result of increased exposure to this organism through poor hygiene
76 and frequent contact with animals and the environment. In also facilitating access to stool
77 samples from healthy Gambian children, the GEMS study has given us a unique opportunity
78 to study within-host genomic diversity of commensal *E. coli* in this setting.

79

80 **Methods**

81 **Study population**

82 We initially selected 76 faecal samples from three- to five-year-old asymptomatic Gambian
83 children, who had been recruited from Basse, Upper River Division, the Gambia, into the
84 GEMS study (30) as healthy controls from December 1, 2007 to March 3, 2011. Samples had
85 been collected according to a previously described sampling protocol (32). Archived stool
86 samples were retrieved from -80°C storage and allowed to thaw on ice. A 100-200 mg aliquot

87 from each sample was transferred aseptically into 1.8ml Nunc tubes for microbiological
88 processing below (Figure 1). Eleven of the original 76 samples proved unavailable for
89 processing in this study.

90

91 **Bacterial growth and isolation**

92 1 ml of physiological saline (0.85%) was added to each sample tube and vigorously vortexed
93 at 4200 rpm for at least 2 minutes. Next, the homogenised sample suspensions were taken
94 through four ten-fold dilution series. A 100 μ l aliquot from each dilution was then spread
95 evenly on a plate of tryptone-bile-X-glucuronide differential and selective agar. The
96 inoculated plates were incubated overnight at 37°C under aerobic conditions. Colony counts
97 were performed on the overnight cultures for each serial dilution for translucent colonies with
98 entire margins and blue-green pigmentation indicative of *E. coli*. Up to five representative
99 colonies were selected from each sample and sub-cultured on MacConkey agar overnight at
100 37°C before storing in 20% glycerol broth at -80°C. Individual isolates were assigned a
101 designation comprised of the subject ID followed by the colony number (“1-5”).

102

103 **Genomic DNA extraction and genome sequencing**

104 Broth cultures were prepared from pure, fresh cultures of each colony-pick in 1 ml Luria-
105 Bertani broth and incubated overnight to attain between 10^9 – 10^{10} cfu per ml. Genomic DNA
106 was then extracted from the overnight broth cultures using the lysate method described in
107 (33). The eluted DNA was quantified by the Qubit high sensitivity DNA assay kit
108 (Invitrogen, MA, USA) and sequenced on the Illumina NextSeq 500 instrument (Illumina,
109 San Diego, CA) as described previously (34).

110 Following Dixit et al. (20), we sequenced a random selection of isolates twice, using DNA
111 obtained from independent cultures, to help in the determination of clones and the analysis of

112 within-host variants (Supplementary File 5). Bioinformatic analyses of the genome sequences
113 were carried out on the Cloud Infrastructure for Microbial Bioinformatics (CLIMB) platform
114 (35).

115

116 **Phylogenetic analysis**

117 The paired 150bp reads were quality checked and assembled, as previously described (34).

118 Snippy v4.3.2 (<https://github.com/tseemann/snippy>) was used for variant calling, using the

119 complete genome sequence of commensal *E. coli* str. K12 substr. MG1655 as a reference

120 strain (NCBI accession: NC_000913.3) and to generate a core-genome alignment, from

121 which a maximum-likelihood phylogeny with 1000 bootstrap replicates was reconstructed

122 using RAxML v8.2.4 (36), based on a general time-reversible nucleotide substitution model.

123 The phylogenetic tree was rooted using the genomic sequence of *E. fergusonii* as an outgroup

124 (NCBI accession: GCA_000026225.1). The phylogenetic tree was visualised in FigTree

125 v1.4.3 (<https://github.com/rambaut/figtree/>) and annotated in RStudio v3.5.1 and Adobe

126 Illustrator v 23.0.3 (Adobe Inc., San Jose, California). For visualisation, a single colony was

127 chosen to represent replicate colonies of the same strain (ST) with identical virulence,

128 plasmid and antimicrobial resistance profiles and a de-replicated phylogenetic tree

129 reconstructed using the representative isolates.

130

131 **Multi-locus sequence typing, Clermont typing and SNPs**

132 The merged reads were uploaded to Enterobase (37), where *de novo* assembly and genome

133 annotation were carried out and *in-silico* multi-locus sequence types (STs) assigned based on

134 the Achtman scheme, allocating new sequence types (ST) if necessary. Enterobase assigns

135 phylogroups using ClermontTyper and EzClermont (38, 39) and unique core-genome MLST

136 types based on 2, 513 core loci in *E. coli*. Publicly available *E. coli* sequences in Enterobase

137 (<http://enterobase.warwick.ac.uk/species/index/ecoli>) (37) were included for comparative
138 analysis, including 23 previously sequenced isolates obtained from diarrhoeal cases recruited
139 in the GEMS study in the Gambia (Supplementary File 1).

140 We computed pairwise single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) distances between
141 genomes from the core-genome alignment using `snp-dists` v0.6
142 (<https://github.com/tseemann/snp-dists>). For the duplicate sequence reads of the same strains,
143 we used `SPAdes` v3.13.2 (40) to assemble each set of reads and map the raw sequences from
144 one sequencing run to the assembly of the other run and vice versa, as described previously
145 (20). SNPs were detected using the `CSIPhylogeny` tool
146 (<https://cge.cbs.dtu.dk/services/CSIPhylogeny/>) and compared between the two steps,
147 counting only those SNPs that were detected in both sets of reads as accurate.

148

149 **Accessory gene content**

150 We used `ABRicate` v0.9.8 (<https://github.com/tseemann/abricate>) to predict virulence factors,
151 acquired antimicrobial resistance genes and plasmid replicons by scanning the contigs against
152 the VFDB, ResFinder and PlasmidFinder databases respectively, using an identity threshold
153 of $\geq 90\%$ and a coverage of $\geq 70\%$. Virulence factors and AMR genes were plotted next to the
154 phylogenetic tree using the `ggtree`, `ggplot2` and `phangorn` packages in `RStudio` v3.5.1. We
155 calculated co-occurrence of AMR genes among study isolates and visualised this as a heat
156 map using `RStudio` v 3.5.1.

157

158 **Population structure and comparison of commensal and pathogenic strains**

159 We assessed the population structure using the hierarchical clustering algorithm in
160 `Enterobase`. Briefly, the isolates were assigned stable population clusters at eleven levels
161 (from HC0 to HC 2350) based on pairwise `cgMLST` allelic differences. Hierarchical

162 clustering at 1100 alleles differences (HC1100) resolves populations into cgST complexes,
163 the equivalent of clonal complexes achieved with the legacy MLST clustering approaches
164 (37). We reconstructed neighbour-joining phylogenetic trees using NINJA (41), based on
165 clustering at HC1100 to display the population sub-clusters at this level as an indicator of the
166 genomic diversity within our study population and to infer the evolutionary relationship
167 among our strains and others in the public domain.

168 Next, we interrogated the HC1100 clusters that included both pathogenic and commensal
169 *E. coli* strains recovered from the GEMS study. For the clusters that encompassed commensal
170 and pathogenic strains belonging to the same ST, we reconstructed both neighbour-joining
171 and SNP phylogenetic trees to display the genetic relationships among these strains. We
172 visualised the accessory genomes for the overlapping STs mentioned above to determine
173 genes associated with phages, virulence factors and AMR. The resulting phylogenetic trees
174 were annotated in Adobe Illustrator v 23.0.3 (Adobe Inc., San Jose, California).

175

176 **Ethical statement**

177 The study was approved by the joint Medical Research Council Unit The Gambia-Gambian
178 Government ethical review board.

179

180 **Results**

181 **Population structure**

182 The study population included 27 females and 39 males (Table 1). All but one reported the
183 presence of a domestic animal within the household. 21 samples proved positive for growth
184 of *E. coli*, yielding 88 isolates. We detected 37 seven-allele sequence types (STs) among the
185 isolates, with a fairly even distribution (Figure 2). Five STs were completely novel (ST9274,
186 ST9277, ST9278, ST9279 and ST9281). These study strains were scattered over all the eight

187 main phylogroups of *E. coli* (Table 2). Hierarchical clustering of core genomic STs revealed
188 twenty-seven cgST clonal complexes (Supplementary File 2).

189

190 **Within-host diversity**

191 Nine individuals were colonised by just a single ST, six carried two STs, four carried four
192 STs and two carried six STs. We found 56 distinct genotypes, which equates to an average of
193 2.7 genotypes per host. Two individuals (H-18 and H-2) shared an identical strain belonging
194 to ST9274 (zero SNP difference) (Supplementary File 4, yellow highlight), suggesting recent
195 transfer from one child to another or recent acquisition from a common source.

196 We observed thirteen cases where a single host harboured two or more variants within the
197 same SNP cloud (Table 2). Such within-host evolution accounted for around a quarter of the
198 observed variation, with immigration explaining the remaining three quarters. 22% of within-
199 host mutations represented synonymous changes. 43% were non-synonymous mutations,
200 while 31% occurred in non-coding regions and 4% represented stop-gained mutations
201 (Supplementary File 6). The average number of SNPs among variants within such SNP
202 clouds was 5 (range 0-18) (Table 3). However, in two subjects (H36 and H37), pairwise
203 distances between genomes from the same ST (ST59 and ST5148) were as large as 14 and 18
204 SNPs respectively (Supplementary File 4, grey highlight).

205

206 **Accessory gene content and relationships with other strains**

207 A quarter of our isolates were most closely related to commensal strains from humans, with
208 smaller numbers most closely related to human pathogenic strains or strains from livestock,
209 poultry or the environment (Table 4). One isolate was most closely related to a canine isolate
210 from the UK. Three STs (ST38, ST10 and ST58) were shared by our study isolates and
211 diarrhoeal isolate from the GEMS study (Supplementary Figure 2), with just eight alleles

212 separating our commensal ST38 strain from a diarrhoeal isolate from the GEMS study
213 (Figure 5).

214 We detected 125 genes encoding putative virulence factors across the 88 study isolates
215 (Figure 2; Supplementary File 3). More than half of the isolates encoded resistance to three or
216 more clinically relevant classes of antibiotics (Figure 3; Supplementary Figure 1). The most
217 common resistance gene network was *-aph(6)-Id_1-sul2* (41% of the isolates), followed by
218 *aph(3'')-Ib_5-sul2* (27%) and *bla-TEM-aph(3'')-Ib_5* (24%). Most isolates (67%) harboured
219 two or more plasmid types (Figure 4). Of the 24 plasmid types detected, IncFIB was the most
220 common (41%), followed by col156 (19%) and IncI_1-Alpha (15%). Nearly three quarters of
221 the multi-drug resistant isolates carried IncFIB (AP001918) plasmids, suggesting that these
222 large plasmids disseminate resistance genes within our study population.

223

224 **Discussion**

225 This study provides an overview of the within-host genomic diversity of *E. coli* in healthy
226 children from a rural setting in the Gambia, West Africa. Surprisingly, we recovered a low
227 rate of colonisation than reported elsewhere among children of similar age groups (42), with
228 only a third of our study samples yielding growth of *E. coli*. This may reflect geographical
229 variation but might also be some hard-to-identify effect of the way the samples were handled,
230 even though they were kept frozen and thawed only just before culture.

231 Several studies have shown that sampling a single colony is insufficient to capture *E. coli*
232 strain diversity in stools (20, 21, 23). Lidin-Janson *et al.* (43) claim that sampling five
233 colonies provides a >99% chance of recovering dominant genotypes from single stool
234 specimens, while Schlager *et al.* (24) calculate that sampling twenty-eight colonies provides a
235 >90% chance of recovering minor genotypes. Our results confirm the importance of multiple-

236 colony picks in faecal surveillance studies, as over half (57%) of our strains would have been
237 missed by picking a single colony.

238 Although our strains encompassed all eight major phylotypes of *E. coli*, the majority fell
239 into the A and B1 phylogenetic groups, in line with previous reports that these phylogroups
240 dominate in stools from people in low- and middle-income countries (44, 45). The prevalence
241 of putative virulence genes in most of our isolates highlights the pathogenic potential of
242 commensal intestinal strains—regardless of their phylogroup—should they gain access to the
243 appropriate tissues, for example, the urinary tract. Our results complement previous studies
244 reporting genomic similarities between faecal *E. coli* isolates and those recovered from
245 urinary tract infection (25, 46).

246 We found that within-host evolution plays a minor role in generation of diversity, in line
247 with Dixit et al. (20), who reported that 83% of diversity originates from immigration events,
248 and with epidemiological data suggesting that the recurrent immigration events account for
249 the high faecal diversity of *E. coli* in the tropics (47). Co-colonising variants belonging to the
250 same ST tended to share an identical virulence, AMR and plasmid profile, signalling
251 similarities in their accessory gene content. The estimated mutation rate for *E. coli* lineages is
252 around one SNP per genome per year (48), so that two genomes with a most recent common
253 ancestor in the last five years would be expected to be around ten SNPs apart. However, in
254 two subjects, pairwise distances between genomes from the same ST (ST59 and ST5148)
255 were large enough (14 and 18 respectively) to suggest that they might have arisen from
256 independent immigration events, as insufficient time had elapsed in the child's life for such
257 divergence to occur within the host. However, it remains possible that the mutation rate was
258 higher than expected in these lineages, although we found no evidence of damage to DNA
259 repair genes. More than half of our isolates encode resistance to three or more classes of
260 antimicrobials echoing the high rate of MDR (65%; confirmed by phenotypic testing) in the

261 GEMS study. IncFIB (AP001918) was the most common plasmid Inc type from our study, in
262 line with the observation that IncF plasmids are frequently associated with the dissemination
263 of resistance (49). However, a limitation of our study is that we did not perform phenotypic
264 antimicrobial resistance testing, although Doyle et al. (50) reported that only a small
265 proportion of genotypic AMR predictions are discordant with phenotypic results.

266 Comparative analyses confirm the heterogeneous origins of the strains reported here,
267 documenting links to other human commensal strains or isolates sourced from livestock or
268 the environment. This is not surprising, as almost all study participants reported that animals
269 are kept in their homes and children in rural Gambia are often left to play on the ground,
270 close to domestic animals such as pets and poultry (51).

271 Our results show that the commensal *E. coli* population in the gut of healthy children in
272 rural Gambia is richly diverse, with the independent immigration and establishment of strains
273 contributing to the bulk of the observed diversity. In addition, this work has added
274 significantly to the number of commensal *E. coli* genomes, which are underrepresented in
275 public repositories. Although solely observational, our study paves the way for future studies
276 aimed at a mechanistic understanding of the factors driving the diversification of *E. coli* in
277 the human gut and what it takes to make a strain of *E. coli* successful in this habitat.

278

279 **Acknowledgements**

280 We gratefully acknowledge the study participants in GEMS and all clinicians, field workers
281 and the laboratory staff of the Medical Research Council Unit The Gambia at London School
282 of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine involved in the collection and storage of stools in the
283 GEMS study in Basse Field Station and Fajara.

284

285 **Data summary**

286 All genomic assemblies for the strains included in this study are freely available from
287 EnteroBase (<http://enterobase.warwick.ac.uk/species/index/ecoli>). The EnteroBase genome
288 assembly barcodes are provided in Supplementary Files 1 and 2.

289 The raw genomic sequences have been deposited in the NCBI SRA, under the BioProject
290 ID PRJNA658685 and accession numbers SAMN15880286 to SAMN15880281.

291

292 **Conflicts of interest**

293 We declare no conflicts of interest.

294

295 **Author contributions**

296 Conceptualization: MA, MP; data curation, MP, NFA; formal analysis: EFN; analytical
297 support: MD; funding: MA and MP; sample collection and storage: MJH, UNI, PET, CO;
298 data management: SG; laboratory experiments, EFN, supervision, NFA, MP, JO, MA;
299 manuscript preparation – original draft, EFN; review and editing, NFA, MP; review of final
300 manuscript, all authors.

301

302 **Funding information**

303 MA, MJH, UNI, SG, CO, PET and MP were supported by the Medical Research Council
304 Unit, The Gambia at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. EFN and MP were
305 supported by the BBSRC Institute Strategic Programme Microbes in the Food Chain
306 BB/R012504/1 and its constituent projects 44414000A and 4408000A. NFA was supported
307 by the Quadram Institute Bioscience BBSRC funded Core Capability Grant (project number
308 BB/ CCG1860/1). The funders played no role in the study design, data collection and
309 analysis, the decision to publish, or the preparation of the manuscript.

310

311 **References**

- 312 1. Blount ZD. The unexhausted potential of *E. coli*. eLife. 2015;4.
- 313 2. Good BH, McDonald MJ, Barrick JE, Lenski RE, Desai MM. The dynamics of
314 molecular evolution over 60,000 generations. Nature. 2017;551(7678):45-50.
- 315 3. Camins BC, Marschall J, DeVader SR, Maker DE, Hoffman MW, Fraser VJ. The
316 clinical impact of fluoroquinolone resistance in patients with *E coli* bacteremia.
317 Journal of Hospital Medicine. 2011;6(6):344-9.
- 318 4. Russo TA, Johnson JR. Medical and economic impact of extraintestinal infections due
319 to *Escherichia coli*: focus on an increasingly important endemic problem. Microbes
320 and Infection. 2003;5(5):449-56.
- 321 5. Rodríguez-Baño J, Picón E, Gijón P, Hernández JR, Cisneros JM, Peña C, et al. Risk
322 factors and prognosis of nosocomial bloodstream infections caused by extended-
323 spectrum-beta-lactamase-producing *Escherichia coli*. Journal of Clinical
324 Microbiology. 2010;48(5):1726-31.
- 325 6. Hobman JL, Penn CW, Pallen MJ. Laboratory strains of *Escherichia coli*: model
326 citizens or deceitful delinquents growing old disgracefully? Molecular Microbiology.
327 2007;64(4):881-5.
- 328 7. Rasko DA, Rosovitz MJ, Myers GS, Mongodin EF, Fricke WF, Gajer P, et al. The
329 pangenome structure of *Escherichia coli*: comparative genomic analysis of *E. coli*
330 commensal and pathogenic isolates. Journal of Bacteriology. 2008;190(20):6881-93.
- 331 8. Touchon M, Hoede C, Tenaillon O, Barbe V, Baeriswyl S, Bidet P, et al. Organised
332 genome dynamics in the *Escherichia coli* species results in highly diverse adaptive
333 paths. PLoS Genetics. 2009;5(1):e1000344.
- 334 9. Stoesser N, Sheppard AE, Moore CE, Golubchik T, Parry CM, Nget P, et al.
335 Extensive within-host diversity in fecally carried extended-spectrum-beta-lactamase-

- 336 producing *Escherichia coli* isolates: Implications for transmission analyses. Journal of
337 Clinical Microbiology. 2015;53(7):2122-31.
- 338 10. Oshima K, Toh H, Ogura Y, Sasamoto H, Morita H, Park SH, et al. Complete genome
339 sequence and comparative analysis of the wild-type commensal *Escherichia coli*
340 strain SE11 isolated from a healthy adult. DNA Research. 2008;15(6):375-86.
- 341 11. Ferjani S, Saidani M, Hamzaoui Z, Alonso CA, Torres C, Maamar E, et al.
342 Community fecal carriage of broad-spectrum cephalosporin-resistant *Escherichia coli*
343 in Tunisian children. Diagnostic Microbiology and Infectious Disease.
344 2017;87(2):188-92.
- 345 12. Moremi N, Claus H, Vogel U, Mshana SE. Faecal carriage of CTX-M extended-
346 spectrum beta-lactamase-producing *Enterobacteriaceae* among street children
347 dwelling in Mwanza city, Tanzania. PLoS One. 2017;12(9):e0184592.
- 348 13. Ahmed SF, Ali MM, Mohamed ZK, Moussa TA, Klena JD. Fecal carriage of
349 extended-spectrum β -lactamases and AmpC-producing *Escherichia coli* in a Libyan
350 community. Annals of Clinical Microbiology and Antimicrobials. 2014;13:22.
- 351 14. Walk ST, Alm EW, Gordon DM, Ram JL, Toranzos GA, Tiedje JM, et al. Cryptic
352 lineages of the genus *Escherichia*. Applied and Environmental Microbiology.
353 2009;75(20):6534-44.
- 354 15. Alm EW, Walk ST, Gordon DM. The Niche of *Escherichia coli*. in Population
355 genetics of bacteria (eds S.T. Walk and P.C.H. Feng). American Society of
356 Microbiology; 2011.
- 357 16. Escobar-Paramo P, Clermont O, Blanc-Potard AB, Bui H, Le Bouguenec C, Denamur
358 E. A specific genetic background is required for acquisition and expression of
359 virulence factors in *Escherichia coli*. Molecular Biology and Evolution.
360 2004;21(6):1085-94.

- 361 17. Mellata M. Human and avian extraintestinal pathogenic *Escherichia coli*: infections,
362 zoonotic risks and antibiotic resistance trends. *Foodborne Pathogens and Disease*.
363 2013;10(11):916-32.
- 364 18. Laxminarayan R, Duse A, Wattal C, Zaidi AK, Wertheim HF, Sumpradit N, et al.
365 Antibiotic resistance-the need for global solutions. *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*.
366 2013;13(12):1057-98.
- 367 19. Stoppe NC, Silva JS, Carlos C, Sato MIZ, Saraiva AM, Ottoboni LMM, et al.
368 Worldwide phylogenetic group patterns of *Escherichia coli* from commensal human
369 and wastewater treatment plant isolates. *Frontiers in Microbiology*. 2017;8:2512.
- 370 20. Dixit OVA, O'Brien CL, Pavli P, Gordon DM. Within-host evolution versus
371 immigration as a determinant of *Escherichia coli* diversity in the human
372 gastrointestinal tract. *Environmental Microbiology*. 2018;20(3):993-1001.
- 373 21. Richter TKS, Hazen TH, Lam D, Coles CL, Seidman JC, You Y, et al. Temporal
374 variability of *Escherichia coli* diversity in the gastrointestinal tracts of Tanzanian
375 children with and without exposure to antibiotics. *mSphere*. 2018;3(6).
- 376 22. Chen SL, Wu M, Henderson JP, Hooton TM, Hibbing ME, Hultgren SJ, et al.
377 Genomic diversity and fitness of *E. coli* strains recovered from the intestinal and
378 urinary tracts of women with recurrent urinary tract infection. *Science Translational*
379 *Medicine*. 2013;5(184):184ra60.
- 380 23. Shooter RA, Bettleheim KA, Lennox-King SM, O'Farrell S. *Escherichia coli*
381 serotypes in the faeces of healthy adults over a period of several months. *Journal of*
382 *Hygiene (London)*. 1977;78(1):95-8.
- 383 24. Schlager TA, Hendley JO, Bell AL, Whittam TS. Clonal diversity of *Escherichia coli*
384 colonizing stools and urinary tracts of young girls. *Infection and Immunity*.
385 2002;70(3):1225-9.

- 386 25. McNally A, Alhashash F, Collins M, Alqasim A, Paszckiewicz K, Weston V, et al.
387 Genomic analysis of extra-intestinal pathogenic *Escherichia coli* urosepsis. *Clinical*
388 *Microbiology and Infection*. 2013;19(8):E328-34.
- 389 26. Nielsen KL, Stegger M, Godfrey PA, Feldgarden M, Andersen PS, Frimodt-Møller N.
390 Adaptation of *Escherichia coli* traversing from the faecal environment to the urinary
391 tract. *International Journal of Medical Microbiology*. 2016;306(8):595-603.
- 392 27. Stegger M, Leihof RF, Baig S, Sieber RN, Thingholm KR, Marvig RL, et al. A
393 snapshot of diversity: Intraclonal variation of *Escherichia coli* clones as commensals
394 and pathogens. *International Journal of Medical Microbiology*. 2020;310(3):151401.
- 395 28. Hartl DL, Dykhuizen DE. The population genetics of *Escherichia coli*. *Annual*
396 *Reviews of Genetics*. 1984;18:31-68.
- 397 29. Bettelheim KA, Faiers M, Shooter RA. Serotypes of *Escherichia coli* in normal
398 stools. *The Lancet*. 1972;2(7789):1223-4.
- 399 30. Kotloff KL, Nataro JP, Blackwelder WC, Nasrin D, Farag TH, Panchalingam S, et al.
400 Burden and aetiology of diarrhoeal disease in infants and young children in
401 developing countries (the Global Enteric Multicenter Study, GEMS): a prospective,
402 case-control study. *The Lancet*. 2013;382(9888):209-22.
- 403 31. Liu J, Platts-Mills JA, Juma J, Kabir F, Nkeze J, Okoi C, et al. Use of quantitative
404 molecular diagnostic methods to identify causes of diarrhoea in children: a reanalysis
405 of the GEMS case-control study. *The Lancet*. 2016;388(10051):1291-301.
- 406 32. Kotloff KL, Blackwelder WC, Nasrin D, Nataro JP, Farag TH, van Eijk A, et al. The
407 Global Enteric Multicenter Study (GEMS) of diarrheal disease in infants and young
408 children in developing countries: epidemiologic and clinical methods of the
409 case/control study. *Clinical Infectious Diseases*. 2012;55 Suppl 4:S232-45.

- 410 33. Foster-Nyarko E, Nabil-Fareed A, Anuradha R, M. TN, Sheikh J, Anna K-AB, et al.
411 Genomic diversity of *Escherichia coli* isolates from non-human primates in the
412 Gambia. bioRxiv. 2020:2020.02.29.971309.
- 413 34. De Silva D, Peters J, Cole K, Cole MJ, Cresswell F, Dean G, et al. Whole-genome
414 sequencing to determine transmission of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*: an observational
415 study. The Lancet Infectious Diseases. 2016;16(11):1295-303.
- 416 35. Connor TR, Loman NJ, Thompson S, Smith A, Southgate J, Poplawski R, et al.
417 CLIMB (the Cloud Infrastructure for Microbial Bioinformatics): an online resource
418 for the medical microbiology community. Microbial Genomics. 2016;2(9):e000086..
- 419 36. Stamatakis A. RAxML-VI-HPC: maximum likelihood-based phylogenetic analyses
420 with thousands of taxa and mixed models. Bioinformatics. 2006;22(21):2688-90.
- 421 37. Zhou Z, Alikhan NF, Mohamed K, Fan Y, Achtman M, Group AS. The EnteroBase
422 user's guide, with case studies on *Salmonella* transmissions, *Yersinia pestis*
423 phylogeny, and *Escherichia coli* core genomic diversity. Genome Research.
424 2020;30(1):138-52.
- 425 38. Clermont O, Christenson JK, Denamur E, Gordon DM. The Clermont *Escherichia*
426 *coli* phylo-typing method revisited: improvement of specificity and detection of new
427 phylo-groups. Environmental Microbiology Reports. 2013;5(1):58-65.
- 428 39. Clermont O, Gordon D, Denamur E. Guide to the various phylogenetic classification
429 schemes for *Escherichia coli* and the correspondence among schemes. Microbiology.
430 2015;161(Pt 5):980-8.
- 431 40. Bankevich A, Nurk S, Antipov D, Gurevich AA, Dvorkin M, Kulikov AS, et al.
432 SPAdes: a new genome assembly algorithm and its applications to single-cell
433 sequencing. Journal of Computational Biology. 2012;19(5):455-77.

- 434 41. Wheeler TJ. Large-Scale Neighbor-Joining with NINJA. in Algorithms in
435 Bioinformatics. Berlin, Heidelberg: Springer Berlin Heidelberg. 2009.
- 436 42. Degener JE, Smit AC, Michel MF, Valkenburg HA, Muller L. Faecal carriage of
437 aerobic gram-negative bacilli and drug resistance of *Escherichia coli* in different age-
438 groups in Dutch urban communities. Journal of Medical Microbiology.
439 1983;16(2):139-45.
- 440 43. Lidin-Janson G, Kaijser B, Lincoln K, Olling S, Wedel H. The homogeneity of the
441 faecal coliform flora of normal school-girls, characterized by serological and
442 biochemical properties. Medical Microbiology and Immunology. 1978;164(4):247-53.
- 443 44. Escobar-Páramo P, Grenet K, Le Menac'h A, Rode L, Salgado E, Amorin C, et al.
444 Large-scale population structure of human commensal *Escherichia coli* isolates.
445 Applied and Environmental Microbiology. 2004;70(9):5698-700.
- 446 45. Duriez P, Clermont O, Bonacorsi S, Bingen E, Chaventré A, Elion J, et al.
447 Commensal *Escherichia coli* isolates are phylogenetically distributed among
448 geographically distinct human populations. Microbiology. 2001;147(Pt 6):1671-6.
- 449 46. Wold AE, Caugant DA, Lidin-Janson G, de Man P, Svanborg C. Commensal colonic
450 *Escherichia coli* strains frequently display uropathogenic characteristics. Journal of
451 Infectious Diseases. 1992;165(1):46-52.
- 452 47. Tenaillon O, Skurnik D, Picard B, Denamur E. The population genetics of commensal
453 *Escherichia coli*. Nature Reviews Microbiology. 2010;8(3):207-17.
- 454 48. Reeves PR, Liu B, Zhou Z, Li D, Guo D, Ren Y, et al. Rates of mutation and host
455 transmission for an *Escherichia coli* clone over 3 years. PloS One.
456 2011;6(10):e26907.
- 457 50. Doyle RM, O'Sullivan DM, Aller SD, Bruchmann S, Clark T, Coello Pelegrin A, et
458 al. Discordant bioinformatic predictions of antimicrobial resistance from whole-

- 459 genome sequencing data of bacterial isolates: an inter-laboratory study. *Microbial*
460 *Genomics*. 2020;6(2).
- 461 51. Dione MM, Ikumapayi UN, Saha D, Mohammed NI, Geerts S, Ieven M, et al. Clonal
462 differences between Non-Typhoidal *Salmonella* (NTS) recovered from children and
463 animals living in close contact in the Gambia. *PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases*.
464 2011;5(5):e1148.
- 465
- 466

467 **Tables and figure legends**

468

Table 1: Characteristics of the study population

Sample ID	Lab ID	Age (months)	Gender	Bristol stool index	Domestic animal within household	Enrolment date
102135	H1	43	Female	Thick liquid	Goat, sheep	18-Feb-09
102650	H2	45	Female	Soft	Goat, sheep, donkey	27-Jul-09
103296	H3	44	Male	Soft	Goat, horse, donkey, rodent	27-Apr-10
103298	H4	44	Male	Formed	Sheep, fowl, horse, donkey, rodent	27-Apr-10
103621	H5	37	Female	Soft	Sheep, fowl, rodent	01-Sep-10
103650	H6	48	Female	Soft	Fowl, donkey, rodent	29-Sep-10
103649	H7	45	Female	Soft	Goat, sheep, fowl, horse, rodent	29-Sep-10
103071	H8	53	Male	Formed	Goat, sheep, fowl	15-Jan-10
103622	H9	39	Female	Soft	Goat, sheep	01-Sep-10
100167	H10	40	Female	Soft	Goat, sheep, fowl	01-Feb-08
100217	H11	57	Male	Formed	Cat, fowl, horse, rodent	21-Feb-08
100230	H12	51	Male	Soft	Goat, sheep, cat, fowl, rodent	28-Feb-08
100612	H13	55	Female	Formed	Goat, sheep, dog, fowl, horse, donkey, rodent	16-Aug-08
100162	H14	47	Female	Thick liquid	Sheep, horse, donkey, rodent	30-Jan-08
102255	H15	42	Male	Formed	Goat, sheep, fowl, horse, donkey, rodent	26-Mar-09
102250	H16	39	Male	Formed	Fowl	25-Mar-09
102114	H17	54	Male	Formed	Rodent	12-Feb-09
102123	H18	37	Female	Soft	Goat, sheep, fowl, rodent	14-Feb-09
103282	H19	43	Male	Formed	Goat, sheep, dog, cat, cow, fowl,	22-Apr-10
100817	H20	44	Male	Soft	Dog, fowl	03-Dec-08
100816	H21	40	Male	Soft	Goat, sheep, cow, fowl, horse, donkey, rodent	03-Dec-08
102836	H22	47	Male	Thick liquid	Fowl, rodent	12-Oct-09
102837	H23	41	Male	Thick liquid	Sheep, fowl, rodent	12-Oct-09
102843	H24	44	Male	Soft	Fowl, rodent	13-Oct-09
102907	H25	36	Male	Soft	Goat, sheep, fowl	05-Nov-09
102905	H26	37	Male	Soft	Goat, sheep, fowl	05-Nov-09
102262	H27	38	Male	Formed	Goat, sheep, rodent	01-Apr-09
102728	H28	41	Male	Soft	Goat, fowl	24-Aug-09
102729	H29	41	Male	Soft	Goat, dog, cat, fowl, donkey	24-Aug-09
100806	H30	55	Male	Soft	Goat, sheep, dog, fowl	21-Nov-08
102053	H31	37	Female	Formed	Cow, fowl, donkey, rodent	29-Jan-09
102052	H32	38	Female	Formed	Goat, sheep, cow, fowl, donkey, rodent	29-Jan-09
102511	H33	37	Male	Soft	Fowl, horse, donkey, rodent	19-Jun-09

102649	H34	37	Male	Soft	Fowl, horse, donkey, rodent	27-Jul-09
102454	H35	52	Male	Soft	Sheep, fowl, donkey, rodent	02-Jun-09
102459	H36	51	Male	Formed	Goat, sheep, dog, cat, cow, horse, donkey, rodent	04-Jun-09
100303	H37	58	Male	Formed	Sheep, fowl	08-Apr-08
100320	H38	42	Female	Formed	Sheep, fowl, rodent	19-Apr-08
100319	H39	45	Female	Formed	Goat, sheep, fowl, rodent	17-Apr-08
103081	H40	39	Female	Thick liquid	Goat, sheep, fowl, horse, donkey, rodent	20-Jan-10
103082	H41	39	Female	Thick liquid	Goat, sheep, fowl, horse, donkey, rodent	20-Jan-10
100663	H42	36	Male	Thick liquid	Goat, sheep, fowl, donkey	10-Sep-08
100072	H43	51	Female	Formed	Goat, cow, fowl, rodent	03-Jan-08
103171	H44	36	Female	Soft	Goat, sheep, rodent, fowl, rodent	18-Feb-10
103172	H45	36	Female	Soft	Goat, sheep, fowl, rodent	18-Feb-10
103292	H46	39	Male	Soft	Goat, sheep, fowl	23-Apr-10
102952	H47	36	Male	Soft	Goat, sheep, fowl, rodent	20-Nov-09
102953	H48	37	Male	Soft	Goat, sheep, fowl, rodent	20-Nov-09
102964	H49	40	Female	Formed	Goat, fowl, rodent	26-Nov-09
102966	H50	37	Female	Formed	Goat, sheep, fowl, horse, donkey, rodent	22-Apr-10
103281	H51	44	Male	Formed	Goat, sheep, dog, cat, fowl	22-Apr-10
100540	H52	43	Male	Soft	Goat, sheep, fowl, rodent	22-Jul-08
103123	H53	38	Male	Soft	Sheep	03-Feb-10
103124	H54	36	Male	Soft	Fowl	03-Feb-10
102089	H55	38	Female	Soft	Goat, cow, fowl, horse, donkey, rodent	05-Feb-09
103297	H56	38	Male	Soft	Goat, sheep, fowl, horse, donkey, rodent	27-Apr-10
102251	H57	39	Male	Formed	Fowl	25-Mar-09
103602	H58	38	Female	Formed	Goat, sheep, cow, fowl	26-Aug-10
103600	H59	39	Female	Formed	Goat, sheep, fowl	26-Aug-10
100026	H60	49	Female	Soft	Goat, sheep, cow, fowl	14-Dec-07
102102	H61	47	Female	Opaque watery	None	11-Feb-09
102263	H62	38	Male	Formed	Horse, donkey, rodent	01-Apr-09
103070	H63	58	Male	Soft	Goat, sheep, fowl	15-Jan-10
103130	H64	40	Male	Soft	Sheep, fowl	03-Feb-10
102051	H65	36	Female	Formed	Goat, sheep, dog, cat, cow, fowl, donkey, rodent	29-Jan-09
102524	H66	36	Male	Soft	Goat, sheep, fowl, horse, donkey, rodent	24-Jun-09

Table 2: Phylogroup and sequence types of the distinct clones isolated in each patient

Host	Genotype number					Number of distinct genotypes (clones)	Migration events	Within-host evolution events
	1	2	3	4	5			
H-2	A (9274)	A (9274)	A (9274)	A (9274)	A (9274)	1	1	0
H-9	A (2705)	A (2705)	A (2705)	D (2914)	B1 (29)	3	3	0
H-15	B2 (9277)	B2 (9277)	B2 (9277)	Clade I (747)	Clade I (747)	3	2	1
H-18	D (38)	D (38)	B1 (9281)	A (9274)		4	3	1
H-21	B1 (58)	B1 (58)	B1 (223)	A (540)	D (1204)	4	4	0
H-22	B1 (316)	B1 (316)	B1 (316)	B1 (316)		2	1	1
H-25	A (181)	A (181)	A (181)	A (181)	B1 (337)	4	2	2
H-26	B1 (641)	B1 (2741)	A (10)	A (398)		4	4	0
H-28	B1 (469)	B1 (469)	B1 (469)	B1 (469)		2	1	1
H-32	B1 (101)	B1 (101)	B1 (101)	B1 (2175)	A (10)	3	3	0
H-34	B1 (603)	B1 (603)	B1 (603)	B1 (1727)	A (10)	4	3	1
H-35	A (226)					1	1	0
H-36	F (59)	F (59)	F (59)	F (59)	E (9278)	3	2	1
H-37	D (5148)	D (5148)	D (5148)	D (5148)	D (5148)	3	1	2
H-38	D (394)	D (394)	D (394)	D (394)	B1 (58)	4	2	2
H-39	B2 (452)	B2 (452)	B2 (452)	B2 (452)	B2 (452)	2	1	1
H-40	B1 (155)					1	1	0
H-41	A (43)	A (43)	A (43)	A (43)	B1 (9283)	2	2	0
H-48	Clade I (485)	Clade I (485)	Clade I (485)	Clade I (485)		1	1	0
H-50	C (410)	C (410)	C (410)	C (410)	B1 (515)	2	2	0
H-55	A (9279)					1	1	0

Table 3: Pairwise SNP distances between variants arising from within-host evolution

<i>Host</i>	Sequence type (ST)	Colonies per ST	Pairwise SNP distances between multiple colonies of the same ST
<i>H2</i>	9274	5	0-9
<i>H9</i>	2705	3	0-1
<i>H15</i>	9277	3	0-1
<i>H15</i>	747	2	3
<i>H18</i>	38	2	3
<i>H21</i>	58	2	0
<i>H22</i>	316	4	0-3
<i>H25</i>	181	4	1-5
<i>H28</i>	469	4	0-3
<i>H32</i>	101	3	1-9
<i>H34</i>	603	3	2-8
<i>H36</i>	59	4	0-14
<i>H37</i>	5148	5	2-18
<i>H38</i>	394	4	1-3
<i>H39</i>	452	5	0-2
<i>H41</i>	43	4	0-1
<i>H48</i>	485	4	1-9
<i>H50</i>	410	4	0

Table 4: Closest relatives to the study isolates

Sample ID	7-gene ST	Neighbour host	Neighbour status	Neighbour's country of isolation	Allelic distance
H-32_5	10	Human	Unknown	UK	18
H-36_1	59	Human	Unknown	UK	18
H-39_1	452	Human	Commensal	UK	26
H-9_1	2705	Livestock		China	29
H-18_3	9274	Human	Commensal	Unknown	34
H-2_1	9274	Human	Commensal	Unknown	34
H-22_1	316	Human	Commensal	UK	35
H-38_1	394	Human	Pathogen (cystitis)	US	39
H-25_4	337	Human	Unknown	Mali	43
H-37_1	5148	Human	Pathogen (diarrhoea)	Ecuador	43
H-26_1	641	Livestock		US	46
H-26_5	398	Poultry		Kenya	47
H-48_2	485	Human	Commensal	Tanzania	57
H-15_1	9277	Human	Commensal	Zambia	68
H-15_2	747	Human	Commensal	Egypt	72
H-28_1	469	Human	Commensal	Kenya	77
H-21_2	1204	Avian		Kenya	81
H-34_2	10	Livestock		UK	83
H-38_2	58	Human	Pathogen (bloodstream infection)	Australia	87
H-34_4	1727	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	89
H-35_1	226	Human	Commensal	China	93
H-21_1	58	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	98
H-21_4	540	Human	Unknown	Belgium	100
H-32_2	2175	Livestock		UK	100
H-26_2	10	Livestock		US	111
H-32_1	101	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	111
H-50_2	515	Environment		Canada	117
H-41_1	43	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	120
H-26_4	2741	Human	Commensal	Germany	126
H-50_1	410	Livestock		US	140
H-18_1	38	Poultry		US	144
H-21_5	223	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	145
H-40_1	155	Unknown	Unknown	US	146
H-41_2	9283	Environment	Commensal	US	191
H-36_4	9278	Avian		Kenya	208
H-9_3	2914	Canine		UK	272
H-9_5	29	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	288
H-34_1	603	Laboratory		UK	325
H-55_1	9279	Environment		Unknown	333
H-18_2	9281	Unknown	Unknown	France	430
H-25_1	181	Human	Commensal	Tanzania	607

Legends to figures

Figure 2

A maximum-likelihood tree depicting the phylogenetic relationships among the study isolates. The tree was reconstructed with RAxML, using a general time-reversible nucleotide substitution model and 1,000 bootstrap replicates. The genome assembly of *E. coli* str. K12 substr. MG1655 was used as the reference, and the tree rooted using the genomic assembly of *E. fergusonii* as an outgroup. The sample names are indicated at the tip, with the respective Achtman sequence types (ST) indicated beside the sample names. The respective phylogroups the isolates belong to are indicated with colour codes as displayed in the legend. *E. coli* reference genome is denoted in black. Asterisks (*) are used to indicate novel STs. The predicted antimicrobial resistance genes and putative virulence factors for each isolate are displayed next to the tree, with the virulence genes clustered according to their function. Multiple copies of the same strain (ST) isolated from a single host are not shown. Instead, we have shown only one representative isolate from each strain. Virulence and resistance factors were not detected in the reference strain either. We have provided a summary of the identified virulence factors and their known functions in Supplementary File 3.

Figure 3

A: The prevalence of antimicrobial-associated genes detected in the isolates. The y-axis shows the detected AMR-associated genes in the genomes, grouped by antimicrobial class.

B: A histogram depicting the number of antimicrobial classes to which resistance genes were detected in the corresponding strains.

Figure 4

A: Plasmid replicons detected in the study isolates. B: A histogram depicting the number of plasmids co-harboured in a single strain.

Figure 5

A: A NINJA neighbour-joining tree showing the population structure of *E. coli* ST38, drawn using the genomes found in the core-genome MLST hierarchical cluster at HC1100, which corresponds to ST38 clonal complex. B: The closest neighbour to a pathogenic strain reported in GEMS⁴ is shown to be a commensal isolate recovered from a healthy individual. C: The closest relatives to the commensal ST38 strain recovered from this study is shown (red highlights), with the number of core-genome MLST alleles separating the two genomes displayed. D: A maximum-likelihood phylogenetic tree reconstructed using the genomes found in the cluster in C above, comprising both pathogenic and commensal ST38 strains is presented, depicting the genetic relationship between strain 100415 (pathogenic) and 103709 (commensal) (red highlights). The nodes are coloured to depict the status of the strains as pathogenic (red) or commensal (blue). The geographical locations where isolates were recovered are displayed in Figures 4A-C; the genome counts shown in square brackets.

Supplementary material

Supplementary Figure 1

A co-occurrence matrix of acquired antimicrobial resistance genes detected in the study isolates. The diagonal values show how many isolates each individual gene was found in, while the intersections between the columns represent the number of isolates in which the corresponding antimicrobial resistance genes co-occurred.

Supplementary Figure 2

A Neighbour-joining phylogenetic tree depicting the genetic relationships among twenty-four strains isolated from diarrhoeal cases in the GEMS study⁴. The Sequence types identified in

these isolates are shown in the legend, with the genome count displayed in square brackets next to the respective sequence types. Three STs (ST38, ST58 and ST10) overlapped with what was found among commensal strains from this study (see Figure 2).

Supplementary File 1

Sequencing statistics and characteristics of twenty-four previously sequenced GEMS cases included in this study.

Supplementary File 2

A summary of the sequencing statistics of the study isolates reported in this study.

Supplementary File 3

A summary of the virulence factors detected among the study isolates and their known functions.

Supplementary File 4

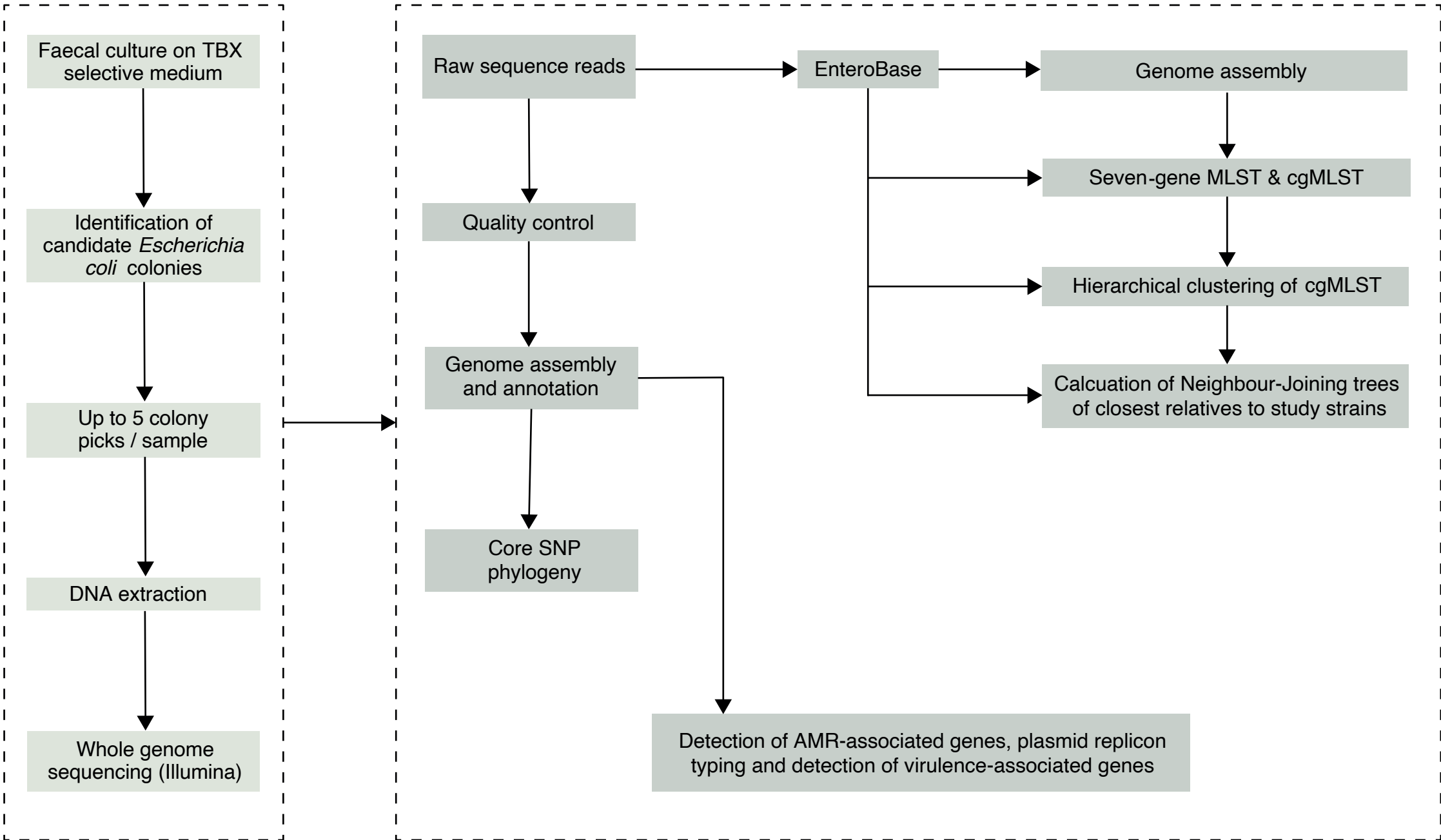
A pairwise single nucleotide polymorphism matrix showing the SNP distances between the study genomes.

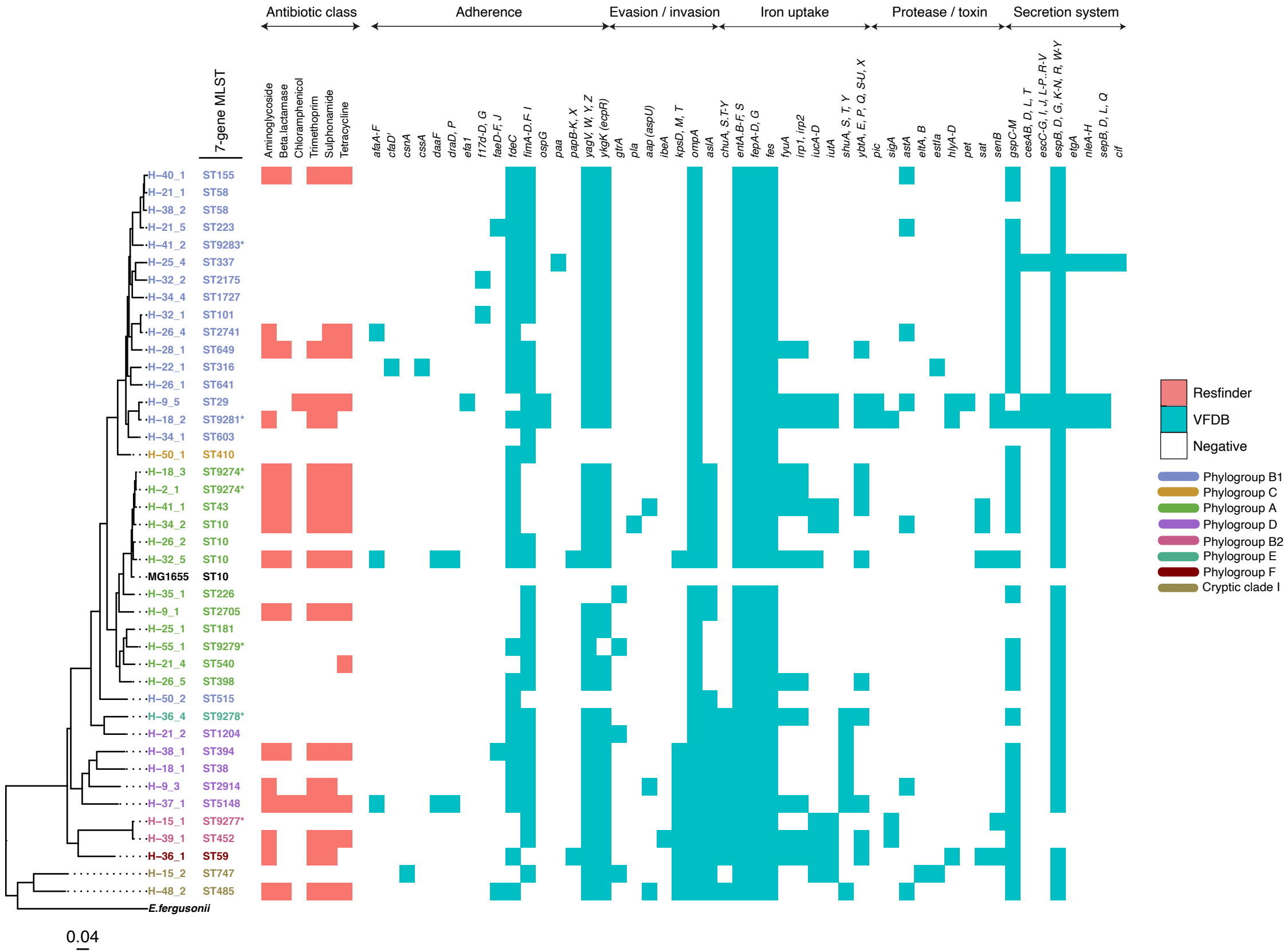
Supplementary File 5

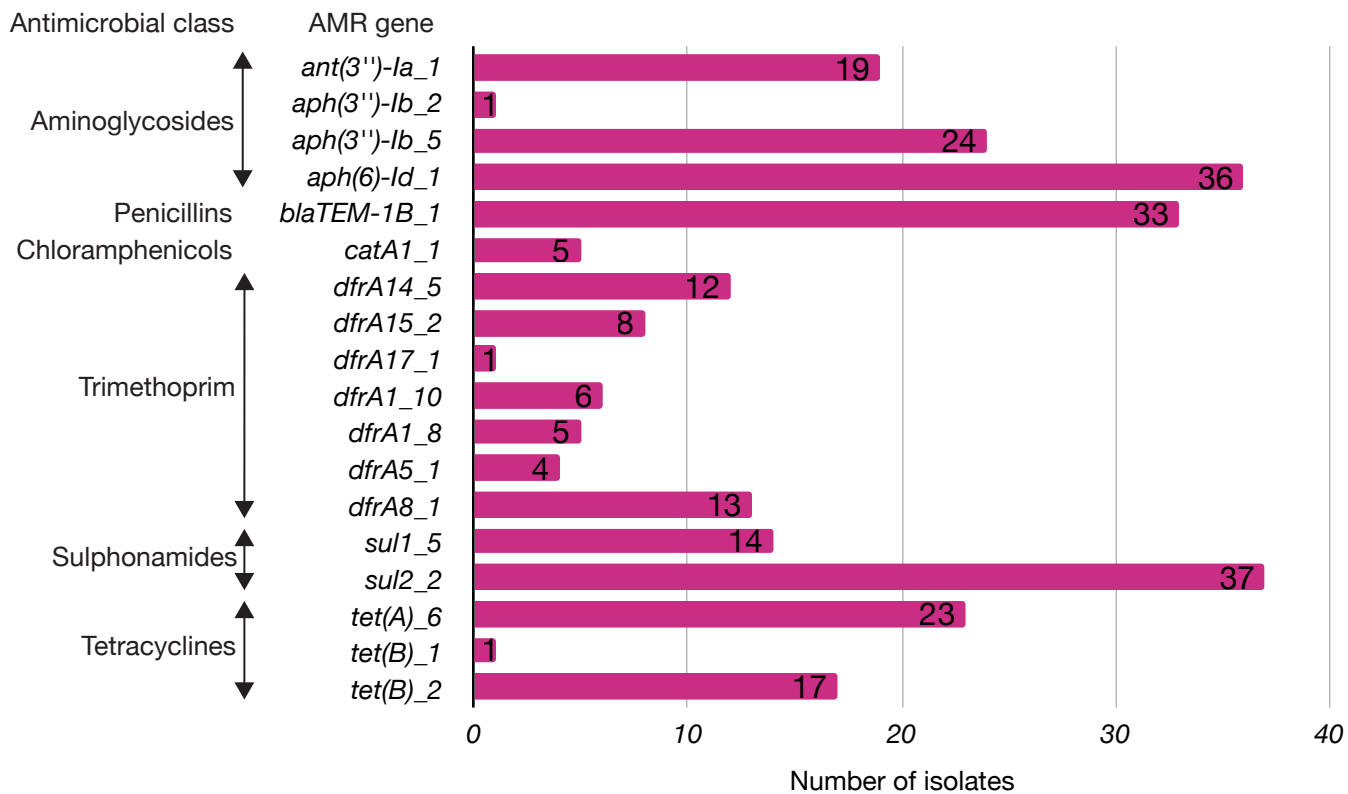
Two independent cultures of the same clone of samples that were sequenced twice and used to find the SNPs between same clones.

Supplementary File 6

Mutations in variants inferred to have been derived from within-host evolution.





A**B**