

Contents

Summary	VII
Resumen	IX
Resum	XI
Abbreviations	XIII
Introduction	1
1. Biology of <i>L. pneumophila</i>, an opportunistic pathogen.....	3
1.1. Taxonomy and biology.....	3
1.2. Microbial ecology	4
1.3. Biofilms as global reservoirs	6
1.3.1. Environmental spread.....	8
1.3.2. Life cycle and pathogenesis: an accidental infection	9
2. Legionnaires' Disease: epidemiology and surveillance.....	13
2.1. First descriptions.....	13
2.2. Clinical features, risk factors and treatment.....	14
2.3. Environmental factors and implications for public health	15
2.4. Incidence and surveillance schemes	16
2.5. Preventive regulations	17
3. Legionella detection and typing methods	20
3.1. Methods for <i>Legionella</i> identification.....	20
3.1.1. Identification in environmental samples.....	21
3.1.2. Identification in clinical samples.....	22
3.1.3. Sequence-based identification methods	23
3.2. Typing methods in outbreak investigations	24
4. Lessons from <i>L. pneumophila</i> genomics	27
4.1. Comparative genomics and diversity	27
4.2. Recombination and mobile genetic elements	31
4.3. Implications for outbreak investigations	34
5. Life within a community: lessons from metagenomics.	37
Objectives.....	43

Chapter 1 | Geographical and temporal structure of *Legionella pneumophila* sequence types in Comunidad Valenciana (Spain), 1998-2013..... 47

Abstract	49
Introduction	50
Materials and Methods	51
Strain collection and processing	51
Sequence-Based Typing (SBT)	52
SBT clustering and phylogenetic reconstruction.....	52
Analysis of diversity and population structure.....	53
Results	54
<i>L. pneumophila</i> diversity in the Comunidad Valenciana region	54
Geographical and temporal structure.....	58
Analysis of local versus global variability	61
Discussion.....	63
Supplementary material	69

Chapter 2 | Genetic characterization of *Legionella pneumophila* isolated from a common watershed in Comunidad Valenciana, Spain 79

Abstract	81
Introduction	82
Materials and methods	84
Samples	84
PCR amplification and product purification	85
DNA sequencing	85
Sequence analysis.....	86
Genetic variability.....	86
Topological congruence.....	86
Recombination	87
Population structure	88
Neutrality tests	89
Results	89
Sequence typing	89

Genetic variability.....	90
Topological congruence and recombination testing.....	92
Population structure	95
Neutrality tests	97
Discussion.....	98
Supplementary material	103

Chapter 3 | Phylogenetic analysis of environmental *Legionella pneumophila* isolates from an endemic area (Alcoy, Spain)..... 115

Abstract	117
Introduction	118
Materials and methods.....	120
Sample collection.....	120
Water processing and <i>Legionella</i> culturing	120
DNA extraction.....	122
TD-PCR for detection of <i>L. pneumophila</i> in water and biofilm samples	123
Sequence-Based Typing from isolates and direct samples	123
Cloning of non-typeable PCR products and M13 PCR reactions	124
Phylogenetic reconstruction	125
Results	126
<i>L. pneumophila</i> isolation and characterization from culture.....	126
PCR-based <i>L. pneumophila</i> detection and characterization.....	126
Analysis of cloned sequences from water and biofilms	128
Sequence type distribution and diversity in Alcoy	131
Effect of temperature and chlorine levels.....	132
Discussion.....	134
Supplementary material	139

Chapter 4 | Genomic investigation of a legionellosis outbreak in a persistently colonized hotel 147

Abstract	149
Introduction	150
Materials and methods	151
Case definition and epidemiological description of the outbreak	151

Clinical samples	152
Environmental sampling.....	153
<i>L. pneumophila</i> detection and Sequence-Based Typing (SBT)	154
Cloning of PCR products	155
Phylogenetic reconstruction of SBT data.....	155
Whole-genome sequencing on outbreak isolates	155
Bayesian estimation of colonization time	156
Results	157
Clinical <i>L. pneumophila</i> SBT profiles	157
Environmental <i>L. pneumophila</i> SBT profiles.....	159
ST23 colonization history analyzed by WGS	163
Discussion.....	165
Chapter 5 Recombination drives genome evolution in outbreak-related <i>Legionella pneumophila</i> isolates	169
Abstract	171
Introduction	172
Materials and Methods	174
Choice of samples	174
DNA extraction and sequencing	175
Reference mapping, SNP calling and genome alignment	175
Phylogenetic inference and genetic variability testing from core genome	177
Bayesian phylodynamic analysis of the ST578 coding core genome	177
Recombination testing	179
Results	181
Overlapping diversity between outbreak and non-outbreak strains ...	181
Recombination accounts for most of the observed diversity.....	184
Genomic epidemiology of ST578 outbreaks in Alcoy	188
Discussion.....	190
Supplementary material	197

Chapter 6 Metagenomic analysis of environmental biofilms from natural springs.....	231
Abstract	233
Introduction	234
Materials and methods	235
Sample collection and processing	235
Reads pre-processing	236
Creation of a genome database.....	236
Taxonomic classification	237
Diversity and richness estimates	237
Comparison to other methods.....	238
Results	239
Taxonomic assignment of shotgun reads	239
Description of the biofilm metagenomic community.....	239
Reads unassigned to the reference genome database	249
Taxonomy diversity and richness.....	251
<i>Legionella</i> detection and similarity among samples.....	252
Modified vs original LCA algorithm	253
Comparison with extracted rDNA reads.....	254
Taxonomic vote versus MetaPhiAn	256
Species level.....	258
Discussion.....	261
Supplementary material	269
Discussion.....	289
Conclusions	305
References	309