Complete nucleotide sequence of plasmid pME2001 of *Methanobacterium thermoautotrophicum* (Marburg)

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The archaebacterium *Methanobacterium thermoautotrophicum* (Marburg) contains a circular multicopy plasmid, which has previously been characterized with respect to its size and major restriction sites (1). A short transcript has also been mapped (2). It is hoped that this plasmid can be converted into a cloning vector (3). We report the complete nucleotide sequence below.

The direction of its presentation is opposite to the one chosen before, in order to show the identified open reading frames (ORFs) in 5′ to 3′ orientation. We have found sequences complementary to the 3′ end of the 16S rRNA in front of three of the four indicated ORFs. They are believed to be ribosome binding sites. Note the excellent homology to the rRNA sequences of the first of these sites.

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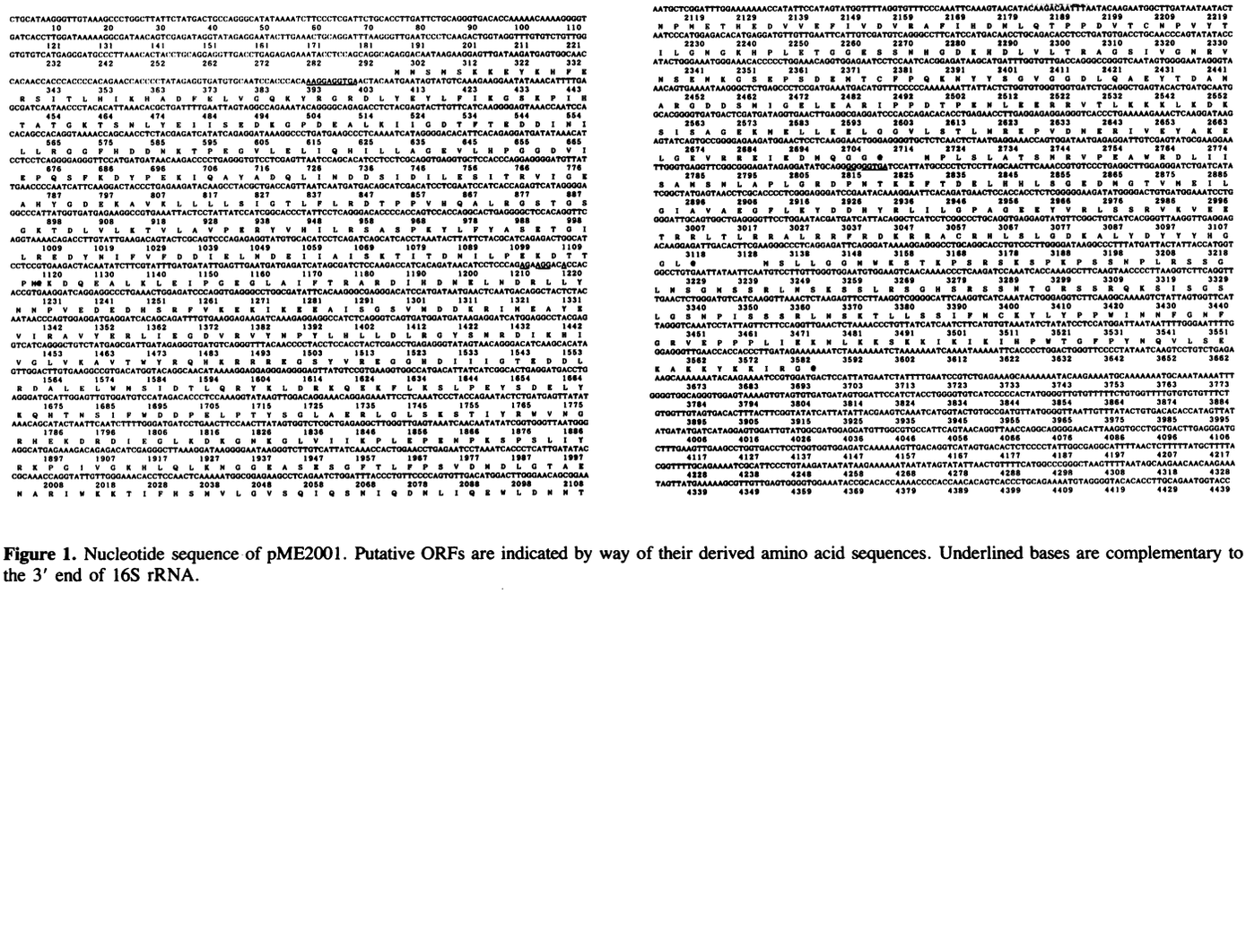

Figure 1. Nucleotide sequence of pME2001. Putative ORFs are indicated by way of their derived amino acid sequences. Underlined bases are complementary to the 3′ end of 16S rRNA.