

**Nucleotide sequence of two toxin genes from *Bacillus sphaericus* IAB59: sequence comparisons between five highly toxicogenic strains**

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DNA from *B. sphaericus* strain 2317.3 (WHO reference collection) and a newly isolated strain, IAB59 (from West Africa) was cut with HindIII and fragments of approximately 3.5kb were cloned into the *E. coli* plasmid pUC18. Clones containing the *B. sphaericus* toxin genes were identified as previously (1) and by their toxicity to *Culex* larvae. Sequencing of the cloned DNA showed a high degree of conservation between the toxin genes of the five highly toxic strains so far sequenced (1,2,3,4,5). The table below shows a comparison of the nucleotide and deduced amino acid sequences. Nucleotide numbers in this table refer to the published sequence of Baumann et al. (2). After allowing for correction to our previously published sequence from *B. sphaericus* 1593 (1), the toxin coding and flanking regions from strains 1593, 2362 and 2317.3 proved identical over a span of 3479 nucleotides. The corresponding sequences from strains IAB59 and 2297 showed six and eight amino acid substitutions respectively. At two positions, nt. 1435-1437 and nt. 2323-2325 the amino acid sequence appears to be highly variable.

Region	Position	Nucleotide in strain			Amino Acid change						
		IAB 59	1593, 2362, 2317.3	2297	IAB 59	1593, 2362, 2317.3	2297				
Pre gene 51.4 kDa	91	C	C	T	}	Ala	Ser	Ser			
	700	G	T	T							
	705	A	C	C							
	824	T	C	C							
	1435	C	C	T							
	1436	A	T	A							
	1446	G	T	G							
	1455	C	T	C							
	1660	T	T	A							
	1677	G	G	A							
	1844	-	-	insert CT					-	-	-
	1851	C	C	A					-	-	-
	1909	T	T	A					-	-	-
41.9 kDa	1994	T	T	A	}	Val	Val	Phe			
	2139	C	C	T							
	2169	T	T	C							
	2253	C	C	T							
	2308	G	G	T							
	2323	G	G	T							
	2324	A	C	C							
	2386	C	C	A							
	2412	T	T	C							
	2417	A	A	T							
	2490	A	A	T							
	2643	C	C	G							
	2745	C	C	T							
Space after	2813	G	G	A	Arg	Arg	Lys				
	3336	-	-	insert A	-	-	-				

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**REFERENCES:** (1) Hindley, J. and Berry, C. (1987) *Mol. Microbiol.* 1: 187-194. (2) Baumann, L., Broadwell, A.H. and Baumann, P. (1988) *J. Bacteriol.* 170: 2045-2050. (3) Berry, C. and Hindley, J. (1987) *Nucl. Acids Res.* 15: 5891. (4) Hindley, J. and Berry, C. (1988) *Nucl. Acids Res.* 16: 4168. (5) Arapinis, C., de la Torre, F. and Szulmajster, J. (1988) *Nucl. Acids Res.* 16: 7731.