



Genomic and Biochemical Characterization of *Acinetobacter* Podophage Petty Reveals a Novel Lysis Mechanism and Tail-Associated Depolymerase Activity

A. C. Hernandez-Morales,^{a,b} L. L. Lessor,^b T. L. Wood,^b D. Migl,^{a,b} E. M. Mijalis,^b J. Cahill,^b W. K. Russell,^c R. F. Young,^{a,b} J. J. Gill^{b,d}

^aDepartment of Biochemistry and Biophysics, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, USA

^bCenter for Phage Technology, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, USA

^cDepartment of Chemistry, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, USA

^dDepartment of Animal Science, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, USA

ABSTRACT The increased prevalence of drug-resistant, nosocomial *Acinetobacter* infections, particularly from pathogenic members of the *Acinetobacter calcoaceticus-baumannii* complex, necessitates the exploration of novel treatments such as phage therapy. In the present study, we characterized phage Petty, a novel podophage that infects multidrug-resistant *Acinetobacter nosocomialis* and *Acinetobacter baumannii*. Genome analysis reveals that phage Petty is a 40,431-bp ϕ KMV-like phage, with a coding density of 92.2% and a G+C content of 42.3%. Interestingly, the lysis cassette encodes a class I holin and a single-subunit endolysin, but it lacks canonical spanins to disrupt the outer membrane. Analysis of other ϕ KMV-like genomes revealed that spaninless lysis cassettes are a feature of phages infecting *Acinetobacter* within this subfamily of bacteriophages. The observed halo surrounding Petty's large clear plaques indicated the presence of a phage-encoded depolymerase capable of degrading capsular exopolysaccharides (EPS). The product of gene 39, a putative tail fiber, was hypothesized to possess depolymerase activity based on weak homology to previously reported phage tail fibers. The 101.4-kDa protein gene product 39 (gp39) was cloned and expressed, and its activity against *Acinetobacter* EPS in solution was determined. The enzyme degraded purified EPS from its host strain *A. nosocomialis* AU0783, reducing its viscosity, and generated reducing ends in solution, indicative of hydrolase activity. Given that the accessibility to cells within a biofilm is enhanced by degradation of EPS, phages with depolymerases may have enhanced diagnostic and therapeutic potential against drug-resistant *Acinetobacter* strains.

IMPORTANCE Bacteriophage therapy is being revisited as a treatment for difficult-to-treat infections. This is especially true for *Acinetobacter* infections, which are notorious for being resistant to antimicrobials. Thus, sufficient data need to be generated with regard to phages with therapeutic potential, if they are to be successfully employed clinically. In this report, we describe the isolation and characterization of phage Petty, a novel lytic podophage, and its depolymerase. To our knowledge, it is the first phage reported to be able to infect both *A. baumannii* and *A. nosocomialis*. The lytic phage has potential as an alternative therapeutic agent, and the depolymerase could be used for modulating EPS both during infections and in biofilms on medical equipment, as well as for capsular typing. We also highlight the lack of predicted canonical spanins in the phage genome and confirm that, unlike the rounding of lambda lysogens lacking functional spanin genes, *A. nosocomialis* cells infected with phage Petty lyse by bursting. This suggests that phages like Petty employ a different mechanism to disrupt the outer membrane of *Acinetobacter* hosts during lysis.

Received 5 July 2017 Accepted 6 December 2017

Accepted manuscript posted online 3 January 2018

Citation Hernandez-Morales AC, Lessor LL, Wood TL, Migl D, Mijalis EM, Cahill J, Russell WK, Young RF, Gill JJ. 2018. Genomic and biochemical characterization of *Acinetobacter* podophage Petty reveals a novel lysis mechanism and tail-associated depolymerase activity. *J Virol* 92:e01064-17. <https://doi.org/10.1128/JVI.01064-17>.

Editor Julie K. Pfeiffer, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Copyright © 2018 American Society for Microbiology. All Rights Reserved.

Address correspondence to J. J. Gill, jason.gill@tamu.edu.

KEYWORDS phage therapy, *Acinetobacter nosocomialis*, *Acinetobacter baumannii*, depolymerase, genome analysis, lysis, spanins

Pathogenic members of the *Acinetobacter* genus, particularly from the *Acinetobacter calcoaeticus-baumannii* complex, are considered a significant threat to human health (1, 2). The prevalences of infections caused by these Gram-negative bacteria, specifically *A. baumannii*, *A. pittii*, and *A. nosocomialis* (3), have increased both in hospital settings (4–6) and in the community (7). The high number of multidrug-resistant (MDR) strains reported, and the capability of these opportunistic pathogens to colonize and persist on catheters and other medical equipment (8, 9), hinders effective clinical intervention strategies and outcomes. Although the mechanism by which *Acinetobacter* establishes infection is not fully characterized, it is known that the presence of a capsule in clinical strains, resistance to desiccation, and ability to form biofilm promote pathogen colonization and survival (10–12).

Clinical strains of the *A. calcoaeticus-baumannii* complex display capsular exopolysaccharides (EPS), which have been shown to contribute to biofilm formation (13), enhance bacterial colonization, and promote survival in mammalian tissues (14). By covering components on the otherwise-exposed bacterial outer membrane, EPS thwarts recognition of host immune mechanisms and diminishes the action of antimicrobial compounds. Together, these factors have been correlated with the development of systemic infections (15). EPS also plays a role as a phage resistance mechanism: by masking the receptors on the membrane, bacteria limit the access to potential phage binding sites and resist infection (16). To circumvent this barrier, some bacteriophages express a depolymerase that degrades capsular polysaccharides, which enables viral particles to access the bacterial surface (17). It has been asserted (18, 19) that phage depolymerases are either integral components of the phage particles or soluble proteins generated during host cell lysis with either hydrolase or lyase activity.

In clinical settings, phage depolymerases have been used to determine capsule types of different *Klebsiella* strains with epidemiological and diagnostic purposes (20, 21). A serotyping system for *Acinetobacter* based on monoclonal antibodies was developed (22, 23) but was not widely used. Since capsular variations and strain adaptation require both a phenotypic and genotypic characterization of clinical isolates (24), depolymerases are being evaluated as tools for capsular typing of *A. calcoaeticus-baumannii* complex clinical isolates (14, 25, 26).

There is evidence that exposure of *A. baumannii* to subinhibitory concentrations of antibiotic results in an increased capsule locus gene expression and a concomitant increase in bacterial virulence (27). Associated with the variable susceptibility pattern of different *Acinetobacter* strains (28, 29), this may complicate treatment and clinical outcome. It has been shown that intraperitoneal administration of a phage-derived endosialidase in *Escherichia coli*-infected mice successfully prevented bacteremia and death from systemic infection (30, 31). Recently, phages with depolymerase activity isolated against *A. baumannii* and *Pseudomonas* were shown to degrade biofilms of MDR strains (32–34) and reduce colonization. Thus, modulation of EPS has therapeutic potential (33, 35), which is why phage depolymerases could also be used as part of the novel strategies to treat MDR isolates of *Acinetobacter*.

We have isolated a novel bacteriophage against a multidrug-resistant clinical strain of *A. nosocomialis*, AU0783. The phage produces plaques surrounded by a turbid halo, suggesting the presence of a virion-associated protein with depolymerase activity. In phages such as *E. coli* K1, *Pseudomonas* AF, or *Erwinia* L1, the depolymerase activity is encoded in the tail fiber (36–38). We cloned and characterized Petty's tail fiber gene and show that the tail fiber protein is able to hydrolyze EPS. The use of bacteriophages (phages) to treat and/or control multidrug-resistant infections is being reconsidered an alternative strategy for therapeutic and prophylactic applications, but its implementation requires a thorough characterization of candidate phages (39, 40). In this report, we present phage Petty's host range and genome features. To our knowledge, this is the

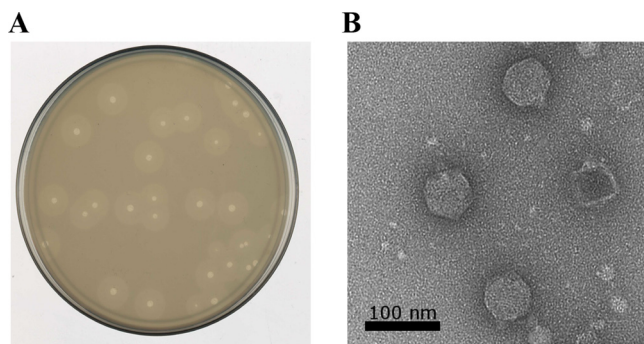


FIG 1 Phage Petty plaque and virion morphology. Phage Petty was isolated from sewage and propagated on *A. nosocomialis* AU0783. (A) The phage produces plaques with an expanding translucent halo, suggesting exopolysaccharide depolymerase activity. (B) Transmission electron microscopy shows podophage morphology with a capsid diameter of ~ 60 nm.

first report of a phage able to infect multiple species of the *A. calcoeticus-baumannii* complex.

RESULTS

Phage isolation and characterization. Bacteriophage Petty was isolated from sewage collected in the summer of 2009 in College Station, TX. When plated on *A. nosocomialis* AU0783, the phage produces plaques of ~ 2 mm in diameter surrounded by a slowly expanding turbid halo (Fig. 1A). Transmission electron microscopy (TEM) of negatively stained virions showed a 60-nm head and a short, stubby 15-nm tail, characteristic of *Podoviridae* morphology (Fig. 1B). The phage infection was characterized by a 25-min latent period and a burst size of 240 particles per infective center (Fig. 2A). As shown in Fig. 2B, 90% of the phage particles were adsorbed within 10 min of addition; the adsorption constant was calculated to be 1.8×10^{-9} ml/min. Phage-resistant cells were present at a frequency of $\sim 10^{-7}$ CFU in typical cultures.

Using a spot-dilution assay, the host range of Petty was tested against a panel of 40 *Acinetobacter* strains, including 38 *A. calcoeticus-baumannii* strains, *Acinetobacter* genospecies 16, and *A. baylyi* ADP1; 25 of these strains are clinical multidrug-resistant strains (see Table S1 in the supplemental material). Phage Petty plated and produced plaques on 4 drug-resistant *A. baumannii* strains, isolated from wound and eye infections, with a reduced efficiency of plating (EOP; $>10^{-2}$). The ocular strains, characterized previously (28), are resistant to chloramphenicol, cefotaxime, tetracycline, and cefazolin and are able to form biofilms; this ability enhances adherence and colonization of the corneal tissue.

In addition, Petty formed clearing zones on one clinical *A. baumannii* strain (41) when the undiluted phage stock ($\sim 10^9$ PFU/ml) was spotted on the lawn, presumably the result of lysis from without.

Genome analysis. The 40,431-bp podophage Petty genome was assembled into a single contig at 88.4-fold coverage. It has a coding density of 92.2% and a G+C content of 42.3%. It encodes 45 predicted proteins encoded on the positive strand (Table S2 in the supplemental material), 20 of which have homologs in non-*Acinetobacter* phage genomes. Of the 23 proteins with unknown function encoded in the Petty genome, 11 are unique to phage Petty. One protein with hypothetical function has homologs only in bacterial genomes. The morphology, genome arrangement, genomic DNA (gDNA) size, and presence of a T7-like single-subunit RNA polymerase gene (gene 26) establish Petty in the T7-like phage subfamily; moreover, the position of the polymerase gene, adjacent to virion structural genes (Fig. 3A), groups it in the ϕ KMV-like genus of that extensive subfamily (<https://talk.ictvonline.org/taxonomy/>). The length of the direct terminal repeats was determined to be 308 bp by primer walking, shorter than for other ϕ KMV-like phages (410 bp for *Acinetobacter* phage ϕ AB1, 341 bp for *Acinetobacter* phage Abp1, and 414 bp for *Pseudomonas* phage ϕ KMV) but 150 bp longer than the

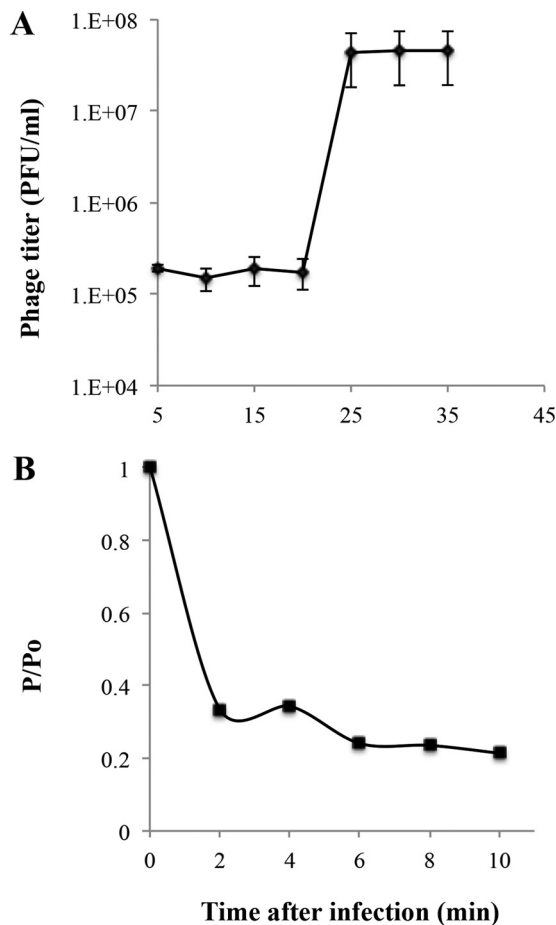


FIG 2 Characterization of phage Petty adsorption and lysis of its host, *A. nosocomialis* AU0783. (A) One-step growth curve of phage Petty on to *A. nosocomialis* AU0783. The cells lyse 22 min after infection, with a burst size of 240 particles per infective center. (B) Adsorption of phage Petty to *A. nosocomialis* AU0783. Error bars represent SDs ($n = 3$).

terminal repeats of phage T7 (42–44). In a pairwise alignment of the phage Petty genome (Fig. 3B) with those of bacteriophages ϕ AB1 and Acibel007 (which share 56% identity between them), Petty was found to share 47% and 53% identity with each of these phages, respectively (42, 45).

The genome organization of phage Petty is similar to those of other ϕ KMV-like phages (Fig. 3A). Early genes code for proteins of unknown function, with homology only to other *Acinetobacter* phages with the exception of gene product 1 (gp1), which is homologous to hypothetical proteins of other ϕ KMV-like phages infecting different hosts, suggesting that it has a strongly conserved function within phages of this group.

The genes encoding proteins required for replication/recombination are grouped, including a DnaG-like primase (gp13), helicase (gp15), ligase (gp16), and DNA polymerase (gp17). Unlike *Acinetobacter* AB1, ϕ AB1, and Abp1, which encode multiple putative HNH endonucleases (42, 43), phage Petty encodes a single putative DDE endonuclease (gp18) (in purple in Fig. 3A). Despite differences in their domains, both HNH and DDE endonucleases cleave DNA and facilitate a strand transfer reaction. Homing endonucleases such as the ones found in *Acinetobacter* phages Abp1, ϕ AB1, and Fri1 are either “free-standing,” usually found at intergenic regions—where the impact on host gene structure is reduced (46, 47)—or encoded within introns and inteins (48). Unlike the DDE endonuclease of phage Petty, the endonucleases of *Acinetobacter* phages Abp1, ϕ AB1, and Fri1 are either interrupting the DNA polymerase gene or upstream of the endonuclease (Fig. 3B). The DDE endonuclease of Petty lacks

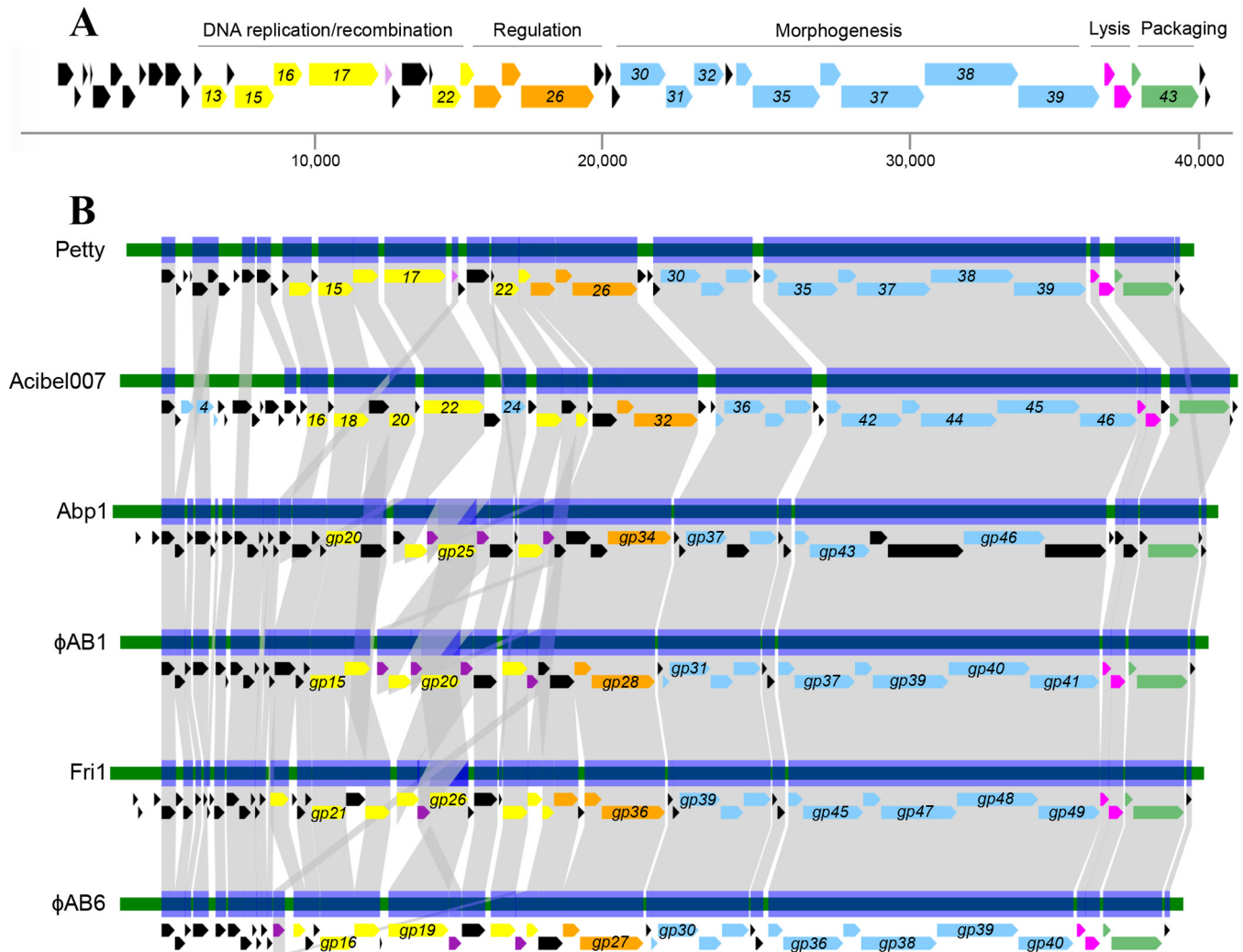


FIG 3 Genome architecture of phage Petty and other ϕ KMV-like *Acinetobacter* phages. (A) Genome architecture and predicted ORFs of phage Petty are shown. The linear map is based on nucleotide sequences of the phage genome and predicted ORFs. ORFs are color-coded based on their functional role category: yellow for phage DNA replication and recombination, orange for regulation, purple for endonucleases, blue for morphogenesis-related proteins, pink for lysis, and green for DNA packaging. Unattributed genes are colored black. Selected gene numbers are shown. Like for other ϕ KMV-like phages, the Petty RNA polymerase gene is adjacent to the morphogenesis genes. Interestingly, the lysis cassette of the phage genomes does not have a predicted canonical spanin. (B) Genome maps and protein identity comparison between selected ϕ KMV-like phages infecting *Acinetobacter*. Phages are aligned relative to gp1, which is highly conserved in this genus. Gene products (gp) sharing significant sequence identity are linked in gray (see Materials and Methods).

the HNH motif, despite having sequence similarity with other HNH endonucleases in the database. Homing endonucleases, both HNH and DDE, confer mobility by recombination, but unlike HNH endonucleases, DDE endonucleases require metal ions for catalysis, which are coordinated by carboxylate residues.

Like *Acinetobacter* phages ϕ AB1, ϕ AB6, Adp1, and Acibel007 (Fig. 3B), the genes upstream of the RNA polymerase (gp26) encode a deoxyribonucleotide monophosphate kinase (gp25), a phosphoesterase (gp24), and a DNA exonuclease (gp22). Type VII endonucleases have been shown to resolve mismatch repair and Holliday junctions by recognizing a variety of DNA substrates, from single-pair mismatches to branched DNAs. In T4, endonuclease VII (gp49) is expressed at both the early and late stages of infection, and it is involved in recombination-mediated replication and in resolving branch points prior to DNA packaging (49). Although closely related to gp49 of *Acinetobacter* phage Acibel007 (65% identity), the recombination endonuclease VII (gp23) of phage Petty shares significant sequence similarity to otherwise distant ϕ KMV-like phages infecting *Pseudomonas* (68% and 59% identity with gp33 of LKA1

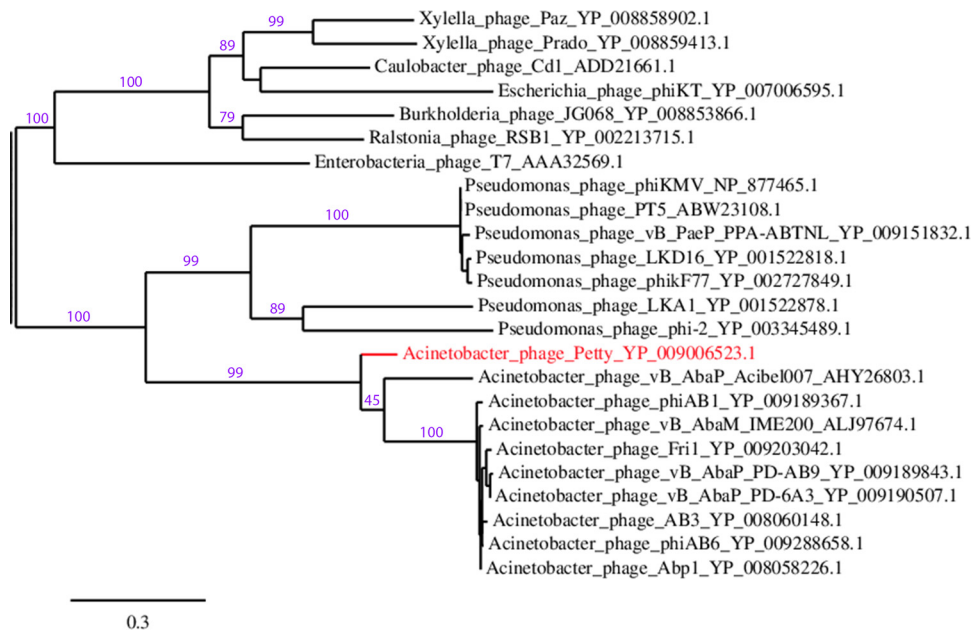


FIG 4 Petty is genetically distant from other ϕ KMV-like *Acinetobacter* phages. Phylogenetic tree of the RNA polymerase of ϕ KMV-like phages was constructed by aligning the protein sequences with MUSCLE (88) and using the pipeline available in Phylogeny.fr (89) to run the maximum likelihood analysis and plot the tree using TreeDyn. Branch support values are displayed in purple, and accession numbers of each RNA polymerase are given. Phage T7 RNA polymerase was included as a reference.

and gp21 of ϕ 2, respectively), *Pectobacterium* (53% identity with gp28 of PP16), and *Proteus* (62% identity with gp24 of PM16).

As noted above, the single-subunit RNA polymerase (gp26) of Petty is adjacent to the phage replication and structural genes. Petty gp26 is closely related to gp32 in Acibel007 (with a 66% identity) and other *Acinetobacter* ϕ KMV-like phages (63% identity), such as Fri1, Abp1, IME200, and ϕ AB1. This is reflected in the phylogenetic relations shown in Fig. 4, where despite being grouped with other ϕ KMV phages that infect *Acinetobacter*, both Petty and Acibel007 are relatively distant from the other members of the clade and closely related to each other.

The nine identified structural genes identified by homology are also clustered and located downstream of the gene encoding the RNA polymerase. SDS-PAGE of purified phage particles coupled to mass spectrometry identified 11 structural proteins (Fig. 5), among which 3 have an unknown function (gp10, gp27, and gp29) and 1 is unique to phage Petty (gp27). Proteins homologous to Petty gp29, namely, gp30 of ϕ AB1 and gp36 of phage Abp1, have been detected by mass spectrometry previously (42, 43), whereas Petty gp10, which is homologous to gp13 of Acibel007, was detected only in this study and not in the mass spectrometry analysis of Acibel007 (45).

Similar to other proteomic analyses of ϕ KMV-like phages, the coverage for most of the sequenced proteins is low (30 to 40%), except for the larger (gp38 and gp37) or more abundant (gp32) proteins. Mass spectrometry confirmed the presence of the predicted head-to-tail connector protein (gp30), the major capsid protein (gp32), the tail tubular proteins (gp34 and gp35), the tail fiber (gp39), and capsid core protein (gp38), which were identified in the genome by homology to other T7-like phages. As seen in *Pseudomonas* phage ϕ KMV, Petty gp32 does not contain any detectable ribosomal slippage sites, which are a feature of the major capsid protein genes of phages T7 and T3 (44).

Among the proteins with no known function present within the structural gene cluster of phage Petty (gp33 and 37), only gp37 was detected by mass spectrometry. The gp31 protein, identified as a scaffolding protein by homology to gp37 of *Acinetobacter* phage Acibel007 (35% identity), gp31 of *Pseudomonas* phage LKD16 (28%

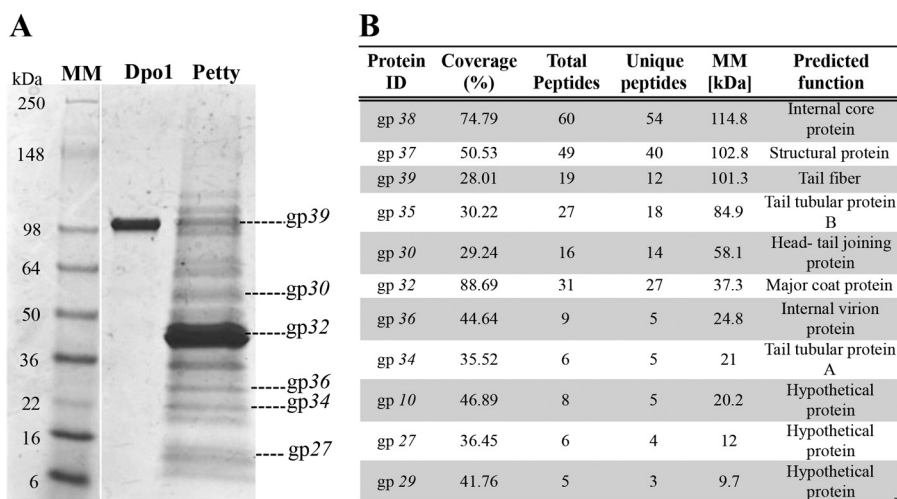


FIG 5 Gene products of phage Petty, identified by mass spectrometry. (A) Whole-phage particles were run on SDS-PAGE alongside the purified recombinant Dpo1, and the bands were trypsin digested and analyzed by mass spectrometry system. Molecular masses (MM) of the protein ladder are indicated to the left of the gel. (B) The generated peptide spectra were identified by comparison to all potential peptide spectra deduced from a predetermined database which included the predicted gene products of phage Petty. The total number of peptides identified, as well as the number of unique peptides for each inferred gp, the corresponding function of each gp predicted by BLAST, and the protein sequence coverage is indicated. ID, identifier.

identity), and the scaffolding protein of *Klebsiella* phage KPV811 (34% identity), is also encoded in the cluster but not present in the mass spectrometry results, as scaffolding proteins are not present in the mature phage particle in T7-like phages. Proteomic analysis done on *Acinetobacter* phage Acibel007 identified 3 structural proteins, 2 of which are encoded among Acibel007 early genes (gp03 and gp04), which were not detected in this study. Multiple bands were observed at ~50 kDa and ~30 kDa which could not be assigned to identified open reading frames (ORFs). These proteins could be proteolytic products of some other phage structural proteins, which could be confirmed by N-terminal sequencing.

The genes encoding the small and large subunit of the terminase (gp42 and gp43) are involved in DNA recognition and packaging. Like the RNA polymerase, the large subunit of the terminase has higher homology to that of Acibel007 (71% identity) than to other T7-like *Acinetobacter* phages (~60% identity).

The lysis cassette lacks spanins. In the lysis systems of phages infecting Gram-negative hosts, there are two established pathways: the canonical holin-endolysin pathway, involving a holin that forms micrometer-scale holes in the inner membrane (IM) and a cytoplasmic endolysin, and the pinholin-signal anchor release (SAR) endolysin pathway, where the pinholin forms nanometer-scale holes in the membrane and the muralytic enzyme is exported by the host *sec* apparatus (50). In phage Petty, the lysis cassette encodes a holin (gp40) and an endolysin (gp41). The holin has 3 predicted transmembrane domains (TMDs) with a predicted N-out, C-in topology and is thus a member of the class I holins, which have been shown to form micrometer-scale holes (51–53). The gp41 endolysin has one predicted muralytic enzyme domain and lacks any secretion or membrane localization signal. Taken together, these observations strongly suggest that Petty uses the canonical lysis pathway. The Petty holin has homology to other holins of ϕ KMV-like *Acinetobacter* phages (Fig. 3B), such as Acibel007, Fri1, and ϕ AB1, with which it shares ~47% amino acid identity. Unlike the holin, the endolysin of phage Petty is not closely related to the endolysins of other phages infecting *Acinetobacter*. Instead, the protein shares between 47 and 49% identity with *Pseudomonas* KPP10 and PaP1-like myophages. This is consistent with previous observations that lysis cassettes are often mosaic, suggesting that the holin and endolysin do not physically interact and can evolve independently in unrelated bacterial hosts.

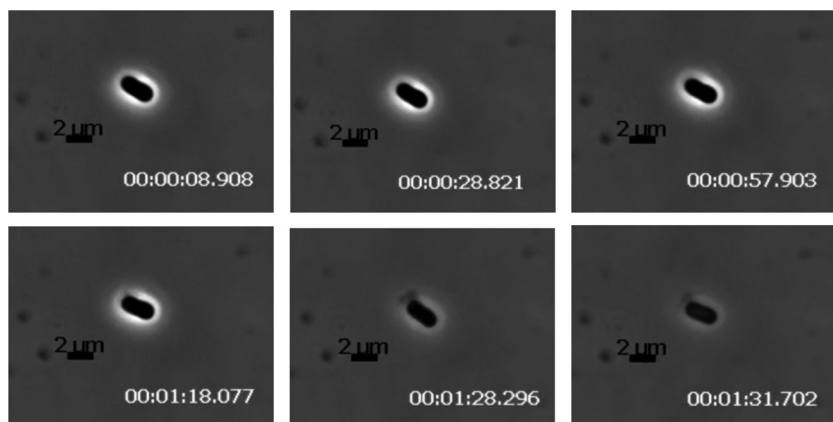


FIG 6 Lysis of *A. nosocomialis* cells infected by phage Petty. AU0783 cells were grown to an A_{550} of ~ 0.4 and infected with phage Petty at a multiplicity of infection (MOI) of 2. Samples were taken 2 min before the onset of lysis, to be observed with phase-contrast microscopy in order to document the morphology of phage lysis at 5 frames/s. A time-lapse series of 2 representative lysis events is shown. The zero time point (in seconds) was established at the frame before cell modifications leading to lysis were observed.

In the current model for lysis of Gram-negative hosts, after permeabilization of the IM by the holin and the subsequent degradation of the peptidoglycan by the endolysin, a third step, disruption of the outer membrane (OM), is effected by the phage-encoded spanins (54). There are two types of spanins, the 2-component spanins, comprised of an OM lipoprotein and an integral IM protein, and the unimolecular spanins, in which a single polypeptide has both OM lipoprotein motifs and a C-terminal TMD (50, 55). Inspection of the Petty genome revealed that none of the encoded proteins had an OM lipoprotein “lipobox” motif and thus ruled out the possibility that Petty has either type of established OM disruption system. Bioinformatic analysis confirmed that other ϕ KMV-like phages of *A. calcoaeticus-baumannii* complex strains also lack spanins. However, spanins can be identified in T4-like myophages and N4-like podophages of *Acinetobacter*, and spanin genes can be found in genomes of other ϕ KMV-like phages of other hosts, such as *Pseudomonas* and *Ralstonia*. The spanin-defective lysis phenotype has been characterized in coliphage lambda infections where the parental phage effects abrupt, explosive polar lysis, whereas infections with spanin-defective mutants terminate in spherical cell forms, bounded by an intact OM (55). To determine if, with no canonical spanins, Petty infections might exhibit a significant lysis defect, single infected cells were examined using phase-contrast video microscopy (Movie S1). Similar to wild-type (wt) lambda lysis, AU0783 cells infected with Petty lyse explosively without exhibiting a spherical intermediate (Fig. 6), but unlike for lambda, there does not seem to be a preference to lyse from the poles. These results indicate that the outer membrane is actively disrupted during lysis. In an attempt to quantify the explosive nature of AU0783 lysis, we measured the average pixel intensity during a lysis event to determine the speed in which lysis occurred, evidenced by the loss of cell refractivity (Fig. 7). *Acinetobacter* cells lyse in an average of 5 s (Fig. 7A), a time frame comparable to that of lambda lysis (Fig. 7B), suggesting that Petty and other ϕ KMV-like phages of *Acinetobacter* manage to disrupt the OM via a different pathway than the 2-component or unimolecular spanins used by other ϕ KMV-like phages as well as *A. calcoaeticus-baumannii* complex phages of different subfamilies.

The simplest explanation is that the lysis proteins of Petty somehow bypass the requirement for a spanin to disrupt the OM. The gp40 holin has no exceptional features that distinguish it from other class I holins, with no predicted periplasmic domains capable of interacting across the periplasm. Based on the notion that any protein involved in disrupting the OM would have to have some kind of secretory signal, the Petty genome was examined for proteins predicted to have TMDs or signal sequences. Other than the gp40 holin, three proteins, encoded by genes 4, 27, and 36, were found,

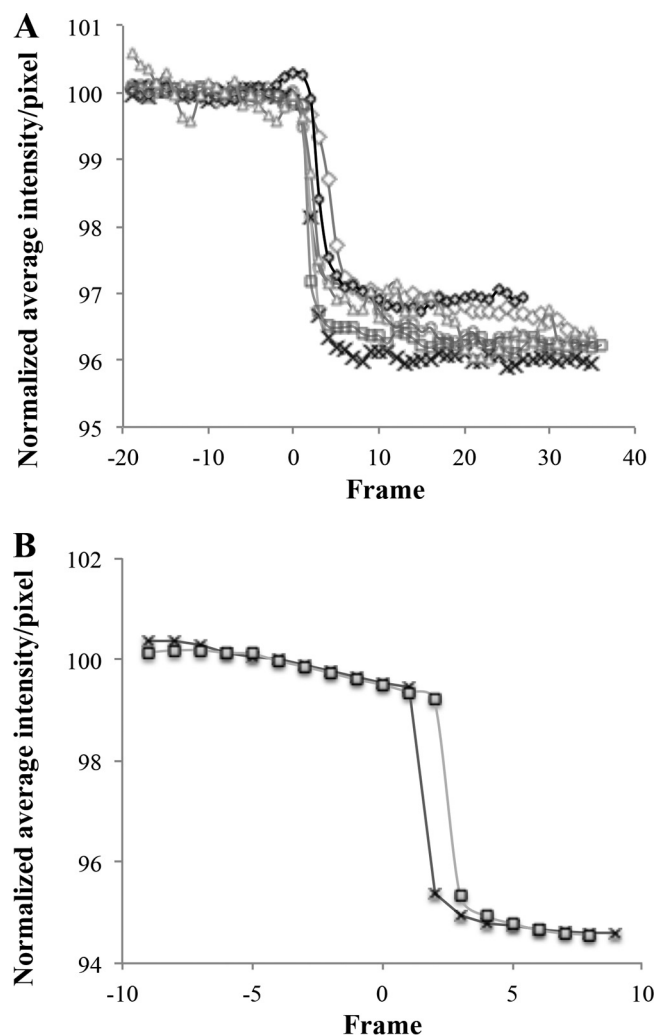


FIG 7 Phage Petty causes explosive lysis of AU0783 cells. After selecting sections of equal size (in pixels), a subset of images of single lysis events (taken at 5 frames/s) were extracted from the video microscopy using Zeiss image analysis software v. 2.3 (Zeiss, NY). The stack of images obtained was used to quantify the average intensity per pixels per frame using ImageJ (90, 91). Relative time was established using time zero as the time in the frame taken before the first lytic lesion was visible. The experiment was performed with both AU0783 cells infected by Petty (A) and *E. coli* cells infected by lambda (B). Each series represents one independent lysis event. The results were normalized to the average initial intensity of the images before cell lysis (before time zero).

with one, two, and one predicted TMD, respectively; no proteins with a secretory signal were found. gp4 is only 24 residues long, and its predicted periplasmic N terminus spans only 4 residues. gp36 is a virion structural protein, probably involved in DNA injection at the start of infection. gp27 has two predicted TMDs flanking a substantial (~50-residue) periplasmic domain and is thus a candidate for a protein that could interact with the OM. Interestingly, the C-terminal domain of this protein has homology to a bacterial acyltransferase (39% identity) and an autolysin from *Bacillus* phage JL. However, there are no gp27 homologs in the database, much less in other ϕ KMV-like phages. Recently, some endolysins of phages infecting Gram-negative hosts have been found to contain membrane-penetrating domains consisting of a pair of amphipathic helices at the C terminus of the enzyme (56, 57). Although no such domains are predicted for gp41, and its close homologs in phages of *Pseudomonas* and *Ralstonia* function with spanin systems, it is nevertheless possible that there are novel motifs in the Petty endolysin that allow it to interact with and destabilize the OM during lysis.

Gene 39 encodes a putative tail fiber with depolymerase activity. Phages that infect encapsulated bacteria, such as clinical *A. calcoeticus-baumannii* complex iso-

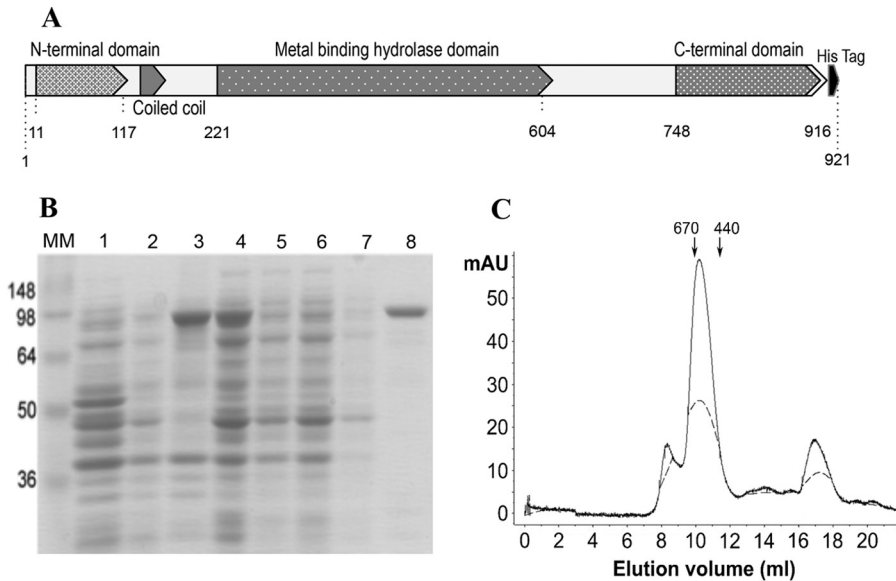


FIG 8 Dpo1 protein structure and purification. (A) Diagram of the predicted domains of Dpo1. Numbers indicate the position of the amino acid residue in the polypeptide chain, when counted from the amino terminus. The predicted N-terminal virion-binding domain, coiled-coil domain, sugar hydrolase domain, C-terminal chaperone domain, and hexahistidine tag (black) are labeled. (B) Gene 39 was cloned into pET28b in frame to a C-terminal histidine tag [lane 1, empty vector control; lane 2, uninduced BL21(DE3)/pET-Dpo1 after cell disruption]. BL21(DE3)/pET-Dpo1 cells were induced with IPTG, lysed by French press, and centrifuged to clear cell debris (lane 3, supernatant; lane 4, pellet). The putative depolymerase gp39 was purified using immobilized-metal affinity chromatography (IMAC) (loading flowthrough; lanes 5 and 6). The column was washed with 10 bed volumes of buffer (lane 7) and eluted in 400 mM imidazole (lane 8). MM, prestained protein molecular mass marker (Invitrogen). (C) Purified recombinant Dpo1 was run on a Superdex 200 10/300 size exclusion column under native conditions, with elution monitored by absorbance at 280 nm. Arrows at the top indicate elution of molecular mass standards, in kilodaltons. Activity was recovered from fractions eluted at a 9- to 12-ml volume. While the monomer molecular mass is predicted to be 101.4 kDa, the protein is eluted from the column with an apparent molecular mass of ~600 kDa.

lates, may possess specific mechanisms that allow them to infect cells. In the case of phage Petty, we observed plaques surrounded by expanding translucent halos, indicative of phage-associated capsular depolymerase activity. Phage depolymerase activity is often encoded in the tail fiber or tail spike; hence, gene 39, encoding a putative tail fiber, was hypothesized to possess this activity. Bioinformatic analysis of gp39 shows that the protein shares ~13% identity with other phage tail fibers, except for the putative tail fiber of Abp1 and ϕ AB1 (35% and 34% identity, respectively). The protein has 2 conserved domains: an N-terminal T7-like tail fiber domain and a centrally located metal-dependent hydrolase domain with a pectin lyase fold (Fig. 8A). Secondary-structure prediction (58, 59) shows the N-terminal domain being mostly alpha-helical, while the hydrolase domain is mostly composed of beta-sheets connected by coils (Fig. 8A).

Gene 39 was cloned into pET28b in frame with a C-terminal hexahistidine tag and confirmed by sequencing. The 102.4-kDa protein, renamed Dpo1, was expressed in *E. coli* BL21(DE3) and Dpo1 was purified by immobilized-metal affinity chromatography (IMAC) (Fig. 8B). The protein concentration was determined spectrophotometrically, and protein yield was calculated to be 39 mg/liter of culture. As can be seen in Fig. 7B, the purified protein has an apparent molecular mass of 100 kDa, which is in close agreement with the predicted molecular mass of 102.4 kDa. The recombinant enzyme was also able to form translucent zones on lawns of AU0783 similar to the halos formed around phage plaques, as well as in the other multidrug-resistant *A. baumannii* strains that are sensitive to the phage (data not shown). Size exclusion chromatography was performed to predict the oligomeric state of Dpo1 in solution and further purify the protein. Fractions collected were tested for activity and analyzed by SDS-PAGE; the

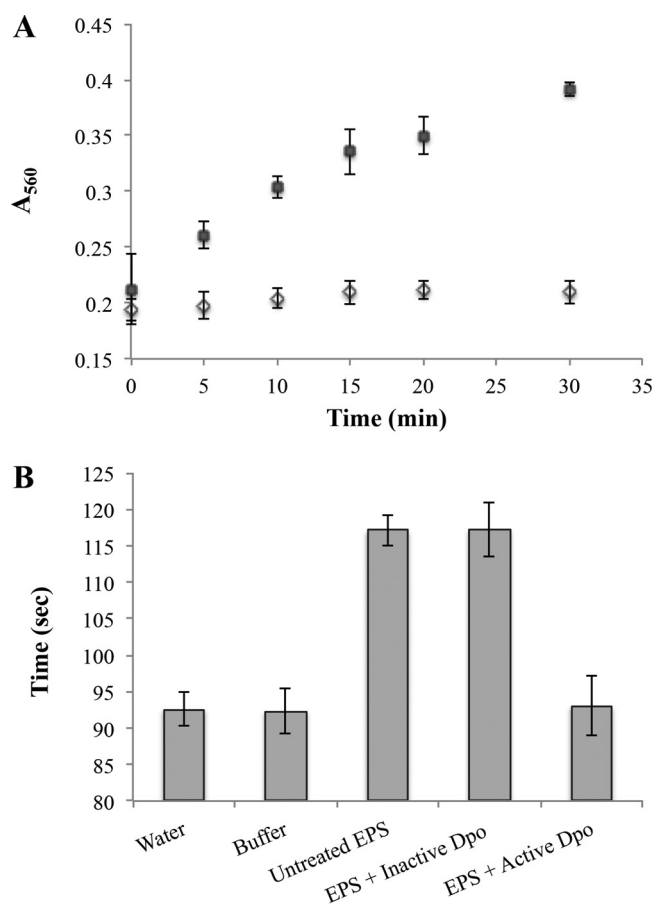


FIG 9 Dpo1 is able to reduce EPS viscosity *in vitro* and generates reducing ends. (A) Purified EPS (1 mg/ml) was incubated either with active enzyme (0.5 μ g/ml) (■) or with previously boiled enzyme (◇) at 37°C. Samples were taken at the times indicated, and the generation of reducing ends was determined by a colorimetric copper-bicinchoninate assay measured at 560 nm. Data shown represent results from 3 independent assays. The generation of reducing ends from the EPS substrate suggests that Dpo1 possesses hydrolase activity. (B) EPS (2.5 mg/ml) was purified from the phage host *A. nosocomialis* AU0783 and incubated with purified enzyme (17 μ g/ml) for 1 h at 37°C. EPS viscosity was measured qualitatively using an Ostwald viscometer, which measures solution viscosity as a function of travel time through a narrow channel. Untreated EPS and EPS incubated with boiled enzyme were used as controls and retained viscosity.

protein was eluted in a single peak at an equivalent molecular mass of \sim 600 kDa, suggesting that it may form a stable hexamer or a dimer of trimers in solution (Fig. 8C).

Characterization of Dpo1 activity. The ability of Dpo1 to depolymerize EPS was determined by measuring the generation of reducing ends as determined by a colorimetric copper-bicinchoninate assay. Purified EPS was incubated with Dpo1; samples were taken every 5 min, and reducing activity was measured. As shown in Fig. 9A, the generation of reducing ends from the EPS substrate suggests that Dpo1 possesses hydrolase activity. Adding 5 mM EDTA to the buffer reduced the activity of the enzyme by almost half (data not shown), which shows that enzyme activity is enhanced by the presence of divalent cations. To assess if the production of reducing ends correlated with the degradation of the substrate, the viscosity of EPS solutions was measured qualitatively using an Ostwald viscometer, which measures solution viscosity as a function of travel time through a narrow channel. As can be observed in Fig. 9B, the viscosity of the EPS solution was reduced to a level comparable to buffer alone when incubated with active enzyme, suggesting that the tail fiber binds and degrades the substrate backbone to reduce overall carbohydrate chain length. Viscosity was retained in the untreated EPS solution and in EPS incubated with inactive enzyme. The effect of Dpo1 on biofilms of *Acinetobacter* strains was assessed using a colorimetric microtiter

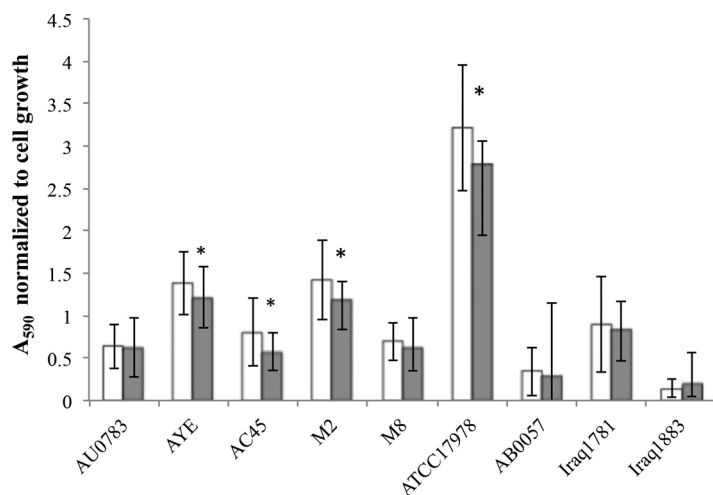


FIG 10 Removal of static *Acinetobacter* biofilms by Dpo1. Biofilms of different *A. calcoaeticus-baumannii* strains, either left untreated (white bars) or treated with purified active Dpo1 (gray bars), were quantified. Data shown for each strain (x axis) are normalized to cell growth and represent results from 3 independent assays; error bars indicate SDs. Biofilm was significantly reduced (t test, $P < 0.05$) in four strains (marked with asterisks).

plate method (Fig. 10). Although Dpo1 was able to remove biofilm of some of the tested *Acinetobacter* strains, the removal amounted to only ~20%. Interestingly, biofilm formed by the phage host AU0783 was not removed significantly, even though Dpo1 is active against this strain's EPS *in vitro*. These results suggest that simple degradation of capsular polysaccharide may not be sufficient for removal of *Acinetobacter* cells adhered to solid substrates.

DISCUSSION

Multidrug-resistant strains of *Acinetobacter baumannii* have been isolated more frequently in clinical settings, especially from patients who have severe underlying diseases or are hospitalized for extended periods, immunosuppressed, subjected to invasive procedures, or treated with broad-spectrum antibiotics (2). Phage therapy has been contemplated as an alternative to antibiotic treatment in scenarios of infections with multidrug-resistant pathogens (39, 60). However, knowledge about mechanisms of phage infection and phage resistance for phages of *A. baumannii* remains limited. Phage Petty is a novel podophage able to infect multidrug-resistant strains of *A. nosocomialis* and *A. baumannii*. Although its host range is limited, it has potential use in therapeutic phage preparations. Although Petty's genome is smaller than those of known ϕ KMV-like *Acinetobacter* phages (26, 42, 43), it contains 8 genes with hypothetical function that share homology to genes exclusively found in other *Acinetobacter* phages of this group.

One benefit of the small genome was that it was possible to demonstrate unambiguously that no lipoprotein genes, and thus no spanin genes, were present in Petty. Nevertheless, we were able to show that Petty caused saltatory, explosive lysis and the lysis morphology exhibited no evidence of a defect in OM disruption. The fact that this lack of spanin genes was common to other ϕ KMV-like phages of *Acinetobacter* but not for ϕ KMV-like phages in general or for other phages of *Acinetobacter* suggests that this group of phages has evolved a different mechanism for OM disruption in lysis. No protein predicted to have a periplasmic domain or other secretory signal that would render it capable of interacting with the OM was found to be shared among these phages. The recent identification of membrane-penetrating domains in endolysins of phages of Gram-negative hosts (56, 57) raises the possibility that the ϕ KMV-like phages have endolysins that are capable of direct destabilization of the OM during lysis. Although primary-structure analysis of Petty gp41 did not reveal predicted amphipathic

helices that are characteristic of the demonstrated membrane-active endolysins, it is interesting that the Petty endolysin is not related to the endolysins of the other *Acinetobacter* ϕ KMV-like phages, despite the fact that the holins of these phages are similar. This suggests that a common progenitor of the ϕ KMV-like phages of *Acinetobacter* lost its spanin function and that descendants diverged in terms of acquiring genes that would complement the lysis defect. It will be interesting to determine whether the Petty endolysin or the endolysins of other ϕ KMV-like *Acinetobacter* phages are OM active.

The capsule, an important virulence factor, protects the bacterium from the host immune response (61, 62). *A. baumannii* strains have been grouped based on the structural variability of capsular polysaccharides (63, 64). Although it has not yet been fully explored in *Acinetobacter*, serotyping has been used as a clinical indicator of pathogenesis and possible clinical prognosis, such as *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (65). Given the central role of capsular EPS in the pathogenesis of *Acinetobacter*, the potential use of phage-encoded proteins with depolymerization activity for therapeutic and diagnostic applications is worth evaluating. In this study, a novel depolymerase enzyme, encoded by *Acinetobacter* phage Petty, has been identified and characterized. The depolymerase shares a conserved N-terminal region found in the tail fiber proteins of T7-like phages, which suggests that this domain mediates the interaction with the phage head. We found that unlike previously reported tail fibers with depolymerase activity in *E. coli* (66, 67), Dpo1 is not processed before being assembled on the phage head, suggesting different structural requirements for folding in these podophages. A pectin lyase fold fragment, found in the metal binding domain by sequence alignment, indicates the involvement of Dpo1 in the cleavage of glycoside bonds in the capsular polysaccharide. Previously, this domain has been reported to be present in other phage tail spike proteins targeting and degrading EPS, such as in K5 lyase of coliphage K5A and Tsp2 of phage Φ SH19 (67, 68). The C-terminal domain of the protein has very low amino acid identity (~11%) with other tail fibers in the database. It has been suggested that in other tail fibers with depolymerase activity, this region is responsible for recognizing polysaccharides and binding to the host cell receptor, which highlights the potential to use this depolymerase as a tool for capsular characterization of clinical strains of *A. calcoaeticus-baumannii*. Phage receptor binding proteins have been proposed as potential targets for genetic modification to broaden the host range, thus contributing to practical applications of phage therapy and the detection of bacteria by their specific phages.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Bacterial strains and culture conditions. The *Acinetobacter* strains used in this study were kindly provided by John J. LiPuma, University of Michigan Medical School (Ann Arbor, MI), Ashok Kumar, Wayne State University (Detroit, MI), Philip Rather, Emory School of Medicine (Atlanta, GA), UCSD Medical Hospital, and Carlos Gonzales, Texas A&M University (College Station, TX). All *Acinetobacter* strains were routinely cultured on tryptic soy broth (TSB; 17 g/liter of Bacto tryptone, 3 g/liter of soytone, 2.5 g/liter of D-glucose, 5 g/liter of NaCl, 2.5 g/liter of disodium phosphate) and tryptic soy agar (TSA; TSB plus 1.5% [wt/vol] Bacto agar). Recombinant strains of *E. coli* XL1-Blue and BL21(DE3) were cultured on LB (10 g/liter of Bacto tryptone [BD], 5 g/liter of yeast extract, 10 g/liter of NaCl) with kanamycin (40 μ g/ml). For all plaque assays, a 0.75% TB agar overlay (10 g/liter of tryptone, 5 g/liter of NaCl, and 0.75% Bacto agar) was plated over TSA plates (69). All strains were grown at 37°C.

Phage isolation and preparation of high-titer phage lysates. Activated sludge was collected from a municipal wastewater treatment plant located in College Station, TX. The sample was centrifuged (8,000 \times g for 40 min), and the supernatant was filtered (0.45 μ m). The clarified supernatant was enriched for phages against *A. nosocomialis* AU0783 as previously described (70). Isolated plaques obtained on lawns of AU0783 were recovered, resuspended in SM buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl [pH 7.5], 100 mM NaCl, 8 mM MgSO₄, 0.01% [wt/vol] gelatin), and subcultured three times to ensure clonality.

High-titer phage stocks were obtained by inoculating TSB 1:100 with an overnight (ON) AU0783 culture, subsequently grown to an A₅₅₀ of 0.2. Phages were then added to a multiplicity of infection (MOI) of 0.1, and A₅₅₀ was monitored after infection. When onset of lysis was observed, sodium citrate was added to a final concentration of 10 mM. Lysates were harvested after complete lysis, centrifuged (10,000 \times g for 20 min at 4°C), and filtered (0.22 μ m). Phage titer was determined by plating serial dilutions of phage using the double-layer method (69).

Phage particles were further concentrated by pelleting the lysates (24 h at 10,000 \times g and 4°C). Phage pellets were resuspended in 3 ml of SM buffer and purified by ultracentrifugation in a CsCl step

gradient (ρ 1.2, ρ 1.45, ρ 1.5, and ρ 1.65 g/cm³) at 100,000 $\times g$ for 4 h at 4°C in an SW28 rotor (Beckman Coulter, USA). The collected phage band was extracted and dialyzed stepwise, first against SM salt buffer (gelatin-free SM buffer plus 1 M NaCl) and then against gelatin-free SM buffer, in a 3.5-kDa dialysis cassette (Thermo Scientific). Concentrated phage samples were stored at 4°C.

TEM. Phage morphology was examined by transmission electron microscopy (TEM) of negatively stained preparations using the Valentine method (71). Grids were stained with 2% uranyl acetate (Sigma-Aldrich), and images were collected on a JEOL 1200 EX TEM at a 100-kV accelerating voltage at the Microscopy and Imaging Center at Texas A&M University.

Latency period and burst size determination. A one-step growth experiment (72, 73) was performed in triplicate to determine the latent period and burst size of phage Petty. AU0783 was grown overnight in TSB, and a high-titer phage stock was prepared. Forty microliters of overnight-cultured bacteria was added to 20 ml of fresh medium and grown at 37°C on a shaking incubator to an optical density at 550 nm (OD₅₅₀) of 0.2 ($\sim 2 \times 10^8$ CFU/ml). The bacterial culture was then infected with phage at an MOI of 0.01. The number of unadsorbed phages was determined by plating serial dilutions of a sample taken 4 min after phage infection. Postadsorption, the infected culture was diluted 10³ and 10⁵ in prewarmed medium and samples from those dilution tubes were taken every 5 min. All plating was done using 100 μ l of ON culture of AU0783 using the double-layer method. The burst size was calculated as the difference in average phage titer after and before the onset of lysis, measured in the plaque assay, divided by the number of infective centers.

Adsorption and host range assays. Adsorption assays were performed as previously described (74). Briefly, *A. nosocomialis* AU0783 cells were grown to an OD₅₅₀ of ~ 0.2 and infected with phage at an MOI of 0.01. Samples (100 μ l) were collected every 2 min, diluted 10-fold in cold TSB, centrifuged (12,000 $\times g$ for 5 min at 4°C), and filtered (0.22 μ m). The phage particles remaining in the supernatant were quantified by plaque assay. The adsorbed phage fraction was calculated as the residual titer in supernatant divided by the initial titer.

To evaluate the host range of phage Petty, 10- μ l quantities of serial dilutions of high-titer lysates were plated on lawns of clinical *Acinetobacter* strains using the double-layer method. A strain was considered sensitive to phage Petty if single plaques were observed at higher lysate dilutions. Efficiency-of-plating (EOP) assays were conducted on strains sensitive to phage infection as previously described (69, 75). In brief, *Acinetobacter* cells were grown overnight in TSB at 37°C, and 100 μ l of each of those cultures was used to seed soft-agar overlays over which 10- μ l quantities of serial dilutions of phage lysate were plated. Plaques were counted after overnight incubation at 37°C. EOP was calculated as the ratio of plaques appearing on the target bacterial lawn to the number of plaques in the lawn of the host strain. All experiments were replicated three times.

DNA isolation, genome sequencing, and annotation. A crude lysate ($\sim 10^9$ PFU/ml) was treated with 10 μ g/ml of DNase I and RNase A (Sigma-Aldrich) for 1 h at 37°C, and phage DNA was extracted as previously described (76).

Phage DNA was sequenced by 454 pyrosequencing at the Emory GRA Genome Center (Emory University, Atlanta, GA). The trimmed FLX Titanium reads were assembled into a single contig using the Newbler assembler version 2.5.3 (454 Life Sciences). The contig was confirmed to be complete by PCR, using custom primers designed to amplify outwards from both the 3' and 5' ends of the initial assembly, and standard Sanger sequencing of the amplicon (77). Genes were predicted using GeneMark S (78) and corrected in Artemis (79). Functional annotation was done using software tools available on the Center for Phage Technology (CPT) portal (<https://cpt.tamu.edu/galaxy-pub>).

Comparative genomics of the closely related *Acinetobacter* phages was done by generating a protein database of the coding sequences of each genome. Each phage protein was queried against that database using a BLASTP with an E value cutoff of 10^{-20} (80). A greedy algorithm was then used to group the coding sequences into clusters, which were aligned with ClustalW (81) and output as locally colinear blocks (LCBs) in XMFA format. Adjacent LCBs within a threshold distance (50 nucleotides) were further consolidated. To visualize these relationships in genomic context, X-Vis, a custom XMFA visualization tool written in JavaScript rendered each genome, its proteins, and associated LCB alignments (<https://cpt.tamu.edu/galaxy-pub>).

The boundaries of genomic direct terminal repeats were determined by primer walking across the repeats using genomic DNA as the template (82).

Proteome analysis of phage structural proteins. CsCl-purified phage particles were diluted 1:1 in Laemmli loading buffer (83) boiled at 95°C for 5 min and analyzed by SDS-PAGE on a 4 to 20% Tris-glycine gel (Bio-Rad). Approximately 1×10^{11} PFU/ml were loaded per lane. The gel was stained with Coomassie blue (0.1% Coomassie R250, 10% acetic acid, 40% methanol). Prestained SeeBlue Plus2 (Invitrogen) was used as a molecular weight marker. Bands were cut from the gel and used for trypsin digestion and mass spectrometry analysis as previously described (70). Peptides obtained were compared to a database including the predicted gene products from the genome of phage Petty.

Cloning, expression, and purification of the phage depolymerase (Dpo1). Gene 39 (nucleotides [nt] 33863 to 36619 in the phage genome) was amplified by PCR with primers DpoNco (5'-TAGCTTTG GAGGATTACCATGGCTTATGTAGAAAAGG) and DpoXho (5'-GGGTTTAAAAGGTTTACCTCGAGACTAGTTT GCACCTCACCTC), which introduced restriction sites for NcoI and XhoI (New England Biolabs [NEB]) on each side of the amplified fragment. After digestion with these restriction enzymes, the PCR product was cloned in a pET28b backbone in frame with a C-terminal hexahistidine tag. The resulting pET-Dpo1 plasmid was transformed into chemically competent *E. coli* BL21(DE3). Transformant selection was done by plating the cells on LB-kanamycin (LB-Kan; 40 μ g/ml).

BL21(DE3)/pET-Dpo1 cells were grown in to an A_{550} of ~ 0.6 . The protein was expressed by chilling the culture for 20 min on ice and induction with 1 mM isopropyl- β -D-thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG) followed by incubation for 16 h at 16°C. Induced cells were collected by centrifugation at $4,000 \times g$ for 30 min after the A_{550} was measured. Cells were resuspended at a calculated equivalent A_{550} of 30. A protease inhibitor cocktail (1 \times ; Sigma-Aldrich), RNase, and DNase (10 μ g/ml; Sigma-Aldrich) were added to the resuspension, and cells were disrupted by passage through an Aminco French press cell at 16,000 lb/in². Cell debris was removed by centrifugation at $10,000 \times g$ for 30 min at 4°C. The protein was purified by immobilized-metal affinity chromatography (IMAC) using a Talon metal affinity resin (Clontech) followed by size exclusion chromatography on a Sephadex S300 column. Fractions from each of the purification steps were analyzed on 10% Tris-lysine SDS-PAGE gels stained with Coomassie blue.

Bacterial EPS purification. *A. nosocomialis* AU0783 was grown to confluence on TSB plates supplemented with 0.5% (wt/vol) glucose and incubated at 37°C for ~ 120 h. EPS purification was carried out as described previously (84). Briefly, cells were harvested by adding 10 ml of saline solution (0.9% [wt/vol] NaCl) per plate and scraping the cells from the agar surface. Equilibrated phenol was added to the resulting cell suspension to a final concentration of 5% (vol/vol) and agitated for 5 h at room temperature (RT). Cells were cleared by centrifugation at $10,000 \times g$ for 30 min, and the supernatant was precipitated overnight with 5 volumes of 95% ethanol. The EPS-containing precipitate was pelleted by centrifugation at $15,000 \times g$ for 20 min at 4°C and washed twice with 25 ml of 95% ethanol. The pellet was allowed to air dry overnight prior to resuspension in 25 ml of sterile double-distilled water (ddH₂O). After treatment with DNase I and RNase A (1 μ g/ml) for 30 min, the EPS mixture was dialyzed overnight in a 6- to 8-kDa molecular-mass-cutoff membrane (Spectra-por) against water. The dialyzed EPS material was lyophilized and weighed.

Depolymerase activity assays. To qualitatively assay the activity of the purified enzyme, a modification of the method described by Adams and Park (85) was employed. Ten-microliter quantities of a serial 10-fold dilution of recombinant Dpo1 were placed on lawns of AU0783 and incubated at 37°C for 18 h. The endpoint was taken as the reciprocal of the highest dilution at which a zone of reduced turbidity was observed in the bacterial lawn.

The ability of the enzyme to degrade exopolysaccharides was also evaluated by measuring the viscosity of EPS solutions following incubation with Dpo1. Untreated EPS was dissolved at a final concentration of 2.5 mg/ml in 1 \times assay buffer (25 mM Tris, 150 mM NaCl [pH 7.2]) and incubated for 1 h at 37°C either with active enzyme (15 μ g/ml) or with inactive Dpo1 (boiled at 95°C for 10 min). After incubation, the reactions were heat inactivated at 95°C for 5 min. As a control, the viscosity of the untreated EPS solution (2.5 mg/ml) and that of the assay buffer were measured before and after incubation and heat inactivation. The viscosity measurements were taken at 20°C ($n = 5$).

A bicinchoninic acid (BCA) assay was used to determine the generation of reducing ends in an EPS solution incubated in the presence of purified protein (86). The BCA reagent was prepared fresh in a 1:1 ratio of solution A (5 mM BCA, 513 mM Na₂CO₃, and 288 mM NaHCO₃) and solution B (5 mM CuSO₄ and 12 mM L-serine) in ddH₂O. A reaction master mix was prepared by mixing 100 μ l of 10 \times assay buffer, 100 μ l of 5-mg/ml EPS, and 800 μ l of ddH₂O. The master mix was aliquoted into microcentrifuge tubes (95 μ l per tube) which were preincubated at 37°C for 5 min prior to addition of 5 μ l of enzyme (200 nM) to each tube. After 5, 10, 20, and 30 min of incubation at 37°C, a pair of tubes was removed and placed at 95°C for 5 min to inactivate the enzyme. After cooling, 1 ml of BCA reagent was added to each tube. The samples were mixed and incubated at 95°C for 15 min, cooled to room temperature, and measured for absorbance at 560 nm in a spectrophotometer to measure reducing ends. As controls, assay buffer and 0.2 mM glucose in assay buffer were used.

Biofilm removal of *Acinetobacter* strains by Dpo1 was measured using a crystal violet microtiter plate assay (87). Bacteria were grown for 48 h at 37°C in TSB in untreated 96-well plates, and OD₅₅₀ was measured. Planktonic cells were removed and attached cells were incubated with Dpo1 (17 μ g/ml) or buffer alone for 3 h at 37°C. Biofilm removal was assessed by crystal violet staining measured at 590 nm.

Accession number(s). The phage genome was deposited in the NCBI database under accession number [KF669656.1](https://doi.org/10.1128/JVI.01064-17).

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

Supplemental material for this article may be found at <https://doi.org/10.1128/JVI.01064-17>.

SUPPLEMENTAL FILE 1, AVI file, 4.7 MB.

SUPPLEMENTAL FILE 2, PDF file, 0.1 MB.

SUPPLEMENTAL FILE 3, PDF file, 0.1 MB.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge J. J. LiPuma, A. Kumar, and C. F. Gonzales for providing the clinical strains used in this study. We also thank Mikhail Shneider for very productive discussions and the members of the Center for Phage Technology (CPT) for their help and support, especially Eric Rasche for the development of bioinformatic workflows. The CPT is supported by Texas AgriLife Research and Texas A&M University.

This research was supported by NIH research grant R01 GM27099-36 and by NSF grant EF-0949351.

We have no conflicts of interest to declare.

REFERENCES

- Dijkshoorn L, Nemec A, Seifert H. 2007. An increasing threat in hospitals: multidrug-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii*. *Nat Rev Microbiol* 5:939–951. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nrmicro1789>.
- Perez F, Hujer AM, Hujer KM, Decker BK, Rather PN, Bonomo RA. 2007. Global challenge of multidrug-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii*. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 51:3471–3484. <https://doi.org/10.1128/AAC.01464-06>.
- Wisplinghoff H, Paulus T, Lugenheim M, Stefanik D, Higgins PG, Edmond MB, Wenzel RP, Seifert H. 2012. Nosocomial bloodstream infections due to *Acinetobacter baumannii*, *Acinetobacter pittii* and *Acinetobacter nosocomialis* in the United States. *J Infect* 64:282–290. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jinf.2011.12.008>.
- Boyle DP, Zembower TR. 2015. Epidemiology and management of emerging drug-resistant Gram-negative bacteria: extended-spectrum beta-lactamases and beyond. *Urol Clin North Am* 42:493–505. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ucl.2015.05.005>.
- Roca I, Espinal P, Vila-Farres X, Vila J. 2012. The *Acinetobacter baumannii* oxymoron: commensal hospital dweller turned pan-drug-resistant menace. *Front Microbiol* 3:148. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmicb.2012.00148>.
- Sievert DM, Ricks P, Edwards JR, Schneider A, Patel J, Srinivasan A, Kallen A, Limbago B, Fridkin S, National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Team, Participating NHSN Facilities. 2013. Antimicrobial-resistant pathogens associated with healthcare-associated infections: summary of data reported to the National Healthcare Safety Network at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2009–2010. *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol* 34:1–14. <https://doi.org/10.1086/668770>.
- Farrugia DN, Elbourne LD, Hassan KA, Eijkelkamp BA, Tetu SG, Brown MH, Shah BS, Peleg AY, Mabbutt BC, Paulsen IT. 2013. The complete genome and phenome of a community-acquired *Acinetobacter baumannii*. *PLoS One* 8:e58628. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0058628>.
- Obeidat N, Jawdat F, Al-Bakri AG, Shehabi AA. 2014. Major biologic characteristics of *Acinetobacter baumannii* isolates from hospital environmental and patients' respiratory tract sources. *Am J Infect Control* 42:401–404. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajic.2013.10.010>.
- Rodríguez-Baño J, Martí S, Soto S, Fernandez-Cuenca F, Cisneros JM, Pachon J, Pascual A, Martínez-Martínez L, McQueary C, Actis LA, Vila J, Spanish Group for the Study of Nosocomial Infections (GEIH). 2008. Biofilm formation in *Acinetobacter baumannii*: associated features and clinical implications. *Clin Microbiol Infect* 14:276–278. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1469-0691.2007.01916.x>.
- Antunes LC, Imperi F, Carattoli A, Visca P. 2011. Deciphering the multifactorial nature of *Acinetobacter baumannii* pathogenicity. *PLoS One* 6:e22674. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0022674>.
- Eijkelkamp BA, Stroehrer UH, Hassan KA, Papadimitriou MS, Paulsen IT, Brown MH. 2011. Adherence and motility characteristics of clinical *Acinetobacter baumannii* isolates. *FEMS Microbiol Lett* 323:44–51. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1574-6968.2011.02362.x>.
- Espinal P, Martí S, Vila J. 2012. Effect of biofilm formation on the survival of *Acinetobacter baumannii* on dry surfaces. *J Hosp Infect* 80:56–60. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhin.2011.08.013>.
- Longo F, Vuotto C, Donelli G. 2014. Biofilm formation in *Acinetobacter baumannii*. *New Microbiol* 37:119–127.
- Russo TA, Luke NR, Beanan JM, Olson R, Sauberman SL, MacDonald U, Schultz LW, Umland TC, Campagnari AA. 2010. The K1 capsular polysaccharide of *Acinetobacter baumannii* strain 307-0294 is a major virulence factor. *Infect Immun* 78:3993–4000. <https://doi.org/10.1128/IAI.00366-10>.
- Campos MA, Vargas MA, Regueiro V, Llompard CM, Alberti S, Bengoechea JA. 2004. Capsule polysaccharide mediates bacterial resistance to antimicrobial peptides. *Infect Immun* 72:7107–7114. <https://doi.org/10.1128/IAI.72.12.7107-7114.2004>.
- Samson JE, Magadan AH, Sabri M, Moineau S. 2013. Revenge of the phages: defeating bacterial defences. *Nat Rev Microbiol* 11:675–687. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nrmicro3096>.
- Bayer ME, Thurow H, Bayer MH. 1979. Penetration of the polysaccharide capsule of *Escherichia coli* (Bi161-42) by bacteriophage K29. *Virology* 94:95–118. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0042-6822\(79\)90441-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/0042-6822(79)90441-0).
- Pires DP, Oliveira H, Melo LDR, Sillankorva S, Azeredo J. 2016. Bacteriophage-encoded depolymerases—their diversity and biotechnological applications. *Appl Microbiol Biotechnol* 100:2141–2151. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00253-015-7247-0>.
- Drulis-Kawa Z, Majkowska-Skrobek G, Maciejewska B, Delattre AS, Lavigne R. 2012. Learning from bacteriophages—advantages and limitations of phage and phage-encoded protein applications. *Curr Protein Pept Sci* 13:699–722. <https://doi.org/10.2174/138920312804871193>.
- Niemann H, Frank N, Stirn S. 1977. Klebsiella serotype-13 capsular polysaccharide: primary structure and depolymerization by a bacteriophage-borne glycanase. *Carbohydr Res* 59:165–177. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0008-6215\(00\)83303-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0008-6215(00)83303-0).
- Lin TL, Hsieh PF, Huang YT, Lee WC, Tsai YT, Su PA, Pan YJ, Hsu CR, Wu MC, Wang JT. 2014. Isolation of a bacteriophage and its depolymerase specific for K1 capsule of *Klebsiella pneumoniae*: implication in typing and treatment. *J Infect Dis* 210:1734–1744. <https://doi.org/10.1093/infdis/jiu332>.
- Traub WH, Leonhard B, Bauer D. 1996. Clusters of nosocomial cross-infection due to *Acinetobacter baumannii* and genospecies 3: Comparison of serotyping with macrorestriction analysis of genomic DNA with pulsed-field gel electrophoresis. *Zentralbl Bakteriol* 284:115–123.
- Traub WH, Bauer D. 2000. Surveillance of nosocomial cross-infections due to three *Acinetobacter* genospecies (*Acinetobacter baumannii*, genospecies 3 and genospecies 13) during a 10-year observation period: serotyping, macrorestriction analysis of genomic DNA and antibiotic susceptibilities. *Chemotherapy* 46:282–292. <https://doi.org/10.1159/000007300>.
- Hu D, Liu B, Dijkshoorn L, Wang L, Reeves PR. 2013. Diversity in the major polysaccharide antigen of *Acinetobacter baumannii* assessed by DNA sequencing, and development of a molecular serotyping scheme. *PLoS One* 8:e70329. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0070329>.
- Hughes KA, Sutherland IW, Clark J, Jones MV. 1998. Bacteriophage and associated polysaccharide depolymerases—novel tools for study of biofilms. *J Appl Microbiol* 85:583–590.
- Lai MJ, Chang KC, Huang SW, Luo CH, Chiou PY, Wu CC, Lin NT. 2016. The tail associated protein of *Acinetobacter baumannii* phage PhiAB6 is the host specificity determinant possessing exopolysaccharide depolymerase activity. *PLoS One* 11:e0153361. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0153361>.
- Geisinger E, Isberg RR. 2015. Antibiotic modulation of capsular exopolysaccharide and virulence in *Acinetobacter baumannii*. *PLoS Pathog* 11:e1004691. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.ppat.1004691>.
- Talreja D, Muraleedharan C, Gunathilaka G, Zhang Y, Kaye KS, Walia SK, Kumar A. 2014. Virulence properties of multidrug resistant ocular isolates of *Acinetobacter baumannii*. *Curr Eye Res* 39:695–704. <https://doi.org/10.3109/02713683.2013.873055>.
- Fishbain J, Peleg AY. 2010. Treatment of *Acinetobacter* infections. *Clin Infect Dis* 51:79–84. <https://doi.org/10.1086/653120>.
- Mushtaq N, Redpath MB, Luzio JP, Taylor PW. 2005. Treatment of experimental *Escherichia coli* infection with recombinant bacteriophage-derived capsule depolymerase. *J Antimicrob Chemother* 56:160–165. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jac/dki177>.
- Mushtaq N, Redpath MB, Luzio JP, Taylor PW. 2004. Prevention and cure of systemic *Escherichia coli* K1 infection by modification of the bacterial phenotype. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 48:1503–1508. <https://doi.org/10.1128/AAC.48.5.1503-1508.2004>.
- Thawal ND, Yele AB, Sahu PK, Chopade BA. 2012. Effect of a novel podophage AB7-IBB2 on *Acinetobacter baumannii* biofilm. *Curr Microbiol* 65:66–72. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00284-012-0127-2>.
- Glonti T, Chanishvili N, Taylor PW. 2010. Bacteriophage-derived enzyme that depolymerizes the alginate capsule associated with cystic fibrosis isolates of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. *J Appl Microbiol* 108:695–702. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2672.2009.04469.x>.
- Cornelissen A, Ceysens PJ, T'Syen J, Van Praet H, Noben JP, Shaburova OV, Krylov VN, Volckaert G, Lavigne R. 2011. The T7-related *Pseudomonas putida* phage phi15 displays virion-associated biofilm degradation properties. *PLoS One* 6:e18597. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0018597>.
- Hsu CR, Lin TL, Pan YJ, Hsieh PF, Wang JT. 2013. Isolation of a bacteriophage specific for a new capsular type of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and

- characterization of its polysaccharide depolymerase. *PLoS One* 8:e70092. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0070092>.
36. Stummeyer K, Schwarzer D, Claus H, Vogel U, Gerardy-Schahn R, Muhlenhoff M. 2006. Evolution of bacteriophages infecting encapsulated bacteria: lessons from *Escherichia coli* K1-specific phages. *Mol Microbiol* 60: 1123–1135. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2958.2006.05173.x>.
 37. Cornelissen A, Ceysens PJ, Krylov VN, Noben JP, Volckaert G, Lavigne R. 2012. Identification of EPS-degrading activity within the tail spikes of the novel *Pseudomonas putida* phage AF. *Virology* 434:251–256. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.virol.2012.09.030>.
 38. Bartell PF, Orr TE. 1969. Distinct slime polysaccharide depolymerases of phage infected *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*—evidence of close association with the structured phage particle. *J Virol* 4:580–584.
 39. García-Quintanilla M, Pulido MR, Lopez-Rojas R, Pachon J, McConnell MJ. 2013. Emerging therapies for multidrug resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii*. *Trends Microbiol* 21:157–163. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tim.2012.12.002>.
 40. Gill JJ, Hyman P. 2010. Phage choice, isolation, and preparation for phage therapy. *Curr Pharm Biotechnol* 11:2–14. <https://doi.org/10.2174/138920110790725311>.
 41. Schooley RT, Biswas B, Gill JJ, Hernandez-Morales A, Lancaster J, Lessor L, Barr JJ, Reed SL, Rohwer F, Benler S, Segall AM, Taplitz R, Smith DM, Kerr K, Kumaraswamy M, Nizet V, Lin L, McCauley MD, Strathdee SA, Benson CA, Pope RK, Leroux BM, Picel AC, Mateczun AJ, Cilwa KE, Regeimbal JM, Estrella LA, Wolfe DM, Henry MS, Quinones J, Salka S, Bishop-Lilly KA, Young R, Hamilton T. 2017. Development and use of personalized bacteriophage-based therapeutic cocktails to treat a patient with a disseminated resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* infection. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 61:e00954-17. <https://doi.org/10.1128/AAC.00954-17>.
 42. Chang KC, Lin NT, Hu A, Lin YS, Chen LK, Lai MJ. 2011. Genomic analysis of bacteriophage phiAB1, a phiKMV-like virus infecting multidrug-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii*. *Genomics* 97:249–255. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ygeno.2011.01.002>.
 43. Huang G, Le S, Peng Y, Zhao Y, Yin S, Zhang L, Yao X, Tan Y, Li M, Hu F. 2013. Characterization and genome sequencing of phage Abp1, a new phiKMV-like virus infecting multidrug-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii*. *Curr Microbiol* 66:535–543. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00284-013-0308-7>.
 44. Lavigne R, Burkal'tseva MV, Robben J, Sykilinda NN, Kurochkina LP, Grymonprez B, Jonckx B, Krylov VN, Mesyanzhinov VV, Volckaert G. 2003. The genome of bacteriophage phiKMV, a T7-like virus infecting *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. *Virology* 312:49–59. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0042-6822\(03\)00123-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0042-6822(03)00123-5).
 45. Merabishvili M, Vandenheuvel D, Kropinski AM, Mast J, De Vos D, Verbeke N, Noben JP, Lavigne R, Vaneechoutte M, Pirnay JP. 2014. Characterization of newly isolated lytic bacteriophages active against *Acinetobacter baumannii*. *PLoS One* 9:e104853. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0104853>.
 46. Nolan JM, Petrov V, Bertrand C, Krisch HM, Karam JD. 2006. Genetic diversity among five T4-like bacteriophages. *Virol J* 3:30. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1743-422X-3-30>.
 47. Friedrich NC, Torrents E, Gibb EA, Sahlin M, Sjöberg B-M, Edgell DR. 2007. Insertion of a homing endonuclease creates a genes-in-pieces ribonucleotide reductase that retains function. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 104:6176–6181. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.0609915104>.
 48. Gogarten JP, Senejani AG, Zhaxybayeva O, Olenzinski L, Hilario E. 2002. Intein: structure, function, and evolution. *Annu Rev Microbiol* 56: 263–287. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.micro.56.012302.160741>.
 49. Center MS, Richardson CC. 1970. An endonuclease induced after infection of *Escherichia coli* with bacteriophage T7. I. Purification and properties of the enzyme. *J Biol Chem* 245:6285–6291.
 50. Young R. 2013. Phage lysis: do we have the hole story yet? *Curr Opin Microbiol* 16:790–797. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mib.2013.08.008>.
 51. Dewey JS, Savva CG, White RL, Viitha S, Holzenburg A, Young R. 2010. Micron-scale holes terminate the phage infection cycle. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 107:2219–2223. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.0914030107>.
 52. Savva CG, Dewey JS, Moussa SH, To KH, Holzenburg A, Young R. 2014. Stable micron-scale holes are a general feature of canonical holins. *Mol Microbiol* 91:57–65. <https://doi.org/10.1111/mmi.12439>.
 53. Wang IN, Smith DL, Young R. 2000. Holins—the protein clocks of bacteriophage infections. *Annu Rev Biochem* 54:799–825.
 54. Young R. 2014. Phage lysis—three steps, three choices, one outcome. *J Microbiol* 52:243–258. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12275-014-4087-z>.
 55. Berry J, Rajaura M, Pang T, Young R. 2012. The spanin complex is essential for lambda lysis. *J Bacteriol* 194:5667–5674. <https://doi.org/10.1128/JB.01245-12>.
 56. Lai MJ, Lin NT, Hu A, Soo PC, Chen LK, Chen LH, Chang KC. 2011. Antibacterial activity of *Acinetobacter baumannii* phage phiAB2 endolysin (LysAB2) against both gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria. *Appl Microbiol Biotechnol* 90:529–539. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00253-011-3104-y>.
 57. Lood R, Winer BY, Pelzek AJ, Diez-Martinez R, Thandar M, Euler CW, Schuch R, Fischetti VA. 2015. Novel phage lysin capable of killing the multidrug-resistant gram-negative bacterium *Acinetobacter baumannii* in a mouse bacteremia model. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 59: 1983–1991. <https://doi.org/10.1128/AAC.04641-14>.
 58. Buchan DWA, Minneci F, Nugent TCO, Bryson K, Jones DT. 2013. Scalable web services for the PSIPRED Protein Analysis Workbench. *Nucleic Acids Res* 41:W349–W357. <https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkt381>.
 59. Jones DT. 1999. Protein secondary structure prediction based on position-specific scoring matrices. *J Mol Biol* 292:195–202.
 60. Projan S. 2004. Phage-inspired antibiotics? *Nat Biotechnol* 22:167–168. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nbt0204-167>.
 61. Moxon ER, Kroll JS. 1990. The role of bacterial polysaccharide capsules as virulence factors. *Curr Top Microbiol Immunol* 150:65–85.
 62. Scorpio A, Chabot DJ, Day WA, O'Brien DK, Vietri NJ, Itoh Y, Mohamad-zadeh M, Friedlander AM. 2007. Poly-gamma-glutamate capsule-degrading enzyme treatment enhances phagocytosis and killing of encapsulated *Bacillus anthracis*. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 51: 215–222. <https://doi.org/10.1128/AAC.00706-06>.
 63. Kenyon JJ, Shneider MM, Senchenkova SN, Shashkov AS, Siniagina MN, Malanin SY, Popova AV, Miroshnikov KA, Hall RM, Knirel YA. 2016. K19 capsular polysaccharide of *Acinetobacter baumannii* is produced via a Wzy polymerase encoded in a small genomic island rather than the KL19 capsule gene cluster. *Microbiology* 162:1479–1489. <https://doi.org/10.1099/mic.0.000313>.
 64. Kenyon JJ, Hall RM. 2013. Variation in the complex carbohydrate biosynthesis loci of *Acinetobacter baumannii* genomes. *PLoS One* 8:e62160. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0062160>.
 65. Chen L, Chavda KD, Findlay J, Peirano G, Hopkins K, Pitout JD, Bonomo RA, Woodford N, DeLeo FR, Kreiswirth BN. 2014. Multiplex PCR for identification of two capsular types in epidemic KPC-producing *Klebsiella pneumoniae* sequence type 258 strains. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 58:4196–4199. <https://doi.org/10.1128/AAC.02673-14>.
 66. Leggate DR, Bryant JM, Redpath MB, Head D, Taylor PW, Luzio JP. 2002. Expression, mutagenesis and kinetic analysis of recombinant K1E endolialidase to define the site of proteolytic processing and requirements for catalysis. *Mol Microbiol* 44:749–760. <https://doi.org/10.1046/j.1365-2958.2002.02908.x>.
 67. Thompson JE, Pourhossein M, Waterhouse A, Hudson T, Goldrick M, Derrick JP, Roberts IS. 2010. The K5 lyase KfiA combines a viral tail spike structure with a bacterial polysaccharide lyase mechanism. *J Biol Chem* 285:23963–23969. <https://doi.org/10.1074/jbc.M110.127571>.
 68. Hooton SP, Timms AR, Rowsell J, Wilson R, Connerton IF. 2011. *Salmonella* Typhimurium-specific bacteriophage ΦSH19 and the origins of species specificity in the Vi01-like phage family. *Virol J* 8:498. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1743-422X-8-498>.
 69. Adams MH. 1959. *Bacteriophages*. Interscience Publishers, New York, NY.
 70. Gill JJ, Summer EJ, Russell WK, Cologna SM, Carlile TM, Fuller AC, Kitsopoulos K, Mebane LM, Parkinson BN, Sullivan D, Carmody LA, Gonzalez CF, LiPuma JJ, Young R. 2011. Genomes and characterization of phages Bcep22 and BcepL02, founders of a novel phage type in *Burkholderia cenocepacia*. *J Bacteriol* 193:5300–5313. <https://doi.org/10.1128/JB.05287-11>.
 71. Valentine RC, Shapiro BM, Stadtman ER. 1968. Regulation of glutamine synthetase XII. Electron microscopy of the enzyme from *Escherichia coli*. *Biochemistry* 7:2143–2152.
 72. Choi C, Kuatsjah E, Wu E, Yuan S. 2010. The effect of cell size on the burst size of T4 bacteriophage infections of *Escherichia coli* B23. *J Exp Microbiol Immunol* 14:85–91.
 73. Carlson K, Miller ES. 1994. Working with T4, p 421–455. In Karam JD (ed), *Molecular biology of bacteriophage T4*. ASM Press, Washington, DC.
 74. Kropinski A, Mazzocco A, Waddell T, Lingohr E, Johnson R. 2009. Enumeration of bacteriophages by double agar overlay plaque assay, p 77–80. In Clokie MJ, Kropinski A (ed), *Bacteriophages: methods and protocols*. Humana Press, Totowa, NJ.
 75. Kutter E. 2009. Phage host range and efficiency of plating, p 141–149. In

- Clokier MJ, Kropinski A (ed), Bacteriophages: methods and protocols. Humana Press, Totowa, NJ.
76. Summer EJ. 2009. Preparation of a phage DNA fragment library for whole genome shotgun sequencing. *Methods Mol Biol* 502:27–46. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-60327-565-1_4.
 77. Farmer NG, Wood TL, Chamakura KR, Kutyl Everett GF. 2013. Complete genome of *Acinetobacter baumannii* N4-like podophage Presley. *Genome Announc* 1(6):e00852-13. <https://doi.org/10.1128/genomeA.00852-13>.
 78. Besemer J, Lomsadze A, Borodovsky M. 2001. GeneMarkS: a self-training method for prediction of gene starts in microbial genomes. Implications for finding sequence motifs in regulatory regions. *Nucleic Acids Res* 29:2607–2618.
 79. Rutherford K, Parkhill J, Crook J, Horsnell T, Rice P, Rajandream MA, Barrell B. 2000. Artemis: sequence visualization and annotation. *Bioinformatics* 16:944–945. <https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/16.10.944>.
 80. Altschul SF, Gish W, Miller W, Myers EW, Lipman DJ. 1990. Basic local alignment search tool. *J Mol Biol* 215:403–410. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0022-2836\(05\)80360-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0022-2836(05)80360-2).
 81. Larkin MA, Blackshields G, Brown NP, Chenna R, McGettigan PA, McWilliam H, Valentin F, Wallace IM, Wilm A, Lopez R, Thompson JD, Gibson TJ, Higgins DG. 2007. Clustal W and Clustal X version 2.0. *Bioinformatics* 23:2947–2948. <https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/btm404>.
 82. Casjens SR, Gilcrease EB. 2009. Determining DNA packaging strategy by analysis of the termini of the chromosomes in tailed-bacteriophage virions. *Methods Mol Biol* 502:91–111. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-60327-565-1_7.
 83. Laemmli UK. 1970. Cleavage of structural proteins during the assembly of the head of bacteriophage T4. *Nature* 227:680–685. <https://doi.org/10.1038/227680a0>.
 84. Steinmetz I, Rohde M, Brenneke B. 1995. Purification and characterization of an exopolysaccharide of *Burkholderia* (*Pseudomonas*) pseudomallei. *Infect Immun* 63:3959–3965.
 85. Adams MH, Park BH. 1956. An enzyme produced by a phage-host cell system. II. The properties of the polysaccharide depolymerase. *Virology* 2:719–736.
 86. Waffenschmidt S, Jaenicke L. 1987. Assay of reducing sugars in the nanomole range with 2,2'-biconchinate. *Anal Biochem* 165:337–340. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0003-2697\(87\)90278-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/0003-2697(87)90278-8).
 87. Knezevic P, Petrovic O. 2008. A colorimetric microtiter plate method for assessment of phage effect on *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* biofilm. *J Microbiol Methods* 74:114–118. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mimet.2008.03.005>.
 88. Edgar RC. 2004. MUSCLE: multiple sequence alignment with high accuracy and high throughput. *Nucleic Acids Res* 32:1792–1797. <https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkh340>.
 89. Dereeper A, Guignon V, Blanc G, Audic S, Buffet S, Chevenet F, Dufayard JF, Guindon S, Lefort V, Lescot M, Claverie JM, Gascuel O. 2008. Phylogeny.fr: robust phylogenetic analysis for the non-specialist. *Nucleic Acids Res* 36:W465–W469. <https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkn180>.
 90. Abramoff MD, Magalhaes PJ, Ram SJ. 2004. Image processing with ImageJ. *Biophotonics Int* 11:36–42.
 91. Rasband WS. 2017. ImageJ. <https://imagej.nih.gov/ij/index.html>. Accessed 1 October 2017.