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Supplemental Information

The arbitrium system controls prophage induction

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Figure S1. Model for the mechanism of action of the arbitrium system in phages of the SPß family, Related to Figure 3. (A) The arbitrium model prior to this study describes that after infection of a SP_B prophage, AimR is being expressed and binds to the operator site promoting expression of the *aimX* sRNA and promoting the lytic cycle. After AimP accumulates above the threshold levels, it binds to AimR disrupting its binding to the DNA and reducing expression of *aim*X, leading to lysogeny. (B) Our understanding is that the arbitrium system of SPB is involved in a more complex mechanism to control prophage induction. The regulator AimR functions to inhibit the phage repressor, YopR, thus promoting prophage induction. Another component of the system is YopN that we hypothesise to promote YopR activity, acting as a negative regulator of prophage induction. We propose that following activation of the SOS response, AimR activates an unknown component that blocks YopN function, thus reducing the activity of YopR and promoting induction.

Figure S2. Analysis of the aimR and aimP deletions in SPB-type prophages, Related to Figure 5. (A) Lysogenic strains for phage SPB, SPB AaimR or SPB AaimPw ere MC induced (0.5 µg/ml) and incubated at 30 C w ith 80 rpm shaking for 4 h. The lysates were left overnight at room temperature before being photographed. (B) Complementation of the *aim*R mutant in SPβ. Strains lysogenic for phage SPβ w t, ∆*aim*R, ∆*aim*R *amy*E::Pspank and ∆*aim*R *amy*E::Pspank-AimR w ere MC induced (0.5 μg/ml) and the number of resulting phages were quantified by titering using 168 ∆6 as the recipient strain. The results are represented as the plaque forming units (PFUs) mL-1. The means and SDs are presented (n = 5). An ordinary one-way ANOVA of transformed data w as performed to compare mean differences between titres. Adjusted p values were as follows: SPβ ∆*aim*R ****p = < 0.0001; ∆*aim*R *amy*E::Pspank ****p = < 0.0001; ∆*aim*R *amy*E::Pspank-AimR ns = not significant. (C) Complementation of the aimR mutant in phi3T. Strains lysogenc for phages phi3Twt, ∆aimR, ∆aimR amyE:: Pspank and ∆aimR amyE:: Pspank-AimR w ere MC induced (0.5 µg/m) and the number of resulting phages were quantified by titering using 168 ∆6 as the recipient strain. The results are represented as PFUs/mL-1. The means and SDs are presented (n = 3). An ordinary one-way ANOVA of transformed data was performed to compare mean differences between titres. Adjusted p values were as follows: SPβ ∆*aim*R ****p = < 0.0001; ∆*aim*R *amy*E::Pspank ****p = < 0.0001; ∆aimR amyE::Pspank-AimR ns = not significant. (D) SPB lysates were tittered using 168 ∆6 as the recipient strain. The resulting plaque morphologies were photographed. (E) Strains lysogenic for phage SPβ w t, ∆*aim*P, ∆*aim*P*amy*E::Pspank and ∆*aim*P*amy*E::Pspank-AimP w ere MC induced (0.5 μg/ml) and the number of resulting phages were quantified by titering using 168 ∆6 as the recipient strain. The results are represented as the plaque forming units (PFUs) mL-1. The means and SDs are presented (n = 3). An ordinary one-way ANOVA of transformed data w as performed to compare mean differences between titres. Adjusted p values were as follows: SPβ ∆*aim*P *p = 0.0205; ∆*aim*P*amy*E::Pspank **p = 0.0049; ∆*aim*P *amy*E::Pspank-AimP*p = 0.0391. (F) Strains lysogenic for phages phi3T w t, ∆*aim*P, ∆*aim*P *amy*E::Pspank and ∆*aim*P *amy*E::Pspank-AimP w ere MC induced (0.5 μg/ml) and the number of resulting phages were quantified by titering using 168 ∆6 as the recipient strain. The results are represented as PFUs/mL⁻¹. The means and SDs are presented (n = 3). An ordinary one-way ANOVA of transformed data was performed to compare mean differences between titres. Adjusted p values were as follows: phi3T∆*aim*P*p = 0.0220; ∆*aim*P *amy*E::Pspank *p = 0.0125; ∆*aim*P *amy*E::Pspank-AimP ***p = 0.0005.

A B C

5 $NO M C + MC + IPTG$

Figure S3. Complementation of the aimR mutants in recipient strain, Related to Figure 4 and Figure 5. (A) Strain lysogenic for phage SPB AaimR was MC induced (0.5 μg/ml) and the number of resulting phages were quantified by titering using 168 ∆6 *amy*E::Pspank (-) or 168 ∆6 *amy*E::Pspank-AimR_{SPβ} (+) as recipient strains. The results are represented as the plaque forming units (PFUs) mL⁻¹. The means and SDs are presented (n = 4). An ordinary one-way ANOVA of transformed data was performed to compare mean differences between titres. Adjusted p values were as follows: column A vs column B ****p = <0.0001; column A vs column C ns = not significant; column A vs column D ****p = <0.0001. (B) Strain lysogenic for phage phi3T ∆*aim*R was MC induced (0.5 μg/ml) and the number of resulting phages were quantified by titering using 168 ∆6 amyE::Pspank (-) or 168 ∆6 and ∆a*imR amyE*::Pspank-AimR_{phi3T} (+) as recipient strains. The results are represented as the plaque forming units (PFUs) mL⁻¹. The means and SDs are presented (n = 3). An ordinary one-way ANOVA of transformed data was performed to compare mean differences between titres. . Adjusted p values were as follows: column A vs column B ****p = <0.0001; column A vs column C ns = not significant; column A vs column D ****p = <0.0001. (C) Plaques morphologies produced after titration of the SPβ ∆aimR using 168 ∆6 amyE::Pspank (-) or 168 ∆6 amyE::Pspank-AimR_{SPβ} (+) as recipient strains were photographed. (D) Overexpression of AimR does not induce the lytic cycle. Strains lysogenic for phage SPβ *amy*E::Pspank and SPβ *amy*E::Pspank-AimR_{SPβ} were analysed for their ability to produce phage particles under several conditions: without induction (No MC), with phage induction (+ MC 0.5 μg/ml) and with Pspank induction (+ IPTG 1mM). The number of resulting phages were quantified by titering using 168 ∆6 as the recipient strain. The results are represented as the plaque forming units (PFUs) mL⁻¹. The means and SDs are presented (n = 3). An ordinary one-way ANOVA of transformed data was performed to compare mean differences between titres. Differences in titer with "No MC" and "+ IPTG" were not significant (ns). The adjusted p value comparing SPβ *amy*E::Pspank and *amy*E::Pspank-AimR + MC *p = 0.0227.

Figure S4. Schematic representation of the SPB AaimR evolution procedure Related to STAR Methods. SPB AaimR lysate was acquired following MC induction of a lysogenic strain carrying the SPB AaimR phage. The lysate was titered using 168 A6 as the recipient strain and the resulting cloudy plaques were collected and passaged, as described in the STAR Methods, until wt-appearing plaques were obtained.Created with BioRender.com

Figure S5. Plaque morphology of SPβ wt, ΔaimR, ΔyopN, ΔaimR-yopN and yopR::erm phages, Related to Figure 5 and Figure 6. Strains lysogenic for phage SPβ wt, ΔaimR, ΔyopN and ΔaimR-yopN were MC induced (0.5 μg/ml) and titered using 168 Δ6 as the recipient strain. A strain lysogenic for phage SPβ was transformed with an erythromycin cassette to replace the yopR gene. The resulting strain, supposedly yopR::em, was MC induced (0.5 µg/ml) and titered using 168 A6 as the recipient strain. The resulting plaque morphologies were photographed.

SPβ

Unconserved 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Conserved

Figure S6. Homology analysis of AimRSP and AimRKATMIRA1933, Related to STAR Methods. AimR sequences from SP and KATMIRA1933 were obtained from BLAST. The superposition analysis was made using the PRALINE program. Residues conservancy is depicted by blue to red colours.

Figure S7. Schematic representation of the SPß-like phages arbitrium and operon genetic layout, Related to Figure 3. Diagram shows the genetic organisation of the arbitrium genes, *aim*R and *aim*P, followed by the operon directly downstream. Colours denote putative functions according to BLAST results; orange: arbitrium genes, grey: unknown function, navy blue: HTH_XRE domain, green: integrase domain, purple: ParB domain, light blue: putative repressor. Rotated black line indicates the end/beginning of the contigs containing the genes described forKatmira1933.Created with BioRender.com

Table S1. Mutations identified in evolved SP β ∆aimR phages, Related to Figure 3 and Figure 4.

*NA: Not annotated

Table S2. Genetic composition of the arbitrium-operon region in the different SP-like phage families, Related to Figure 3.

Table S3. Bacterial strains, Related to STAR Methods.

Table S4. Plasmids used in this study, Related to STAR Methods.

Table S5. Primers used in this study, Related to STAR Methods.

Supplemental References:

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