

1   **Title:** Exploring bacterial diversity via a curated and searchable snapshot of archived DNA  
2    sequences

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27 **ABSTRACT**

28 The open sharing of genomic data provides an incredibly rich resource for the study of  
29 bacterial evolution and function, and even anthropogenic activities such as the widespread use  
30 of antimicrobials. Whilst these archives are rich in data, considerable processing is required  
31 before biological questions can be addressed. Here, we assembled and characterised 661,405  
32 bacterial genomes using a uniform standardised approach, retrieved from the European  
33 Nucleotide Archive (ENA) in November of 2018. A searchable COBS index has been produced,  
34 facilitating the easy interrogation of the entire dataset for a specific gene or mutation. Additional  
35 MinHash and pp-sketch indices support genome-wide comparisons and estimations of genomic  
36 distance. An analysis on this scale revealed the uneven species composition in the ENA/public  
37 databases, with just 20 of the total 2,336 species making up 90% of the genomes. The over-  
38 represented species tend to be acute/common human pathogens. This aligns with research  
39 priorities at different levels from individuals with targeted but focused research questions, areas  
40 of focus for the funding bodies or national public health agencies, to those identified globally as  
41 priority pathogens by the WHO for their resistance to front and last line antimicrobials.  
42 Understanding the actual and potential biases in bacterial diversity depicted in this snapshot, and  
43 hence within the data being submitted to the public sequencing archives, is essential if we are to  
44 target and fill gaps in our understanding of the bacterial kingdom.

45

46 **INTRODUCTION**

47 The widespread availability of high-throughput sequencing has resulted in a huge wealth  
48 of bacterial genomic data collected from countries all over the world that are shared openly  
49 through the public archives, representing a unique and essential resource. Studying the extreme  
50 diversity of bacterial species is of broad interest to communities with focuses of basic science,  
51 agriculture and medicine. Beyond their primary function of genomic data storage, sequence  
52 repositories show trends in funding, biases in the collection strategies of bacteria and even reveal

53 the drive and focus of individuals pursuing particular lines of research. Sequence read data is  
54 held by members of the International Nucleotide Sequence Database Collaboration (INSDC) (1),  
55 who include DNA Data Bank of Japan (DDBJ), European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI) and  
56 National Centre for Biotechnology Information (NCBI). Submission of genomic data to the ENA  
57 (EMBL-EBI) or its INSDC partners (DRA for DDBJ, SRA for NCBI) has become a central and  
58 mandatory step in dissemination of research to the scientific community and a way to ensure open  
59 and free access to data (1). Each of these repositories host the raw read data as well as genome  
60 assemblies, at different levels of completeness, that have been submitted by a user. These  
61 archives are continuing to grow at a remarkable rate with current estimation of doubling time of  
62 datasets in the ENA to be just over 2 years (<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/ena/browser/about/statistics>).  
63 The ever-increasing data size presents difficulties for storage capacity. Even more, a general  
64 user's ability to access and effectively use the data is restricted, whether due to their  
65 computational skills, the biological question, the volume of data, the IT infrastructure or other  
66 resources required. The capacity to effectively and quickly identify datasets relevant to a user is  
67 a significant challenge, and currently DNA searches are not supported across all datasets.  
68 Furthermore, once a user has their list of datasets, significant processing for quality control and  
69 extraction of relevant data is required prior to applying specific analyses. Over time, many of these  
70 processing steps will be performed repeatedly by different researchers worldwide.

71 Other databases exist that provide a higher level of curation, including NCBI's Refseq (2).  
72 Refseq (195,316 assemblies in September 2020) is composed of a selection of assemblies that  
73 have been submitted to INSDC databases that meet their quality control requirements, and most  
74 have been re-annotated using NCBI's prokaryotic genome annotation pipeline (3) to provide  
75 consistency across the data. The assemblies are widely used for taxonomic identification (4, 5),  
76 but are also commonly used to examine the distribution of genes or elements of interest, or as  
77 test sets for new algorithms or programs (6, 7). However, the Refseq assemblies have been  
78 collated progressively over time using a range of sequencing technologies and assembly

79 algorithms, making the assemblies less consistent and so potentially more problematic for  
80 drawing wide-ranging conclusions (8, 9).

81 Attempts to standardise the assembled dataset tend to have a community focus such as  
82 Enterobase which holds sequencing data from the *Enterobacteriaceae*, and includes curated  
83 genome data for 466,670 *Salmonella*, *Escherichia/Shigella*, *Clostridioides*, *Vibrio*, *Helicobacter*,  
84 *Yersinia* and *Moraxella* genomes (10). Enterobase gathers sequence data with associated  
85 metadata by actively searching for new sequence submissions for supported genera or through  
86 direct submissions. The raw data is then processed in a uniform way (assembly and annotation)  
87 and basic organism-specific typing is performed (10). However, whilst standardised, the scope of  
88 this type of database is by definition limited. Depending on an individual's focus this can act to  
89 further fragment genome data and lead to even more incompatibility issues if the complete  
90 genome dataset, agnostic of organism, is to be analysed.

91 Here, we present a uniformly processed archive of 661K bacterial genomes that were  
92 available in the ENA at the end of November in 2018. Through the quality control steps,  
93 characterisation of the assemblies and the provision of a searchable database we remove some  
94 of the technical barriers for the interrogation of the public sequences. We use this data to examine  
95 the composition of the sequencing archives and in doing so highlight the influence of sampling  
96 and sequencing trends on the composition of these public databases.

97

## 98 **RESULTS**

### 99 **Construction of a unified resource**

100 On the 26<sup>th</sup> of November of 2018 there were 880,947 bacterial read sets available in the  
101 ENA. Those that were single-ended or were sequenced on the PacBio or nanopore platform were  
102 removed, and 710,696 unique sample IDs were submitted to an assembly pipeline (see methods),  
103 yielding 664,877 assemblies. A subset of these (3,472 assemblies) had a genome length  
104 significantly outside that expected of a bacterial organism (smaller than 100 Kb or larger than

105 15Mb), leaving 661,405 standardised assemblies. Quality control and general characterisation  
106 were performed on these 661K assemblies (see methods). Standard quality control cut-offs, many  
107 of which are consistent with the threshold for inclusion for Refseq, were applied to identify  
108 genomes that were of high assembly quality. These assemblies represent complete or almost  
109 complete genomes that weren't overly fragmented and had a genome length within an acceptable  
110 tolerance (+/- 50%) of that expected of its species. 639,981 assemblies reached or exceeded  
111 these thresholds ( Supplementary Figure 1A, filter status 4).

112 Using Kraken2 and then refining the output using Bracken, it was evident that of the read  
113 sets contributing to these assemblies 94.1% (602,406/639,981) showed the major taxonomic  
114 species to account for 90% or greater of the total reads in that read set (Supplementary Figure  
115 1C). Hence, there was little evidence of mixed samples or significant contamination. Importantly,  
116 lowest common ancestor approaches are not ideal if the major taxa is a member of a species  
117 complex. Therefore, we calculated an adjusted abundance (see methods) for members of the  
118 *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex, *Bacillus cereus* sensu lato group, or where genera or  
119 species represent taxonomic anomalies such as the division of *Shigella* sp. and *Escherichia coli*  
120 which is based on clinical imperative rather than a true taxonomic distinction (11, 12). For some  
121 species, including *Burkholderia pseudomallei*, *Bordetella pertussis*, *Mycobacterium ulcerans* and  
122 *Campylobacter helveticus*, the major species abundance in more than 97.6% of their assemblies  
123 were less than 90% using these approaches (Supplementary Figure 2), despite passing earlier  
124 quality control thresholds for contamination (Supplementary Figure 1D). This indicates that there  
125 are likely limitations with the methods for species identification used here. Of note, 89.8%  
126 (593,628) of the assemblies in the 661K had been submitted with species metadata that was  
127 consistent with the major species we identified *in silico* from sequence.

128 To facilitate access and usage we have added three indices that can be downloaded  
129 along with the 661,405 assemblies. The COBS (13) index allows the user to search for single  
130 nucleotide variations and polymorphisms, as well as whole genes or even extrachromosomal

131 elements such as plasmids. Secondly the Minhash index (14), containing signatures of the  
132 assemblies can be used to search for matches to any query genomes (*i.e.* to find similar  
133 genomes). A third index, constructed using the library sketching function of PopPunk (15),  
134 includes the calculated core and accessory distances between the 661K assemblies. Genetic  
135 distance estimations for any subset of assemblies can be extracted quickly and easily from this  
136 index.

137

### 138 **Diversity and sequencing trends**

139 The 639,981 high-quality assembled genomes comprised 2,336 species (Supplementary  
140 Figure 1B), and the breakdown of the genomes based on the year that they were made public in  
141 the ENA is shown in Supplementary Figure 3A. Despite the considerable number of species in  
142 this dataset, sampling was extremely unevenly distributed, with just 20 species accounting for  
143 90.6% of the assembled data set (Figure 1A). Within this, *Salmonella enterica* accounted for  
144 almost a third of the data (28.0%), while *E. coli* (13.4%), *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (7.9%),  
145 *Staphylococcus aureus* (7.4%) and *M. tuberculosis* (7.3%) combined constituted over 35% of the  
146 remaining assemblies (Figure 1A). The final 9.4% of the assemblies comprised 2,315 species *i.e.*  
147 99.1% of the species diversity, of which 1,861 species contributed to just 1% of the total submitted  
148 and processed data (Figure 1B). A similar trend is revealed when the contributing sequencing  
149 projects are examined, with 50% of the data originating from 50 sequencing projects  
150 (Supplementary Figure 3B), a small fraction of the total 23,316 projects. The majority of the  
151 sequencing projects (20,002) only yielded a single assembly. Unsurprisingly, three of the five  
152 largest projects focus on *S. enterica*. These include the PulseNet *S. enterica* genome sequencing  
153 project (PRJNA230403, 59,011 assemblies, 2014 onwards) run by the Centre for Disease Control  
154 (16), the Salmonella Reference Service (Gastrointestinal Bacteria Reference Unit) from Public  
155 Health England (PRJNA248792, 35,942 assemblies, 2014 onwards) (17) and the GenomeTrakr  
156 project (PRJNA186035, 19,418 assemblies, 2012 onwards) run by the US Food and Drug

157 Administration Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (18). The ramping up of these large  
158 public genomic surveillance projects in 2014 contributed to *S. enterica* dominating as the major  
159 bacterium sequenced from 2015 (Figure 1C, Supplementary Figure 3C). The Global  
160 Pneumococcal Sequencing GPS study I (PRJEB3084, 20,667 assemblies), which focuses on *S.*  
161 *pneumoniae* (19, 20), and a US public health project focusing on *E. coli* and *Shigella*  
162 (PRJNA218110, 20,508 assemblies, 2014 onwards) (16) are the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> largest projects in the  
163 archive. Specific interests of individuals or groups have also contributed to these sequencing  
164 trends, though the impact is more obvious in the earlier years, where organisms such as  
165 *Bordetella pertussis* (PRJEB2274) (1) and *Salmonella bongori* (PRJEB2272) (2) were prominent  
166 but were overshadowed in later years (Figure 1C).

167

## 168 **Distribution of and accumulation of antimicrobial resistance genes**

169 One of the major selective forces that has perturbed bacterial populations has been the  
170 development and wide-spread therapeutic use of antimicrobials since the 1940's (21–23).  
171 Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is highlighted as one of the greatest threats to human health (24,  
172 25). It has been estimated that if no action is taken, 10 million people worldwide could die from  
173 drug resistant infections each year by 2050 (26). We have genotypically predicted the presence  
174 of AMR, virulence and stress response genes for all assembled genomes (see methods), but the  
175 results shown below are for the 602,407 high quality genomes with a confident major species  
176 (>90% abundance major species), unless specified otherwise. Our approach detects both genes  
177 that are core to a species, usually located on the chromosome(s), as well as those which have  
178 been horizontally acquired and are chromosomally located or otherwise located in  
179 extrachromosomal elements, such as plasmids. However, specific point mutations/deletions are  
180 not considered in this analysis.

181 In total, 1,655 known AMR gene variants were identified. Gene variants showed different  
182 distribution ranges across the assembled taxa with 135 gene variants detected in two or more

183 phyla. This reduced to just 73 when a stricter 98% threshold for abundance of the major species  
184 was set to limit the effects of low level contamination commonly seen in submitted data  
185 (Supplementary Figure 4). Gene variants with more restricted distribution patterns, such as those  
186 found only within a particular genus or species could represent variants that have recently arisen  
187 within that population, or were restricted directly, through for example gene expression, or  
188 indirectly based on the host range of the plasmid or vector that carries them. For example the  
189 distribution patterns of the colistin resistance genes, first identified in 2016 (27), are at most  
190 detected within a bacterial order (*mcr-9*), or more commonly within a class (eg. *mcr-1*, *mcr-3*, *mcr-*  
191 5), while some are only present in a single species (*mcr-1.7*, *mcr-4.1*).

192 An important trend seen in our data is the relative number of genomes carrying multiple  
193 AMR genes. The count of AMR genes in each genome for two of the most represented orders -  
194 Bacilli and Gammaproteobacteria - are shown in Figure 2. Most genera within the Bacilli contain  
195 genomes with fewer than 10 antimicrobial resistance genes. Some genomes belonging to *Bacillus*  
196 and *Streptococcus* possess up to 10 or 11 resistance genes, while those from *Enterococcus* and  
197 *Staphylococcus* can carry up to 23 and 25 resistance genes in a single genome, respectively  
198 (Figure 2A). It's important to note that some of these resistance genes are core to a species  
199 (genes found in >95% of the genomes belonging to that species). For example, 3 of the genes  
200 counted in *Enterococcus* (*aac(6')*-*li*, *msrC* and *eatA*) were core, consistent with previous analysis  
201 (28, 29). Similarly in *S. aureus*, the *tet38* efflux pump (30) is a core gene.

202 Gammaproteobacteria represent a large proportion of the Gram-negative pathogens with  
203 many of the genera in this class possessing high AMR gene counts (Figure 2B). Most notably,  
204 *Acinetobacter*, *Escherichia*, *Klebsiella*, *Pseudomonas* and *Salmonella* with a small number of *E.*  
205 *coli* and *K. pneumoniae* genomes containing over 30 different AMR genes concurrently, while  
206 only 1 and 4 genes of these were species core genes, respectively.

207 The above genera with high AMR gene carriage (Figure 2) harbor species identified by  
208 the WHO as priority pathogens for research and development into new antibiotics (24). The

209 different categories described by the WHO (critical, high and medium) are displayed in Figure 2,  
210 using the red, orange and yellow triangles. Other genera, not on the WHO priority list, show a  
211 high abundance of antimicrobial resistance genes, including *Vibrio*, *Citrobacter*, *Aeromonas* and  
212 *Kluyvera*. Apart from *Vibrio*, these genera are not well-represented in the collection. Greater  
213 surveillance of these organisms could, as it has done for the other priority organisms, reveal an  
214 increasingly resistant trend and stimulate research, essential for the design of rational AMR  
215 control strategies.

216 Further to examining the count of resistance genes in discrete genomes, we have  
217 predicted how many classes of antimicrobials the genes within a genome confers resistance to.  
218 We find 35% of genomes (211,101/602,406) contain resistance to at least 3 classes of  
219 antimicrobials and have been defined here to be multi-class resistant (MCR). For a species to be  
220 described as MCR (red in Figure 3), at least half of the genomes from this species must be MCR  
221 (note this was only calculated for those species with at least 10 representatives). 37 species were  
222 classed as MCR. The WHO priority pathogens are well represented, though for *S. enterica* and  
223 *E. coli*, despite having some genomes conferring resistance to up to 12 and 14 different classes  
224 of antimicrobials respectively, the majority of samples are not MCR, though many may contain  
225 mutational resistance to antimicrobials such as fluoroquinolones. At the other end of the spectrum  
226 is *Enterobacter bugandensis*, where all 10 samples (from 3 different projects) contain genes  
227 conferring resistance to 8 classes of antimicrobials. *E. bugandensis* was only identified in 2016  
228 and was associated with neonatal sepsis (31). The species *K. intermedia* and *V. cholerae*, in  
229 addition to possessing overall high numbers of AMR genes (Figure 3A), were also MCR. So too  
230 were the emerging opportunistic human pathogens *Raoultella planticola* (32) and  
231 *Corynebacterium striatum* (33) as well as the zoonotic pathogen *Histophilus somni* (34) and *M.*  
232 *tuberculosis*. However, the level of resistance in *M. tuberculosis* is likely to be underestimated as  
233 the main mechanism of resistance is through mutation (35) and so are not considered here.

234

235 **DISCUSSION**

236 Bacteria are a vast, diverse and ancient family of single-celled organisms that dominate  
237 this planet. In our efforts to understand and categorise this most abundant life form, hundreds  
238 upon thousands of bacterial sequences are submitted yearly into sequence archives such as the  
239 ENA. In the last two decades and with the advent of cheap high throughput short read sequencing  
240 the trend has moved away from the submission of finished or draft genome assemblies to one  
241 where simply the raw reads are submitted to public archives. These data usually require  
242 substantial preprocessing before they are analysis-ready. This takes significant time, expertise  
243 and computational power to do. By uniformly processing the data present in the ENA in November  
244 of 2018, we have collated a set of 661,405 standardised assemblies.

245 The additional standard characterisation and quality control we have performed enables  
246 the data to be easily subsetted for the purposes of identifying all the assemblies of a particular  
247 species or sequence type, or to those containing a specific antimicrobial resistance gene.  
248 Furthermore, this dataset can be interrogated for a specific gene or mutation through the use of  
249 the COBS search-index, for a specific genome by use of the provided minHash index and glean  
250 estimations of genetic distances of genomes of interest using the pp-sketch index. These facilities  
251 hint at the power of this unified resource, allowing phylogenetic relationships between genomes  
252 to be quickly elucidated, and hypotheses rapidly tested. This resource will empower more  
253 scientists to harness the multitude of data in the ENA both for surveillance and public health  
254 projects, as well as to address questions of basic science.

255 The count of 2,336 species in this snapshot is well below the number of bacterial species  
256 in the taxonomic databases such as NCBI taxonomy (>20,000 species,  
257 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Taxonomy/Browser/wwwtax.cgi?id=2>) and GTB (>30,000 species,  
258 <https://gtdb.ecogenomic.org/>). Some of the sequence diversity within the snapshot may have  
259 been missed due to limitations of the Kraken database used for taxonomic assignment and

260 abundance estimation, a research project in its own right. For a small proportion of the assemblies  
261 (6.1%), a major species could not be assigned with high confidence, despite being shown by  
262 CheckM to contain little or no contamination, indicating that there was not a good match for it in  
263 the database (see Methods, Supplementary Figure 1D). The inclusion of genomes originating  
264 from metagenomic sequences from different sources (e.g. gut, skin, soil, ocean) would likely  
265 improve the overall species diversity but the methods of assembly and analysis are very different  
266 to those used here.

267 Many of the sequenced genomes could be defined as MCR based on the carriage of AMR  
268 genes. While we observe many occurrences of antimicrobial resistance mechanisms in the 661K  
269 assemblies, both in the organisms which are already known to be problematic (species outlined on  
270 the WHO priority pathogens list) and in newly emerged threats (such as *E. bugandensis*, *C.*  
271 *striatum* and *R. planticola*), it is difficult to estimate how well these reflect the true prevalence of  
272 resistance in a given species. This is due to many projects implementing pre-selection steps with  
273 only the antimicrobial resistant strains being then sequenced (36–38). This intrinsically biases the  
274 archive, preventing prevalence estimations. It also limits the power to track the origins of  
275 accessory genes and consequently the species interactions that can be inferred from this. Ideally,  
276 strategies to sequence a wider variety of species, including susceptible isolates, from diverse  
277 environments and global locations must be implemented before the dynamics of gene flow can  
278 be accurately studied.

279 The uniform resource of 661K bacterial assemblies that we present here removes several  
280 technical barriers to harnessing the wealth of public data stored in the ENA, enabling a broader  
281 community to access and leverage this data for their research. We envisage this to be a valuable  
282 resource which can provide the substrate for a wide range of future studies. Nevertheless, it is  
283 intrinsically limited through the nature of our scientific practice, by the diversity of sequences it  
284 holds. Rather, the current composition highlights the influences of the past quarter of century of  
285 funding and scientific focus. The enormous contribution of just a few projects shows that even the

286 drive and focus of individual groups has influenced our view of recent bacterial diversity. Sampling  
287 and sequencing strategies must change if we want to reveal the bacterial tree of life.

288

## 289 **METHODS**

### 290 **Download of reads, assembly and characterisation of genomes**

291 The bacterial WGS datasets in the ENA as of the 26-11-18 were downloaded and  
292 assembled as a part of an assembly pipeline (<https://github.com/iqbal-lab-org/assemble-all-ena>)  
293 (39, 40). Only paired-end reads were included and those where the instrument platform was  
294 'PACBIO\_SMRT' or 'OXFORD\_NANOPORE' were excluded. In addition, those with a library  
295 source of 'METAGENOMIC' and 'TRANSCRIPTOMIC' were also ignored. Available metadata and  
296 appropriate reads were downloaded and if multiple read sets were available they were appended  
297 together. Reads were assembled using Shovill v1.0.4 (T. Seeman,  
298 <https://github.com/tseemann/shovill>) with default options. Shovill uses SPAdes (v3.12.0) (11) for  
299 assembly, and includes some additional pre- and post-processing steps that utilise Lighter (41),  
300 FLASH (42), Trimmomatic (43), SAMtools (44), BWA-MEM (45, 46), seqtk  
301 (<https://github.com/lh3/seqtk>), Pilon (47) and samclip (<https://github.com/tseemann/samclip>), to  
302 speed up the assembly and to correct minor assembly errors. 664,877 assemblies were produced  
303 by this pipeline.

304 Separate from the assembly pipeline, Kraken v2.0.8-beta (9) was run on the read fastq  
305 files using the Kraken2-microbial database (2018, 30GB) and the resulting taxonomy labels  
306 assigned by Kraken were analysed by Bracken v2.5 (10) to estimate the species abundance  
307 within each set of reads. From the assemblies, contigs of less than 200 bp were removed using  
308 the script available at <https://github.com/sanger-pathogens/Fastaq> and contigs of *k*-mer depth  
309 less than 10 were noted, but not removed. Quast version 5.0.2 (12) was used to summarise  
310 assembly statistics and CheckM v1.1.2 (13) using the "--reduced\_tree" flag was used for  
311 estimations of completeness and contamination of an assembly. Assemblies with a genome

312 length of less than 100 Kb or longer than 15 Mb were removed (3,472 assemblies), leaving  
313 661,405 assemblies. A minHash sketch of each assembly (“-n 5000”) was produced using  
314 sourmash v3.5.0 (14). A searchable k-mer database of the 661K assemblies was constructed by  
315 COBS (checkout 7c030bb) using “compact-construct” with default options (8). Core and  
316 accessory distances were calculated between the assemblies using poppunk\_sketch v1.5.1 with  
317 default options except “--k-step 3” (15). MLST was determined where possible using mlst v2.19.0  
318 (Seeman, T. mlst, <https://github.com/tseemann/mlst>), *E. coli* phylotype determined using  
319 clermonTyping version 1.4.1 (15) and *Salmonella* were serotyped using SeqSero2\_package.py  
320 v1.1.1 (16). Plasmid replicons were detected using Abricate v1.0.1 (Seeman, T. abricate,  
321 <https://github.com/tseemann/abricate>) with the plasmidfinder 2020-May-7 database (17) and  
322 AMR, heavy metal and virulence genes were detected using AMRFinderPlus v3.6.15 (18), with  
323 standard thresholds of minimum identity (curated cut-off if it exists and 0.9 otherwise) and default  
324 coverage of 0.5. All figures were generated in R using ggplot2 (19) and where required were  
325 edited manually using Inkscape 2 v0.92.

### 326 **Taxid lineage, species comparison and adjustment species abundance**

327 The taxid lineage of the major bracken species was acquired by NCBI Taxa (20). Where  
328 the major species from the Bracken analysis belonged to either of the *M. tuberculosis* complex or  
329 *B. cereus* s.l. complex or was identified as a *Shigella* sp. or an *E. coli*, the remainder of the read  
330 assignments were examined to see if they belonged to other members of that complex. If they  
331 were members, their assigned percentage was added to that of the major species.

### 332 **High quality assemblies**

333 Filtering was applied using the reports generated by Quast and CheckM analysis for each  
334 genome. The high quality assemblies met the requirements of: less than 2,000 contigs, a genome  
335 length that is within the acceptable range for that species (50%-150% of the expected length)  
336 ([ftp://ftp.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genomes/ASSEMBLY\\_REPORTS/species\\_genome\\_size.txt.gz](ftp://ftp.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genomes/ASSEMBLY_REPORTS/species_genome_size.txt.gz), 27<sup>th</sup>  
337 August, 2020), or is unknown, a N50 of greater than 5,000, a completeness score of at least 90

338 and a contamination score of less than or equal to 5. In total, 639,981 assemblies met these  
339 requirements.

340 **Multi-class resistance**

341 Multi-class resistance (MCR) was defined as containing genes conferring resistance to at  
342 least 3 classes of antimicrobial (antimicrobial classes were extracted from the AMRFinderPlus  
343 output). Only species with at least 10 samples were included and a species was classed as MCR  
344 if at least 50% of individual assemblies were MCR.

345

346 **DATA AND CODE AVAILABILITY**

347 The 661,405 assemblies as well as the COBS, minHash and pp\_sketch indices are available:  
348 <ftp://ftp.ebi.ac.uk/pub/databases/ENA2018-bacteria-661k>.

349 The pipeline used for download and assembly of reads from the ENA <https://github.com/iqbal-lab-org/assemble-all-ena>.

351 Additional metadata and characterisation files deposited in figshare  
352 (<https://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.14061752>):

353 -Full metadata downloaded from the ENA for each assembly in json form  
354 (Json1\_ENA\_metadata)

355 -Full QC and general characterisation including AMR gene and plasmid replicon detection,  
356 for each assembly in json form (Json2\_QC\_characterisation\_amr\_plasmid)

357 -Kraken/Bracken output including the top 50 species for each assembly  
358 (File1\_full\_krakenbracken)

359 -The taxid lineage of the major species determined using NCBI Taxa  
360 (File2\_taxid\_lineage\_661K)

361 -Summarised metadata from the ENA for each assembly (File3\_metadata\_661K)

362 -Summarised QC and general characterisation for each assembly  
363 (File4\_QC\_characterisation\_661K)

364 -Summarised AMR genes, MCR status, plus genes, plasmid replicons for each assembly  
365 (File5\_AMR\_plasmids\_661K)

366 -Presence/absence matrix of AMR genes in each assembly  
367 (File6\_AMR\_presenceabsence\_661K)

368 -Class of each AMR gene extracted by AMRFinder (File7\_gene\_class\_AMRFinder)

369 -Presence/absence matrix of plasmid replicons in each assembly (File8\_plasmidreplicons\_presenceabsence\_661K)

370 R notebooks used for analysis and figure generation have been deposited in figshare () :

371 -Code used to generate figures in the QC and filtering section  
372 (Rnotebook1\_QC\_filtering\_section)

373 -Code used to generate figures in the Species breakdown section  
374 (Rnotebook2\_species\_breakdown\_section)

375 -Code used to generate figures in the AMR section (Rnotebook3\_AMR\_section\_figures)

376

## 377

### 378 **Author contributions**

379 G.A.B., Z.I. and N.R.T. conceptualised the project. M.H. wrote the assembly pipeline which was  
380 run by G.A.B., M.H. and K.M.M. Species identification was performed by G.A.B. and B.T.F.A.  
381 G.A.B performed QC and characterisation of assemblies and with the help of G.H., analysed and  
382 visualised the results. The minHash and pp-sketch indexes were constructed by G.A.B. and the  
383 COBS index was constructed by L.L. and G.A.B. The manuscript was written by G.A.B, Z.I. and  
384 N.R.T. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

385

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390

391 **Conflicts of interest**

392 The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

393

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399

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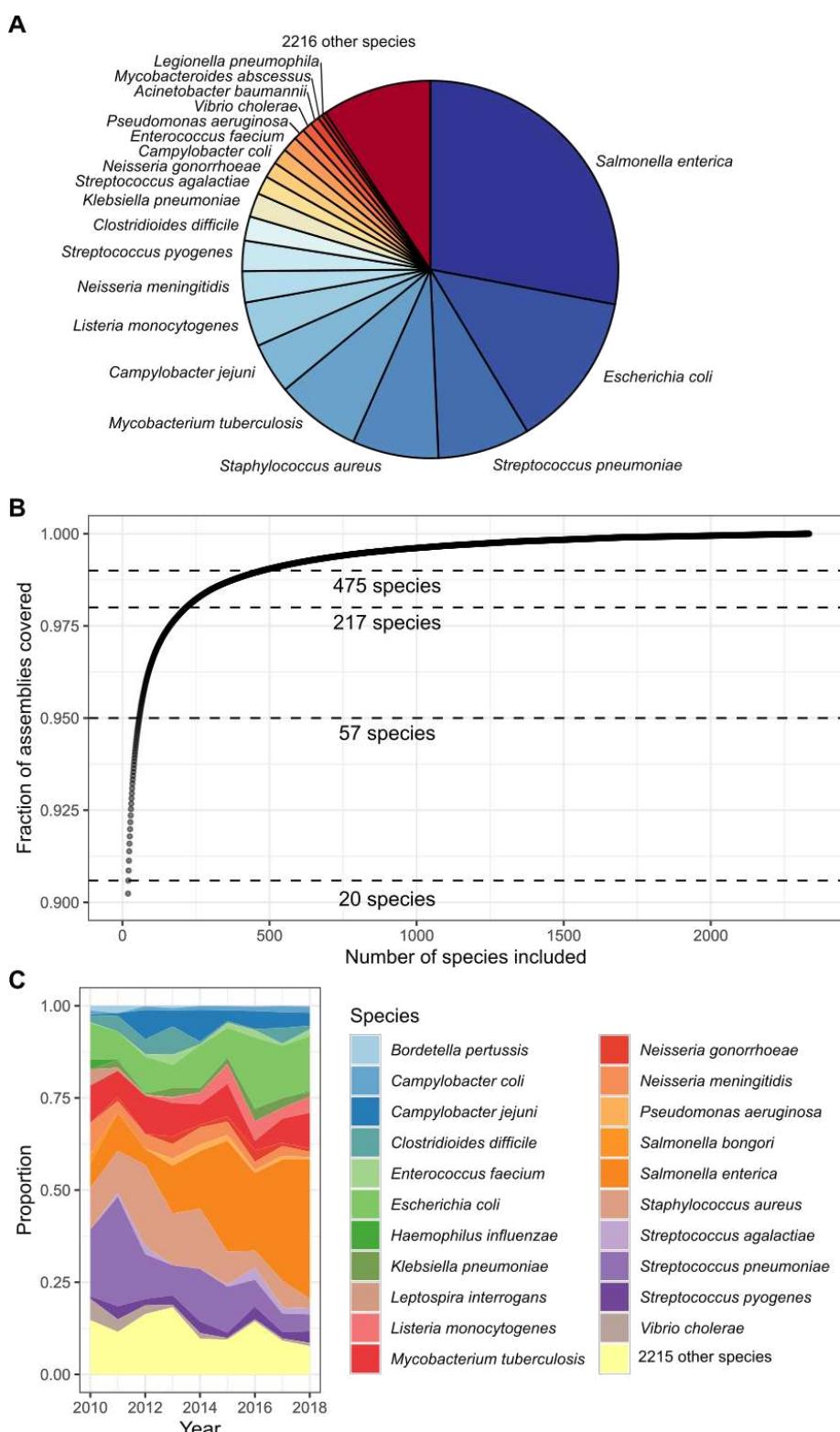
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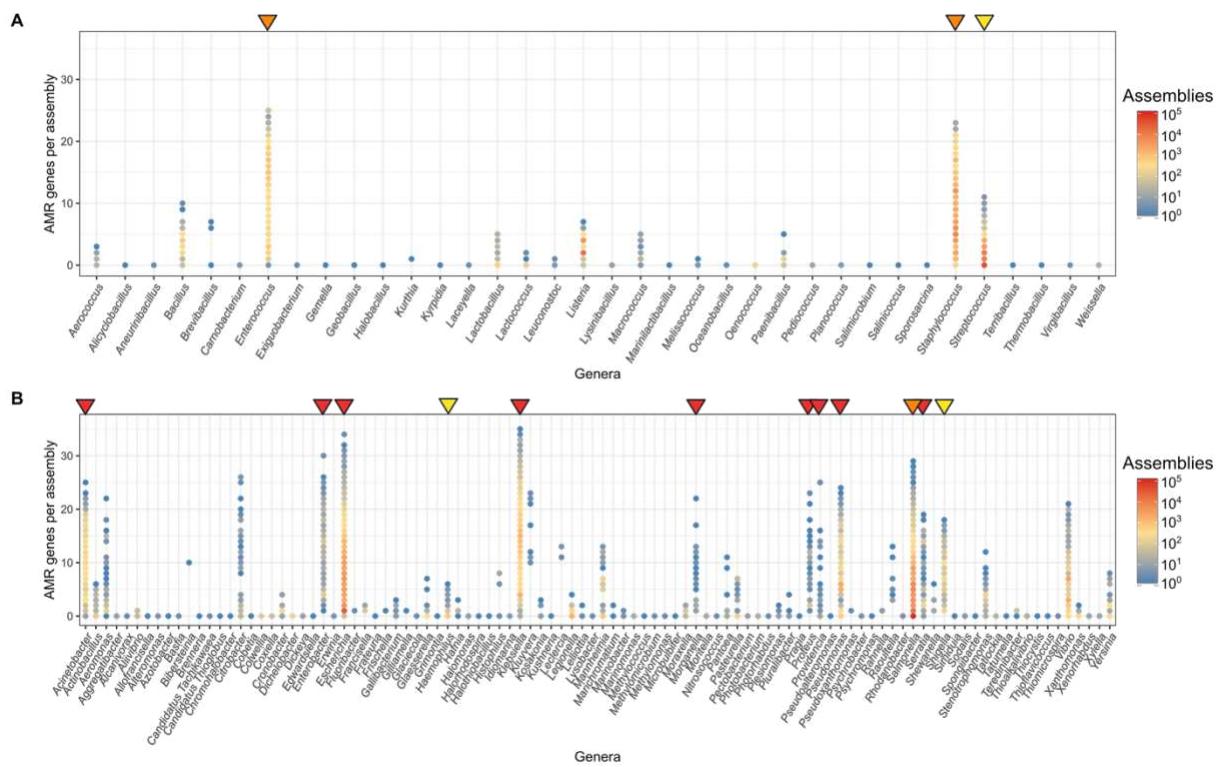
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539 **FIGURES**



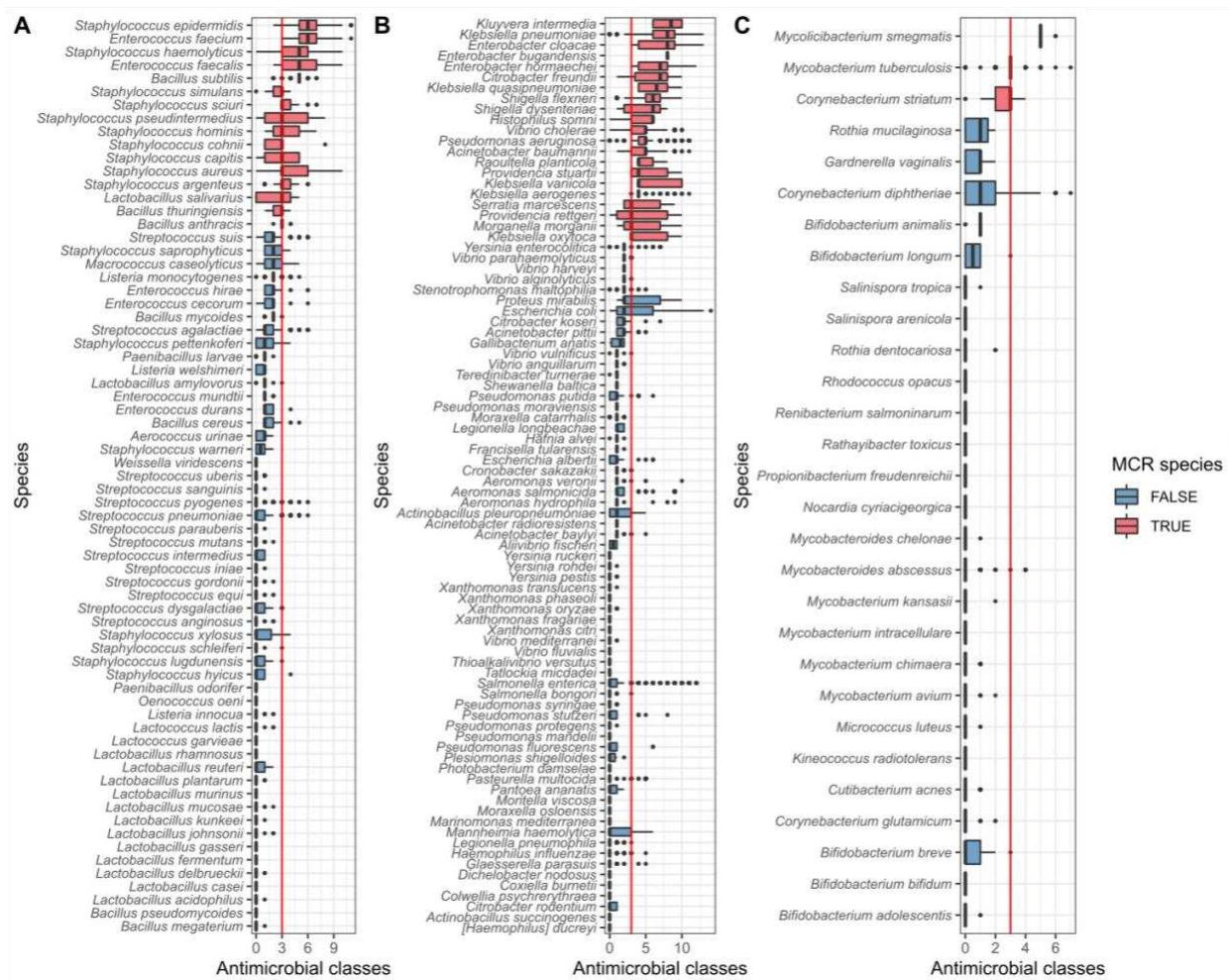
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541 **Figure 1.** Species composition of the 639,981 high-quality assemblies. A) Relative proportions of  
542 species to the data as a pie chart. Note that 90% of the assemblies are from 20 bacterial species.  
543 B) Fraction of assemblies covered by accumulating bacterial species. C) Tracking proportions of  
544 the top 10 bacterial species for each year.



545

546 **Figure 2.** Number of AMR genes in individual genomes of the orders A) Bacilli and B)  
547 Gammaproteobacteria. Arrows above indicate genera that contain species that have been  
548 determined by the WHO to be of critical (red), high (orange) and medium (yellow) priority  
549 pathogens for research and development into new antibiotics (24).  
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**Figure 3.** Predicted antimicrobial resistance profiles of species from A) Bacilli, B) Gammaproteobacteria and C) Actinobacteria, showing the number of predicted antimicrobial classes each isolate is resistant to, based on genetic profile. The red line indicates the threshold for MCR (predicted resistance to three classes of antimicrobials or more). Species are classed as MCR (red in figure) if at least 50% of the assemblies are MCR. Species included have at least 10 assemblies.