

1 **Bacterially produced spermidine induces plant systemic susceptibility to pathogens**

2 Ryan A. Melnyk^{1#}, Polina Beskrovnaia^{1#}, Zhexian Liu¹, Yi Song^{1,2} and Cara H. Haney^{1*}

3

4 **Affiliations:**

5 ¹Department of Microbiology and Immunology, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver,
6 Canada V6T 1Z3

7 ²State Key Laboratory of Genetic Engineering and Fudan Institute of Plant Biology, School of
8 Life Sciences, Fudan University, Shanghai, China, 200438

9 [#]These authors contributed equally

10

11 *Correspondence: cara.haney@msl.ubc.ca

12

13 **Summary**

14 Plant root-associated microbes promote plant growth, in part by the induction of systemic
15 resistance (ISR) to foliar pathogens. In an attempt to find novel growth-promoting and ISR
16 inducing strains, we previously identified strains of root-associated *Pseudomonas* spp. that
17 promote plant growth but unexpectedly induced systemic susceptibility (ISS) to foliar pathogens.
18 Here we demonstrate that the ISS-inducing phenotype is common among root-associated
19 *Pseudomonas* spp. and we identified the underlying genetic and molecular basis of ISS. Using
20 comparative genomics we identified a single *P. fluorescens* locus containing a novel periplasmic
21 spermidine biosynthesis gene *speE2* that is unique to ISS strains. We generated a clean deletion
22 of the *speE2* gene in two ISS strains and found that *speE2* is necessary for the ISS phenotype.
23 Spermidine but not spermine is sufficient to phenocopy ISS strains. The ISS locus is present in
24 diverse bacteria and has previously been implicated in pathogenesis in animals. Collectively
25 these data show that a single bacterially derived molecule can modulate systemic plant
26 immunity.

27

28 **Keywords:** rhizosphere, microbiome, induced systemic susceptibility, spermidine, polyamine,
29 *Pseudomonas*, *Arabidopsis*

30

31 **Introduction**

32 Plant growth promotion by beneficial microbes has long been of interest because of the
33 potential to improve crop yields. Individual root-associated microbial strains can promote plant
34 growth by facilitating nutrient uptake, producing plant hormones, or improving resilience to both
35 abiotic and biotic stresses [1]. In some cases, single bacterial loci underlie beneficial effects of
36 microbes on plants while other traits appear to be complex and polygenic.

37 *Pseudomonas fluorescens* and related species are a model for beneficial host-associated
38 microbes due to their genetic tractability and robust host-association across diverse eukaryotic
39 hosts. Direct plant growth promotion (PGP) by *Pseudomonas* spp. can be mediated by bacterial
40 production of the phytohormones auxin [2] or by the expression of 1-aminocyclopropane-1-
41 carboxylate (ACC) deaminase that metabolizes plant-derived ethylene [1,3]. Indirect PGP
42 through antimicrobial activity and pathogen suppression has been attributed to production of the
43 antibiotic 2,4-diacetylphloroglucinol (DAPG) [4]. However, the molecular basis of many traits
44 such as induced systemic resistance (ISR) has remained elusive, and multiple distinct bacterial
45 traits including production of siderophores, LPS, and salicylic acid have all been implicated [5].

46 We previously reported two *Pseudomonas* spp. that induce systemic susceptibility (ISS)
47 on *Arabidopsis* and can promote growth under nutrient limiting conditions [6,7]. These same
48 *Pseudomonas* strains suppress a subset of SA-dependent responses and promote resistance to
49 herbivores [7]. Although it is possible that these strains contain multiple genetic loci that affect
50 plant growth and pathogen resistance, we were interested in investigating whether a single
51 bacterial trait is primarily responsible for both growth and immunity phenotypes. Growth and
52 immunity have a reciprocal relationship in plants, leading to growth-defense tradeoffs to the
53 extent that plant stunting has been used as a proxy for autoimmunity [8]. As a result, we

54 hypothesized that suppression of plant immunity by *Pseudomonas* strains that trigger ISS may be
55 a consequence of PGP activity. The genomes of these strains do not contain genes for the ACC
56 deaminase enzyme prevalent in other *Pseudomonas* PGP strains [3]; thus, we hypothesized that
57 there may be a distinct mechanism of growth promotion in these strains.

58 Because of the high density of sampling and genome sequencing within *P. fluorescens*
59 and related species, we reasoned that if ISS is an overlooked consequence of growth promotion
60 then: 1) we should be able to identify additional ISS strains by sampling known PGP strains and
61 additional root-associated strains, and 2) assuming a single unique locus was responsible, that a
62 comparative genomics approach should reveal the underlying genetic basis of ISS.

63 Here we report that ISS is relatively common among *Pseudomonas* strains. We identified
64 new ISS isolates including previously described PGP or environmental isolates and new isolates
65 from *Arabidopsis* roots. Using comparative genomics, we identified a single bacterial locus
66 containing a spermidine synthase gene (*speE2*) that is unique to *Pseudomonas* ISS strains. We
67 show that *speE2* is necessary to elicit ISS and that exogenous spermidine is sufficient to trigger
68 ISS in the absence of bacteria. Collectively, these data indicate that a single monogenic microbial
69 trait underlies a systemic immune response in a plant host.

70

71 **Results**

72 **ISS is a common feature of growth-promoting *Pseudomonas* spp.**

73 We previously reported that two strains of *Pseudomonas* (CH229 and CH267) induce systemic
74 susceptibility (ISS) to the foliar pathogen *Pseudomonas syringae* DC3000 (*Pto* DC3000) under
75 conditions where a well characterized ISR strain (*P. simiae* WCS417 [9]) conferred resistance to
76 *Pto* DC3000 [6,7]. To the best of our knowledge, descriptions of *Pseudomonas*-elicited ISS

77 against bacterial pathogens are limited to *Pseudomonas* sp. CH229 and CH267, strains that were
78 independently isolated from the rhizospheres of wild *Arabidopsis* plants in Massachusetts, USA.
79 We reasoned that if ISS is common among *Arabidopsis*-associated *Pseudomonas* spp., we would
80 be able to identify additional ISS strains from *Arabidopsis* roots from plants growing at distinct
81 sites.

82 We isolated 25 new fluorescent pseudomonads from wild-growing *Arabidopsis* plants
83 from additional sites in Massachusetts and in Vancouver, Canada. We generated ~800 bp
84 sequences of a region of the 16S rRNA gene where strains CH229 and CH267 are 99.5%
85 identical, but each shares only <96% identity to the well-characterized ISR strain WCS417.
86 Reasoning that new ISS strains would be closely related to CH267 and CH229, we selected 3
87 new isolates [1 from Massachusetts (CH235) and 2 from British Columbia (PB101 and PB106)]
88 that were >97% identical to CH267 by 16S rRNA sequence and another 3 (from British
89 Columbia: PB100, PB105 and PB120) that were <97% identical to CH229 and CH267 (Figure
90 1A).

91 We tested these 6 new rhizosphere *Pseudomonas* isolates for their ability to trigger ISS.
92 We found that 2 of the 3 strains that were most closely related to CH267 (CH235 and PB101)
93 elicited ISS (Figure 1B). Two strains with <96% identity to CH267 failed to trigger ISS: PB105
94 triggered ISR and PB100 had no effect on systemic defenses (Figure 1). PB106 and PB120
95 consistently enhanced susceptibility in all experiments, but to a more moderate degree (*p<0.1).
96 Collectively, these data indicate that the ability to elicit ISS on *Arabidopsis* ecotype Col-0 may
97 be a common feature among some, but not all, closely-related strains of *Pseudomonas* spp.
98 isolated from the *Arabidopsis* rhizosphere.

99 Because ISS seemed restricted to strains that were closely related to CH267, we obtained
100 several additional isolates with similar 16S sequences including *Pseudomonas* sp. UW4,
101 *Pseudomonas* sp. Pf0-1 and *P. vancouverensis* DhA-51 (Table 1) and a growth promoting strain,
102 *Pseudomonas* sp. WCS365, that is more distantly related and to our knowledge has not been
103 tested for ISR/ISS. We found that UW4 and DhA-51 elicited ISS while Pf0-1 and WCS365 did
104 not (Figure 1B). *Pseudomonas* sp. UW4 [10] and WCS365 are well-characterized growth
105 promoting strains. *Pseudomonas* sp. Pf0-1 [11] is an environmental isolate. *Pseudomonas*
106 *vancouverensis* DhA-51 is also an environmental isolate [12] and was previously shown to be
107 closely related to Pf0-1 [13]. Because DhA-51 is an environmental isolate that triggers ISS, these
108 data show that the ability to trigger ISS is not specific to rhizosphere isolates.

109 To gain insights into the distinguishing features of ISS strains, we sequenced the
110 genomes of the 6 new isolates (CH235, PB100, PB101, PB105, PB106 and PB120) from
111 *Arabidopsis* roots as well as *P. vancouverensis* DhA-51 (UW4, WCS365, CH267 and CH229
112 have been sequenced previously). Whole genome shotgun sequencing was used to assemble draft
113 genomes (Methods). We generated a phylogenetic tree using 122 conserved genes as described
114 previously [7,14]. We found that all ISS strains are closely related to one another and fall within
115 a monophyletic group which corresponds to the *P. koreensis*, *P. jessenii*, and *P. mandelii*
116 subgroups of *P. fluorescens* identified in a recent phylogenomic survey of *Pseudomonas* spp.
117 (Figure 2B; [15]). However, not every isolate in this clade is an ISS strain; notably Pf0-1, which
118 has no effect on systemic immunity despite being closely related to CH229. We reasoned that the
119 absence of the ISS phenotype in Pf0-1 should facilitate the use of comparative genomics by
120 allowing us to separate the phylogenetic signature from the phenotypic signature of ISS.

121

122 **11 genes in a single genomic locus are unique to ISS strains and predicts ISS**

123 To identify the potential genetic basis of the ISS phenotype, we used a previously
124 described database of orthologous genes for *Pseudomonas* spp. [14] to identify genes that are
125 present in ISS strains (CH229, CH235, CH267 and UW4) but are absent in the closely-related
126 strain that has no effect on systemic defenses (Pf0-1). We used only the ISS strains with the most
127 robust phenotypes for this analysis. We identified 29 predicted protein coding genes missing
128 from Pf0-1 but present in all of the other strains. Of these, 12 were small (<100 aa) hypothetical
129 proteins. The remaining 17 predicted protein coding genes were prioritized for further analysis
130 and are shown in S1 Table. Intriguingly, 11 of the 17 ISS unique genes are found in a single
131 genomic locus.

132 We surveyed the genomes of other *Pseudomonas* strains tested for ISS to determine if the
133 presence of the 17 genes identified by our comparative genomics approach correlated with the
134 ISS phenotype. We found that the 11 clustered genes were present in ISS strains (DhA-51 and
135 PB101) and the strains with intermediate phenotypes (PB120 and PB106) but were absent in the
136 non-ISS strain WCS365, WCS417 and PB105 (S1 Figure). The remaining 6 genes were all
137 present in WCS365 and/or other non-ISS strains (S1 Figure). We chose to focus on the 11 ISS-
138 unique genes (“ISS locus” hereafter) for further study.

139 We found that the 11 genes in the ISS locus are found at a single genomic locus in all 4
140 of the ISS strains (S2 Figure and Figure 2A). The flanking regions are conserved in the non-ISS
141 strain Pf0-1 (Figure 2A), indicating a recent insertion or deletion event. Within this locus, there
142 is a single gene that is conserved in Pf0-1 in addition to two genes that are unique to each
143 individual strain suggesting multiple changes to this genomic region in recent evolutionary

144 history. While all 11 genes are within the same genomic region in the ISS strains, the variability
145 of this locus between closely related strains suggests it may be rapidly evolving.

146 We surveyed the genomes of sequenced isolates available in our collection for the
147 presence of the ISS locus. We found a number of closely-related strains from various
148 environmental sources that contained the ISS locus, as well as a more distantly related strain (Pf-
149 5) (Figure 2B). We tested 2 of these newly identified strains that contain the ISS locus (Pf-5 and
150 GW456-L13) as well as 2 that do not (FW300-N1B4 and FW300-N2C3) and found that the
151 presence of the ISS locus correlated with the ISS phenotype, including the distantly related strain
152 Pf-5 (Figure 2C). Collectively, these data show that the presence of the 11 candidate genes in the
153 ISS locus identified by our comparative genomics approach is predictive of the ISS phenotype.

154

155 ***SpeE* is necessary and spermidine is sufficient to trigger ISS**

156 Because ISS strains CH267 and CH229 have previously been shown to promote growth
157 [6], we examined the annotations of the 11 genes within the ISS locus for a gene that might be
158 involved in biosynthesis of a growth-promoting or immuno-modulatory compound (Figure 2A).
159 We identified a predicted polyamine synthase-encoding gene within the ISS locus annotated as
160 *speE2* (PputUW4_02826 and CP336_12795 in UW4 and CH267 respectively). CH267 *speE2*
161 has similarity to a characterized spermidine synthase gene *speE* in *P. aeruginosa* (25% predicted
162 amino acid identity to *P. aeruginosa* PA1687 [16]). A second *speE*-like genes in the genomes of
163 UW4 and CH267 annotated as *spE1* is outside of the ISS locus (PputUW4_03691 and
164 CP336_28780 in UW4 and CH267 respectively) and is highly similar to the *P. aeruginosa* *speE*
165 gene (~84.0% predicted amino acid identity) [16]. Polyamines including spermidine have been

166 implicated in a range of plant growth and defense-related phenotypes [17,18] and are known to
167 be synthesized by diverse microbes [19].

168 To test if the gene cluster and the *speE2* gene are necessary for ISS strains to induce
169 systemic susceptibility, we deleted the entire 15 kB locus including the region spanning the 11
170 genes identified in our initial comparative genomics screen in strains CH267 and UW4 (Figure
171 2A). We also constructed an in-frame deletion of just the *speE2* gene in both CH267 and UW4.
172 We retested these deletion mutants for their ability to induce systemic susceptibility and found
173 that deletion of the *speE2* gene alone, or the entire 11-gene cluster, resulted in a loss of the ISS
174 phenotype in both CH267 and UW4 (Figure 3A). This indicates that *speE2* is necessary for ISS.

175 To determine if spermidine or a related polyamine is sufficient to trigger ISS, we watered
176 soil-grown plants with purified spermidine or spermine at concentrations of 1, 10 and 100 μ M.
177 Spermidine application in this range has been previously shown to promote plant salt tolerance
178 [20]. We found that 10 and 100 μ M spermidine but not spermine could induce systemic
179 susceptibility indicating that spermidine is sufficient to phenocopy the bacterial ISS phenotype
180 (Figure 3B).

181
182 ***speE2* is a predicted periplasmic spermidine synthase that uses a novel source of dSAM**
183 Because deletion of *speE2* in CH267 and UW4 results in the specific loss of the ISS phenotype,
184 this indicates that the *speE1* and *speE2* genes are not functionally redundant. *SpeE1* and *speE2*
185 differ in length and predicted structure (Figure 4A). *SpeE1* encodes a predicted 384-amino acid
186 protein and contains a predicted polyamine synthase domain with a predicted decarboxylated S-
187 adenosyl methionine (dSAM) binding motif. *SpeE2* encodes a protein of a predicted 847 amino
188 acids. The C-terminus of *speE2* contains the same dSAM domain as *speE1* but also contains

189 predicted transmembrane domains at its N-terminus. Using a transmembrane domain prediction
190 and protein localization tool, TMHMM, we found that the SpeE2 protein has a total of 13
191 predicted transmembrane helices [21]. We found that the spermidine synthase domain of SpeE2
192 is predicted to be in the periplasm (Figure 4B). This suggests that SpeE2 may represent a novel
193 class of periplasmic spermidine synthase proteins.

194 Because the cytoplasmic *speE1* gene cannot complement ISS activity in a *speE2* mutant
195 of CH267 or UW4, we wondered if there are cognate periplasmic variants of the remainder of
196 the canonically cytoplasmic spermidine synthase pathway. Spermidine biosynthesis can occur
197 via two known pathways (Figure 4C). The first, by *speE*, occurs when the aminopropyl group of
198 dSAM is transferred to putrescine. SAM decarboxylation to dSAM occurs via *speD* [16]. The
199 second spermidine synthase pathway is independent of *speDE* and converts putrescine to
200 spermidine by a carboxyspermidine intermediate via a dehydrogenase (*CASDH*) and a
201 decarboxylase (*CASDC*) [22]. Because *speE2* also contains a predicted dSAM binding motif, this
202 suggests that a dSAM biosynthesis gene should also be present in the genomes of ISS strains.

203 We surveyed the genomes of ~3800 sequenced *Pseudomonas* isolates for the presence of
204 *speD*, *speE*, *CASDH* and *CASDC* and found that the majority of strains contained genes for
205 either the *speD/E1* cytoplasmic spermidine biosynthetic pathway or the *CASDH/C* biosynthetic
206 pathway (Figure 4E shows the same set of strains shown in Figure 2). We generated a Pearson
207 correlation matrix of the co-occurrence of spermidine biosynthesis genes. We found a near
208 perfect correlation of components within each of the two known biosynthetic pathways
209 (*speD/speE1* and *CASDH/C*). Interestingly, there was a nearly perfect anti-correlation between
210 the presence of the *speD/speE1* and *CASDH/C* pathways (Figure 4D). This suggests that nearly
211 all *Pseudomonas* make spermidine cytoplasmically, but they do it either via *speD/E* or via

212 *CASDH/C* and do not contain both pathways. These pathways are both polyphyletic, as there are
213 examples of sister clades containing opposite pathways, both at the species level (S3 Figure) and
214 within the *P. fluorescens* subclade (S4 Figure).

215 dSAM is required as a precursor to synthesize spermidine via *speE*. We could not
216 identify a dSAM biosynthesis gene in any of our strains that has a predicted periplasmic
217 localization. Moreover, while most strains with *speE2* contain *speD/E1* genes, *Pseudomonas* spp.
218 PB106, PB120 and Pf-5 do not (Figure 4E). Beyond the strains we characterized, there was a
219 weak negative correlation at the genus level between *speD/E1* and *speE2* (Figure 4D) indicating
220 that strains that contain an *speE2* gene do not necessarily contain *speD*. Because *speE2* has a
221 predicted dSAM binding domain, the source of the dSAM needed to catalyze spermidine
222 production in strains lacking *speD* is elusive. These data suggest that *speE2* must work with a
223 novel dSAM biosynthesis gene to synthesize spermidine, generate spermidine in a dSAM-
224 independent manner, or use an external source of dSAM, either from a eukaryotic host, or from
225 other members of a bacterial community.

226

227 **Additional roles for the ISS locus in host interactions**

228 While *speE2* is necessary for ISS, we wondered if the other 10 genes in the ISS locus are
229 also involved in interactions with a plant host. We tested whether the pattern seen in Figure 4D,
230 where *speE2* is always associated with the same larger locus, would hold up across the genus
231 *Pseudomonas*. When we analyzed our entire computational dataset of >3800 genomes from
232 across *Pseudomonas*, we found that there was a strong correlation for the presence or absence of
233 9 of 11 genes ($r > 0.9$, Figure 5A). Moreover, we also found that these 9 co-occurring genes were
234 frequently found in the same genomic region, as there were moderate to strong correlations for 9

235 of the 11 genes co-occurring in the same 50-kb genomic region (Figure 5B). From a
236 phylogenomic standpoint, we found that these genes were broadly distributed throughout the
237 *Pseudomonas* genus and co-occurred even in taxonomic groups far outside of the *P. fluorescens*
238 clade (Figure 5C). Within the *P. fluorescens* clade, the ISS locus genes are frequently found in
239 some clades, such as the *koreensis* and *jessenii* clades, which contain most of our isolates (Figure
240 5D). However, some clades are missing these genes entirely, such as the plant associated
241 *corrugata* clade (Figure 5D). Together, these genomic data indicate that despite their
242 polyphyletic distribution among divergent clades of *Pseudomonas* spp., these genes likely
243 participate in conserved or similar functions.

244 Beyond the predicted role of SpeE2 as a spermidine synthase, the specific functional
245 roles of genes in this locus are less clear. We identified an operon with 6 of the genes in the ISS
246 locus with identical domain structure and organization that is involved in stress resistance and
247 virulence in *Francisella tularensis* [23] (Figure 6). Another similar operon is associated with
248 aerotolerance and virulence in *Bacteroides fragilis* [24]. Returning to our comparative genomics
249 database, we found that these 6 genes comprise an operon broadly conserved in the
250 *Pseudomonas* clade that is distinctly paralogous from the ISS operon (Figure 6). This raises the
251 possibility that these six genes within the ISS locus contribute to host-bacterial interactions
252 across diverse bacterial taxa and both plant and animal hosts (Figure 6).

253

254 **Discussion**

255 Plant root-associated (“rhizosphere”) microbes perform a diversity of functions that
256 benefit their plant hosts including nutrient uptake and defense. Functional characterization of
257 individual plant-associated bacterial and fungal strains of potential agronomic importance (i.e.

258 growth promoters or nitrogen fixers) is widespread [5]. However, closely-related strains of
259 bacteria can have very distinct effects on plant growth and defense [13], and these effects can be
260 dependent on environmental context [1]. Lack of known correlations between microbial
261 genotype and potential effects on plant hosts present a challenge when attempting to infer the
262 effect that a microbe may have on its plant host from sequence identity alone.

263 Our use of comparative genomics and isolate phenotyping to identify the genetic basis of
264 a complex microbial-derived trait indicates that this is an effective approach to identifying
265 important microbial traits to improve plant health. For comparative genomics to be effective,
266 traits should be controlled by single or limited genomic loci, and phylogeny should not be
267 predictive of function. In this case, a close relative of ISS strains, *Pseudomonas* sp. Pf0-1 (>99%
268 identical by full length 16S rRNA to the ISS strains) does not affect systemic defenses (Figure
269 1), which allowed us to use comparative genomic to identify the underlying basis. We previously
270 used this approach to find the genomic basis of a pathogenic phenotype within a clade of
271 commensals [14]. It has been previously observed that phylogeny is not predictive of function
272 for ISR strains [13] suggesting that comparative genomics may be appropriate to find the basis of
273 additional plant-associated traits.

274 Why spermidine applied to plant roots suppresses systemic immunity is not clear; the
275 most direct role for polyamines in immunity is through oxidation and generation of reactive
276 oxygen species (ROS) that promote immunity [25,26]. Spermine has been shown to modulate
277 expression of redox and defense-related gene expression [27] and polyamines including
278 putrescine, spermine and spermidine accumulate during pathogen infection [28]. Spermidine,
279 spermine and related molecules can enhance resistance to pathogens in both plants and animals
280 through breakdown via oxidases that result in generation of ROS [25,26]. *P. syringae* promotes

281 generation of acetylated putrescine rather than spermidine, which is not readily oxidized and
282 results in reduced ROS production and enhanced susceptibility [28]. We previously showed that
283 the ISS strain CH267 suppresses a subset of SA-dependent gene expression and that ISS is SA-
284 dependent [7]. As spermidine uptake should directly enhance resistance through accumulation of
285 ROS, it seems more likely that spermidine applied to roots suppresses defense signaling through
286 modulating local or systemic defense responses rather than direct uptake.

287 Similarly, the adaptive role of spermidine production by host-associated *Pseudomonas*
288 remains to be determined. We and others previously showed that the polyamine putrescine
289 promotes biofilm production in *Pseudomonas* and bacterial intracellular accumulation of
290 putrescine inhibits rhizosphere fitness [29]. Spermidine can promote biofilm formation in
291 *Bacillus* [30]. Our data show that predicted spermidine biosynthesis is perfectly conserved
292 through the genus *Pseudomonas*, although there is a clear anti-correlation between the *speD/E*
293 and *CASDH/C* pathways. The *speE2* gene shows polyphyletic inheritance and occurs in diverse
294 *Pseudomonas* spp. (Figure 5C). The evolutionary and ecological pressures that result in *speE2*
295 promoting bacterial fitness have yet to be elucidated.

296 The SpeE2 enzyme affects the plant host presumably by producing secreted spermidine,
297 and the protein is predicted to lie within the periplasm (Figure 4A). A periplasmic localization
298 might position the enzyme to utilize exogenous dSAM and convert either an internal or external
299 supply of putrescine to spermidine. Complementarity of biosynthetic processes has been shown
300 in other systems. For example, although most bacteria use cobalamins as enzyme cofactors, the
301 majority do not have the ability to synthesize them [31]. While it is possible that a novel *speD*
302 gene is present in the genomes of *speE2*-containing strains, it is possible that spermidine

303 biosynthesis via *speE2* might occur with an exogenous supply of dSAM, such as from a plant or
304 another member of the microbial community.

305 While enhancement of systemic susceptibility is not an obviously agronomically useful
306 plant trait, spermidine has been studied for its role in improving drought tolerance [17,20].

307 Additionally, several ISS strains promote growth and enhance resistance to insect pests [6,7].
308 Using ISS strains or spermidine might be beneficial for crops where drought or insects are the
309 primary pressure on crop productivity. However, ISS illustrates the complexity of host microbe
310 interactions and should be considered when engineering the microbiome.

311

312 **Materials and Methods**

313 **Plant growth conditions**

314 For all experiments, plants were grown in Jiffy-7 peat pellets (Jiffy Products) under a 12 h
315 light/12 h dark at 22 °C temperature regime. Seeds were surface sterilized by washing with 70%
316 ethanol for 2 minutes followed by 5 minutes in 10% bleach and 3 washes in sterile water. Seeds
317 were stored at 4° C until use. Unless otherwise indicated, seeds were sowed in Peat pellets (Jiffy
318 7) and placed in a growth chamber under 12-hour days and 75 µM cool white fluorescent lights
319 at 23° C.

320

321 **Bacterial growth and 16S rRNA sequencing**

322 *Pseudomonas* strains were cultured in LB or King's B at 28 °C. New *Pseudomonas* strains were
323 isolated from the roots of wild-grown *Arabidopsis* plants around eastern Massachusetts, USA
324 and British Columbia, Canada as described [6]. New *Pseudomonas* isolates were preliminary
325 identified based on fluorescence on King's B and confirmed by 16S rRNA sequencing.

326

Strain	Genus and species	Isolated From	Location	Reference
CH267	<i>Pseudomonas</i> sp.	<i>Arabidopsis</i> rhizosphere	Cambridge, MA USA	[6]
CH235	<i>Pseudomonas</i> sp.	<i>Arabidopsis</i> rhizosphere	Carlisle, MA USA	[6]
CH229	<i>Pseudomonas</i> sp.	<i>Arabidopsis</i> rhizosphere	Carlisle, MA USA	[6]
PB100	<i>Pseudomonas</i> sp.	<i>Arabidopsis</i> rhizosphere	Vancouver, BC Canada	This study
PB101	<i>Pseudomonas</i> sp.	<i>Arabidopsis</i> rhizosphere	Vancouver, BC Canada	This study
PB105	<i>Pseudomonas</i> sp.	<i>Arabidopsis</i> rhizosphere	Vancouver, BC Canada	This study
PB106	<i>Pseudomonas</i> sp.	<i>Arabidopsis</i> rhizosphere	Vancouver, BC Canada	This study
PB120	<i>Pseudomonas</i> sp.	<i>Arabidopsis</i> rhizosphere	Eastham, MA USA	This study
WCS417	<i>P. simiae</i>	Wheat rhizosphere	Netherlands	[32]
UW4	<i>Pseudomonas</i> sp.	Reeds	Waterloo, ON Canada	[10]
Pf0-1	<i>Pseudomonas</i> sp.	Environmental soil		[11]
DhA-51	<i>P. vancouverensis</i>	Environmental soil	Vancouver, BC Canada	[12]
WCS365	<i>Pseudomonas</i> sp.	Tomato rhizosphere	Netherlands	[33]
Pf-5	<i>Pseudomonas</i> sp.	Cotton rhizosphere	College Station, TX USA	[34]
GW456-L13	<i>P. fluorescens</i>	Groundwater	Oakridge, TN USA	[35]
FW300-N1B4	<i>P. fluorescens</i>	Groundwater	Oakridge, TN USA	[35]
FW300-N2C3	<i>P. fluorescens</i>	Groundwater	Oakridge, TN USA	[35]

327

Table 1. Bacterial strains used in this study

328

329 **ISS assays**

330 ISS and ISR assays were performed as described [7]. Briefly, *Pseudomonas* rhizosphere
331 isolates were grown at 28 °C in LB medium. For inoculation of plant roots for ISR and ISS
332 assays, overnight cultures were pelleted, washed with 10 mM MgSO₄ and resuspended to a final
333 OD₆₀₀ of 0.02. Jiffy pellets were inoculated 9 days after seed germination with 2 mls of the
334 indicated bacterial strains at a final OD₆₀₀ of 0.02 (5x10⁵ CFU g⁻¹ Jiffy pellet). For spermidine
335 and spermine treatments, 10 mM stocks were kept frozen until just before use. Just prior to use,
336 they were diluted to the indicated concentration in water and 2 mLs were applied to the soil
337 surrounding 3-week old plants.

338 For infections, the leaves of 5-week old plants were infiltrated with *Pto* DC3000 at an
339 OD₆₀₀ = 0.0002 (starting inoculum ~10³ CFU/cm² leaf tissue). Plants were maintained under low

340 light (<75 μ M) and high humidity for 48 hours. Leaf punches were harvested, ground, and plated
341 to determine CFU counts.

342

343 **16S rRNA sequencing, bacterial genome sequencing, assembly and phylogenomics**

344 Bacterial DNA preps were performed using Qiagen Purgene Kit A. 16S rRNA was
345 amplified using 8F and 1391R and sequenced using 907R.

346 Bacterial genomic library prep and genome sequence was performed as described [7].
347 Briefly, bacterial DNA was isolated using Qiagen Purgene Kit A and sonicated into ~500 bp
348 fragments. Library construction was performed as described [7], individually indexed and
349 sequenced using MiSeq V3 paired end 300 bp reads.

350 After barcode splitting, approximately 500,000 to 1 million reads were used for each
351 sample to assemble draft genomes of the ISS strains *Pseudomonas* sp. CH235, PB100, PB101,
352 PB103, PB105, PB106, PB120 and *P. vancouverensis* DhA-51. Genome assembly was carried
353 out as previously described [7] and draft genomes are available from NCBI (see below).

354

355 **Phylogenomic tree building**

356 To generate the 29-taxon species tree used in Figures 2B and 4E, we made use of an
357 alignment of 122 single-copy genes we previously found to be conserved in all bacteria [14].
358 From this amino acid alignment, we extracted 40,000 positions ignoring sites where >20% of the
359 taxa had gaps. Using RAxMLv8.2.9, we inferred 20 independent trees under the JTT substitution
360 model using empirical amino acid frequencies and selected the one with the highest likelihood.
361 Support values were calculated through 100 independent bootstrap replicates under the same
362 parameters.

363 To build the 3,886-taxon phylogeny of the *Pseudomonas* genus in Figures 5C and S1, the
364 same 122-gene alignment was used. For computational feasibility, the alignment was randomly
365 subsampled to 10,000 amino acid positions, again ignoring sites that were highly gapped
366 (>20%). FastTree v2.1.9 was used to build the phylogeny using default parameters. The
367 phylogeny was rooted to a clade of *Pseudomonas* identified as an outgroup to all other
368 *Pseudomonas* spp. as previously described [14]. To more easily visualize this tree, we collapsed
369 monophyletic clades with strong support (as determined by FastTree's local Shimodaira-
370 Hasegawa test) that correspond with major taxonomic divisions identified by Hesse et al. (2018).

371 To build the tree for the *Pseudomonas fluorescens* (*Pfl*) subclade seen in Figures 5D and
372 S2, we identified 1,873 orthologs specific to the *Pfl* clade found in >99% of all strains in the
373 clade and then aligned them all to the hidden Markov models generated by PyParanoid using
374 hmalign, prior to concatenation. This alignment had 581,023 amino acid positions, which we
375 trimmed to 575,629 positions after masking sites with >10% of taxa with gaps. From this
376 alignment, we randomly subsampled 120,000 sites for our final phylogenomic dataset. Using
377 RAxMLv8.2.9, we inferred 20 independent trees under the JTT substitution model using
378 empirical amino acid frequencies and selected the one with the highest likelihood. Support
379 values were calculated through 100 independent bootstrap replicates under the same parameters.

380

381 **Comparative Genomics**

382 Comparative genomics analyses were performed by using our previously described framework
383 for identifying PyParanoid pipeline and the database we built for over 3800 genomes of
384 *Pseudomonas* spp. Briefly, we had previously used PyParanoid to identify 24,066 discrete
385 groups of homologous proteins which covered >94% of the genes in the original database. Using

386 these homolog groups, we annotated each protein-coding sequence in the newly sequenced and
387 merged the resulting data with the existing database, generating presence-absence data for each
388 of the 24,066 groups for 3,886 total *Pseudomonas* genomes.

389 To identify the groups associated with induction of systemic susceptibility, we compared
390 the presence-absence data for 4 strains with ISS activity (*Pseudomonas* spp. CH229, CH235,
391 CH267, and UW-4) and 1 strain with no activity (*Pseudomonas* sp. Pf0-1). We initially
392 suspected that ISS activity was due to the presence of a gene or pathway (i.e. not the absence of a
393 gene) and thus initially focused on genes present only in Pf0-1. We identified 29 groups that
394 were present in the 4 ISS strains but not in Pf0-1.

395 To obtain the correlation coefficients in Figs. 4D and 5A, we coded group presence or
396 absence as a binary variable and calculated Pearson coefficients across all 3,886 genomes. To
397 calculate the correlation coefficients in Fig. 5B, we split the genomic database into 50-kb
398 contiguous regions and assessed group presence or absence within each region. Because this
399 dataset is heavily zero-inflated, we ignored regions that had none of the 11 groups, taking the
400 Pearson coefficient of the 11 genes over the remaining regions.

401 Initial annotation of the ISS groups was based on generic annotations from GenBank
402 Further annotation of the 11 groups specific to the ISS locus was carried out using the TMHMM
403 v2.0 server, the SignalP 4.1 server and a local Pfam search using the Pfam-A database from
404 Pfam v31.0. To identify homologous genes in the genomes of *Francisella tularensis* subsp.
405 *holarctica* and *Bacteroides fragilis* YCH46, we relied on locus tags reported in the literature
406 which we confirmed using annotation based on another Pfam-A domain search.

407

408 **Deletion of the *speE2* gene and gene clusters**

409 Deletions in the CH267 and UW4 strains were constructed by a two-step allelic exchange as
410 described [29]. The flanking regions directly upstream and downstream of the spermidine
411 biosynthesis cluster or the *speE* gene were amplified and joined by overlapping polymerase
412 chain reaction (PCR) using genomic DNA as template and primers listed in Table 2. Following
413 digest, the product was ligated into the pEXG2 suicide vector that contains the *sacB* gene for
414 counter-selection on sucrose [36]. The recombinant plasmid was then transformed into calcium-
415 competent *E. coli* DH5 α by heat shock. After confirmation of correct insert by PCR and
416 sequencing, the plasmid was transformed into WM3064 [37]. Conjugation of plasmid into
417 CH267 and UW4 from WM3064 was performed by biparental mating on King's B media
418 supplemented with diaminopimelic acid, and transconjugants were selected using 10 μ g/mL
419 gentamicin and 15 μ g/mL nalidixic acid. The second recombination leading to plasmid and
420 target DNA excision was selected for by using sucrose counter-selection. Gene deletions in
421 CH267 and UW4 were confirmed by PCR amplification of the flanking regions with primers
422 listed in Table 2, agarose gel electrophoresis and Sanger sequencing.

423

424 **Table 2. Primers used to generate the mutant *Pseudomonas* strains analyzed in this study.**

Strain	Primer type	Primer name	Restriction site	Sequence (5' \rightarrow 3')
Δ cluster	Upstream forward	CH409	HindIII	AAAAAGCTTAGTCGCAACCTCGCCTCGACTGAC
	Upstream reverse	CH410	—	AAACGGGCGGGAGCAGCACTTGG
	Downstream forward	CH411	—	CACTGACTCCGCTTATTGTTTGTGTC
	Downstream reverse	CH412	EcoRI	AAAGAATTCTTCACGCCGCCGAGGATGTC
	Upstream confirmation	PB401	—	CGCTATGACCTGGGCCAACGAA
	Downstream confirmation	PB402	—	CCGACGCCGACCATGAGCGAAA
Δ speE	Upstream forward	CH413a	HindIII	AAAAAGCTTGCTCCAGCAAAACCGTCGCTCCA
	Upstream reverse	CH414a	—	CTCTCGTCATCCGATCATCCCCACGCGG
	Downstream forward	CH415	—	GAATGATTGTTCCCATGCATAGCGTGG
	Downstream reverse	CH416a	EcoRI	AAAGAATTCCGGGCTGACTGGTCCCAG
	Upstream confirmation	PB403	—	CTACAGCCAATCAAGGAGGCCAA
	Downstream confirmation	PB404	—	CGGGTGAGGTCTCGAACAGAGATGT
Δ cluster	Upstream forward	CH401	HindIII	AAAAAGCTTACGCCCTGGCCATCGGTGTACC
	Upstream reverse	CH402	—	GAAAGGCTCCTGCAGAACATCGAAC
	Downstream forward	CH403	—	GTAACACCTCCAAACGTTCCGGGAT
	Downstream reverse	CH404	EcoRI	AAAGAATTCAACGCACCTGCACATCGCTGCG

	Upstream confirmation	PB405	—	GGGTCATGTCCCTGACCAGCA
	Downstream confirmation	PB406	—	GGGTCGAATTCCGTGTCGCCAA
UW4 <i>ΔspeE</i>	Upstream forward	CH405	HindIII	AAAAAGCTTGAGCCGATTGAGCTGGATGCGG
	Upstream reverse	CH406	—	TACGACTTCCATGGTCCAGGTGCG
	Downstream forward	CH407	—	TCGGGGGGCTGGCTCAAAGG
	Downstream reverse	CH408	EcoRI	AAAGAATTACGAGTCGGCGCTAAACGCG
	Upstream confirmation	PB407	—	CGCGAACCTGTGGACCAGCGAGTT
	Downstream confirmation	PB408	—	CGCGAACCGCGCTGCAAGAA

425

426

427

428 **Acknowledgements**

429 This work was supported by an NSERC Discovery Grant (NSERC-RGPIN-2016-04121)
430 awarded to C.H.H., a Life Sciences Research Foundation Fellowship from the Simons
431 Foundation awarded to R.A.M., a fellowship from China Postdoctoral Science Foundation
432 awarded to Y.S., and an NSERC CGS-M award to Z. L.

433

434 **Author Contributions**

435 C.H., R.A.M., and P.B. designed experiments. P.B. Y.S. and C.H.H. performed experiments.
436 C.H., R.A.M., X. L. analyzed data. and R.A.M. performed genome assembly, annotation,
437 phylogenetic analysis and comparative genomics. C.H.H., P.B. and R.A.M. wrote the manuscript
438 with input from all.

439

440 **Data Availability**

441 Data for the Whole Genome Shotgun project has been deposited at DDBJ/ENA/GenBank
442 under the accessions RRZJ00000000 (CH235), RRZK00000000 (DhA-51), RWIL00000000
443 (PB103), RWIM00000000 (PB106), RWIN00000000 (PB120), RWIO00000000 (PB105),
444 RWIQ00000000 (PB100), and RWIR00000000 (PB101). The versions described in this paper

445 are versions RRZJ01000000 (CH235), RRZK01000000 (DhA-51), RWIL01000000 (PB103),
446 RWIM01000000 (PB106), RWIN01000000 (PB120), RWIO01000000 (PB105), RWIQ01000000
447 (PB100), and RWIR01000000 (PB101).

448

449 **Declaration of interests:** The authors declare no competing interests.

450

451

452 **References**

453

- 454 1. Vacheron J, Desbrosses G, Bouffaud M-L, Touraine B, Moënne-Loccoz Y, Muller D, et
455 al. Plant growth-promoting rhizobacteria and root system functioning. *Front Plant Sci.*
456 *Frontiers*; 2013;4: 356. doi:10.3389/fpls.2013.00356
- 457 2. Spaepen S, Vanderleyden J, Remans R. Indole-3-acetic acid in microbial and
458 microorganism-plant signaling. *FEMS Microbiol Rev.* 2007;31: 425–448.
459 doi:10.1111/j.1574-6976.2007.00072.x
- 460 3. Glick BR. Modulation of plant ethylene levels by the bacterial enzyme ACC deaminase.
461 *FEMS Microbiol Lett.* 2005;251: 1–7. doi:10.1016/j.femsle.2005.07.030
- 462 4. Bangera MG, Thomashow LS. Identification and characterization of a gene cluster for
463 synthesis of the polyketide antibiotic 2,4-diacetylphloroglucinol from *Pseudomonas*
464 *fluorescens* Q2-87. *J Bacteriol.* 1999;181: 3155–63.
- 465 5. Pieterse CMJ, de Jonge R, Berendsen RL. The Soil-Borne Supremacy. *Trends Plant Sci.*
466 2016;21: 171–173. doi:10.1016/j.tplants.2016.01.018
- 467 6. Haney CH, Samuel BS, Bush J, Ausubel FM. Associations with rhizosphere bacteria can

468 confer an adaptive advantage to plants. *Nat Plants*. 2015;1: 15051.

469 doi:10.1038/nplants.2015.51

470 7. Haney CH, Wiesmann CL, Shapiro LR, Melnyk RA, O'Sullivan LR, Khorasani S, et al.

471 Rhizosphere-associated *Pseudomonas* induce systemic resistance to herbivores at the cost

472 of susceptibility to bacterial pathogens. *Mol Ecol*. 2017;27: 1833–1847.

473 doi:10.1111/mec.14400

474 8. Huot B, Yao J, Montgomery BL, He SY. Growth-defense tradeoffs in plants: A balancing

475 act to optimize fitness. *Mol Plant*. Academic Press, London; 2014;7: 1267–1287.

476 doi:10.1093/mp/ssu049

477 9. Van Wees SCM, Pieterse CMJ, Trijsnenaar A, Van 't Westende YAM, Hartog F, Van

478 Loon LC. Differential Induction of Systemic Resistance in *Arabidopsis* by Biocontrol

479 Bacteria. *Mol Plant-Microbe Interact*. The American Phytopathological Society; 1997;10:

480 716–724. doi:10.1094/MPMI.1997.10.6.716

481 10. Shah S, Li J, Moffatt BA, Glick BR. Isolation and characterization of ACC deaminase

482 genes from two different plant growth-promoting rhizobacteria. *Can J Microbiol*. 1998;44:

483 833–843.

484 11. Compeau G, Al-Achi BJ, Platsouka E, Levy SB. Survival of rifampin-resistant mutants of

485 *Pseudomonas fluorescens* and *Pseudomonas putida* in soil systems. *Appl Environ*

486 *Microbiol*. American Society for Microbiology (ASM); 1988;54: 2432–8.

487 12. Mohn WW, Wilson AE, Bicho P, Moore ERB. Physiological and Phylogenetic Diversity

488 of Bacteria Growing on Resin Acids. *Syst Appl Microbiol*. 1999;22: 68–78.

489 doi:10.1016/S0723-2020(99)80029-0

490 13. Berendsen RL, van Verk MC, Stringlis IA, Zamioudis C, Tommassen J, Pieterse CMJ, et

491 al. Unearthing the genomes of plant-beneficial *Pseudomonas* model strains WCS358,
492 WCS374 and WCS417. *BMC Genomics*. BioMed Central; 2015;16: 539.
493 doi:10.1186/s12864-015-1632-z

494 14. Melnyk RA, Hossain SS, Haney CH. Convergent gain and loss of genomic islands drives
495 lifestyle changes in plant-associated bacteria. *bioRxiv*. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory;
496 2018; 345488. doi:10.1101/345488

497 15. Hesse C, Schulz F, Bull CT, Shaffer BT, Yan Q, Shapiro N, et al. Genome-based
498 evolutionary history of *Pseudomonas* spp. *Environ Microbiol*. Wiley/Blackwell (10.1111);
499 2018;20: 2142–2159. doi:10.1111/1462-2920.14130

500 16. Lu C-D, Itoh Y, Nakada Y, Jiang Y. Functional analysis and regulation of the divergent
501 spuABCDEFGHI-spui operons for polyamine uptake and utilization in *Pseudomonas*
502 *aeruginosa* PAO1. *J Bacteriol*. American Society for Microbiology Journals; 2002;184:
503 3765–73. doi:10.1128/JB.184.14.3765-3773.2002

504 17. Imai A, Matsuyama T, Hanzawa Y, Akiyama T, Tamaoki M, Saji H, et al. Spermidine
505 synthase genes are essential for survival of *Arabidopsis*. *Plant Physiol*. American Society
506 of Plant Biologists; 2004;135: 1565–73. doi:10.1104/pp.104.041699

507 18. Lou Y-R, Bor M, Yan J, Preuss AS, Jander G. *Arabidopsis* NATA1 acetylates putrescine
508 and decreases defense-related hydrogen peroxide accumulation. *Plant Physiol*. 2016;171:
509 pp.00446.2016. doi:10.1104/pp.16.00446

510 19. Shah P, Swiatlo E. A multifaceted role for polyamines in bacterial pathogens. *Mol*
511 *Microbiol*. 2008;68: 4–16. doi:10.1111/j.1365-2958.2008.06126.x

512 20. Chen L, Liu Y, Wu G, Zhang N, Shen Q, Zhang R. Beneficial Rhizobacterium *Bacillus*
513 *amyloliquefaciens* SQR9 Induces Plant Salt Tolerance through Spermidine Production.

514 Mol Plant-Microbe Interact. 2017;30: 423–432. doi:10.1094/MPMI-02-17-0027-R

515 21. Krogh A, Larsson B, von Heijne G, Sonnhammer EL. Predicting transmembrane protein
516 topology with a hidden markov model: application to complete genomes11Edited by F.
517 Cohen. J Mol Biol. 2001;305: 567–580. doi:10.1006/jmbi.2000.4315

518 22. Hanfrey CC, Pearson BM, Hazeldine S, Lee J, Gaskin DJ, Woster PM, et al. Alternative
519 Spermidine Biosynthetic Route Is Critical for Growth of *Campylobacter jejuni* and Is the
520 Dominant Polyamine Pathway in Human Gut Microbiota. J Biol Chem. 2011;286: 43301–
521 43312. doi:10.1074/jbc.M111.307835

522 23. Dieppedale J, Sobral D, Dupuis M, Dubail I, Klimentova J, Stulik J, et al. Identification of
523 a Putative Chaperone Involved in Stress Resistance and Virulence in *Francisella*
524 *tularensis*. Payne SM, editor. Infect Immun. 2011;79: 1428–1439. doi:10.1128/IAI.01012-
525 10

526 24. Tang YP, Dallas MM, Malamy MH. Characterization of the BatI (*Bacteroides*
527 *aerotolerance*) operon in *Bacteroides fragilis*: isolation of a *B. fragilis* mutant with
528 reduced aerotolerance and impaired growth in in vivo model systems. Mol Microbiol.
529 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd (10.1111); 1999;32: 139–149. doi:10.1046/j.1365-
530 2958.1999.01337.x

531 25. Gobert AP, Wilson KT. Polyamine- and NADPH-dependent generation of ROS during
532 *Helicobacter pylori* infection: A blessing in disguise. Free Radic Biol Med. 2017;105: 16–
533 27. doi:10.1016/j.freeradbiomed.2016.09.024

534 26. Marina M, Sirera FV, Rambla JL, Gonzalez ME, Blázquez MA, Carbonell J, et al.
535 Thermospermine catabolism increases *Arabidopsis thaliana* resistance to *Pseudomonas*
536 *viridisflava*. J Exp Bot. 2013;64: 1393–1402. doi:10.1093/jxb/ert012

537 27. Mitsuya Y, Takahashi Y, Berberich T, Miyazaki A, Matsumura H, Takahashi H, et al.
538 Spermine signaling plays a significant role in the defense response of *Arabidopsis*
539 *thaliana* to cucumber mosaic virus. *J Plant Physiol.* 2009;166: 626–643.
540 doi:10.1016/j.jplph.2008.08.006

541 28. Lou Y-R, Bor M, Yan J, Preuss AS, Jander G. *Arabidopsis* NATA1 acetylates putrescine
542 and decreases defense-related hydrogen peroxide accumulation. *Plant Physiol.* 2016;171:
543 pp.00446.2016. doi:10.1104/pp.16.00446

544 29. Liu Z, Beskrovnaya P, Melnyk RA, Hossain SS, Khorasani S, O’Sullivan LR, et al. A
545 Genome-Wide Screen Identifies Genes in Rhizosphere-Associated *Pseudomonas*
546 Required to Evade Plant Defenses. *MBio.* American Society for Microbiology; 2018;9:
547 e00433-18. doi:10.1128/mBio.00433-18

548 30. Hobley L, Li B, Wood JL, Kim SH, Naidoo J, Ferreira AS, et al. Spermidine promotes
549 *Bacillus subtilis* biofilm formation by activating expression of the matrix regulator *slrR*. *J*
550 *Biol Chem.* 2017;292: 12041–12053. doi:10.1074/jbc.M117.789644

551 31. Shelton AN, Seth EC, Mok KC, Han AW, Jackson SN, Haft DR, et al. Uneven
552 distribution of cobamide biosynthesis and dependence in bacteria predicted by
553 comparative genomics. *ISME J.* Nature Publishing Group; 2018; 1. doi:10.1038/s41396-
554 018-0304-9

555 32. Lamers JG, Schippers B, Geels FP. Soil-borne diseases of wheat in the Netherlands and
556 results of seed bacterization with pseudomonads against *Gaeumannomyces graminis* var.
557 *tritici*, associated with disease resistance. *Cereal Breed Relat to Integr Cereal Prod.* 1988;
558 134–139.

559 33. Geels FP, Schippers B. Selection of Antagonistic Fluorescent *Pseudomonas* spp. and their

560 Root Colonization and Persistence following Treatment of Seed Potatoes. *J Phytopathol.*
561 Blackwell Publishing Ltd; 1983;108: 193–206. doi:10.1111/j.1439-0434.1983.tb00579.x
562 34. Howell CR, Stipanovic RD. Control of *Rhizoctonia solani* on Cotton Seedlings with
563 *Pseudomonas fluorescens* and With an Antibiotic Produced by the Bacterium.
564 *Phytopathology*; 1979;69:480-482.
565 35. Price MN, Wetmore KM, Waters RJ, Callaghan M, Ray J, Liu H, et al. Mutant phenotypes
566 for thousands of bacterial genes of unknown function. *Nature*. Nature Publishing Group;
567 2018;557: 503–509. doi:10.1038/s41586-018-0124-0
568 36. Rietsch A, Vallet-Gely I, Dove SL, Mekalanos JJ. ExsE, a secreted regulator of type III
569 secretion genes in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. *Proc Natl Acad Sci. National Academy of*
570 *Sciences*; 2005;102: 8006–8011. doi:10.1073/pnas.0503005102
571 37. Hanahan D. Studies on transformation of *Escherichia coli* with plasmids. *J Mol Biol.*
572 Academic Press; 1983;166: 557–580. doi:10.1016/S0022-2836(83)80284-8
573
574

575 **Figure 1. Induced Systemic Susceptibility (ISS) is common among closely-related strains of**
576 ***Pseudomonas* spp. (A)** Correlation matrix of new *Pseudomonas* isolates from the *Arabidopsis*
577 rhizosphere. Isolates were selected based on similarity (>97% identical by partial 16S rRNA) to
578 CH267 (CH235, PB101 and PB103) or distance (<97% identity by partial 16S rRNA) to CH267
579 (PB120, PB100, PB105). **(B)** Isolates of *Pseudomonas* were tested for their ability to modulate
580 systemic defenses; bars are colored to match the relatedness to CH267 as in (A). Data are the
581 average of 3-5 biological replicates with 2 leaves from each of 6 plants (n=12) per experiment.

582 Letters designate levels of significance ($p<0.05$) by ANOVA and T-test. Isolates from the
583 rhizosphere of *Arabidopsis* growing in *Massachusetts, USA or #British Columbia, Canada

584

585 **Figure 2. The presence of a genomic island is predictive of the ISS phenotype. (A)** A
586 genomic island identified through comparative genomics is present in the ISS strains CH229,
587 CH235, CH267 and UW4 and absent in Pf0-1 (no effect on systemic defense) and WCS417 (ISR
588 strain). **(B)** Phylogenetic tree based on 122 core *Pseudomonas* genes. Genome sequencing of
589 new strains shows the island is present in strains that enhance susceptibility but not in those that
590 trigger ISR or have no effect. **(C)** Two strains with the island (GW456-L13 and Pf-5) and two
591 without (N1B4 and N2C3) were tested for ISS/ISR. Only those with the island significantly
592 enhanced susceptibility. Data are the average of 3 biological replicates with 2 leaves from each
593 of 6 plants ($n=12$) per experiment. * $p<0.05$ by ANOVA and T-test. Isolates from the rhizosphere
594 of *Arabidopsis* growing in *Massachusetts, USA or #British Columbia, Canada

595

596 **Figure 3. Spermidine is necessary and sufficient for ISS. (A-B)** The *speE* gene and the entire
597 gene cluster were deleted from CH267 (A) and UW4 (B). **(C)** Purified spermidine but not
598 spermine applied to the roots of adult *Arabidopsis* plants is sufficient to trigger ISS. Data are the
599 average of 3 biological replicates with 2 leaves from each of 6 plants ($n=12$) per experiment.

600 * $p<0.05$ by ANOVA and T-test.

601

602 **Figure 4. *SpeE2* encodes a novel periplasmic spermidine synthase. (A)** The genome of
603 CH267 contains two *speE* homologues. Both contain predicted d-SAM binding domains and a
604 spermidine synthase domain. Only *speE2* contains predicted N-terminal transmembrane

605 domains. **(B)** Protein localization prediction places the polyamine transferase enzyme of *speE2*
606 within the periplasm. **(C)** Spermidine biosynthesis pathways present in *E. coli* and *P.*
607 *aeruginosa*. **(D)** Correlation matrix of spermidine synthase genes in the genomes of 3,886
608 *Pseudomonas* strains. **(E)** The presence of spermidine biosynthesis pathways in *Pseudomonas*
609 genomes.

610

611 **Figure 5. The 11 genes in the ISS locus nearly always co-occur and are present across the**
612 ***Pseudomonas* genus.** **(A)** Correlation coefficient matrix for the 11 ISS genes across all 3,886
613 *Pseudomonas* genomes in the comparative genomics database. **(B)** Correlation coefficient matrix
614 for the 11 ISS genes across every 50-kb genomic region that contains at least one of the 11
615 genes. **(C)** Distribution of the 11 ISS genes across subclades of the *Pseudomonas* genus. **(D)**
616 Distribution of the 11 ISS genes within subclades of the *P. fluorescens* group.

617

618 **Figure 6. Conservation of 6 genes from the ISS locus in mammalian pathogens and in**
619 ***Pseudomonas* spp.** Of the 11 genes in the ISS locus, 6 have a paralogous operon that is present
620 in CH267 and most other *Pseudomonas* spp. An operon with a similar configuration is also
621 present in mammalian pathogens and has been implicated in virulence.

622

623 **S1 Table. Unique loci identified in comparative genomics.** The genome content of 4 ISS
624 strains (CH267, CH235, UW4 and CH229) was compared with the closely-related non-ISS strain
625 Pf0-1. 17 predicted protein-coding genes were identified.

626

627 **S1 Figure. Distribution of loci identified by comparative genomics ISS loci across**
628 ***Pseudomonas* strains.** Comparative genomics between ISS strains UW4, CH229, CH235 and
629 CH267 (black arrows) and non-ISS strain Pf0-1 (red arrow) identified 17 predicted protein-
630 coding genes that were absent in Pf0-1 and present in the ISS strains. 11 of these genes were
631 found in a single cluster (box) and were absent in the non-ISS strain WCS365.

632

633 **S2 Figure. The ISS locus is highly variable between closely-related strains**

634 The 11 genes in the ISS locus are present in the ISS strains Pf0-1, CH235, CH267 and CH299
635 but absent in Pf0-1. Genes in the ISS locus are colored as in the key at the bottom of the figure
636 and in Figure 2. Conserved genes not unique to the ISS strains are colored similarly among
637 strains; genes in gray are not conserved between strains at this locus. In CH229, Pf0-1 and
638 CH267 the genes flanking the ISS locus are conserved in the same orientation suggesting a
639 recent insertion or deletion event.

640

641 **S3 Figure. Distribution of *speD/E1* and the *CASDH/C* spermidine biosynthetic pathway**

642 **across *Pseudomonas* species.** While some species contain both pathways (such as *P.*
643 *fluorescens*) many others (such as *P. putida* or *P. aeruginosa*) contain exclusively the *speD/E1* or
644 *CASH/C* pathway. The number of strains included in each genus is shown in parentheses.

645

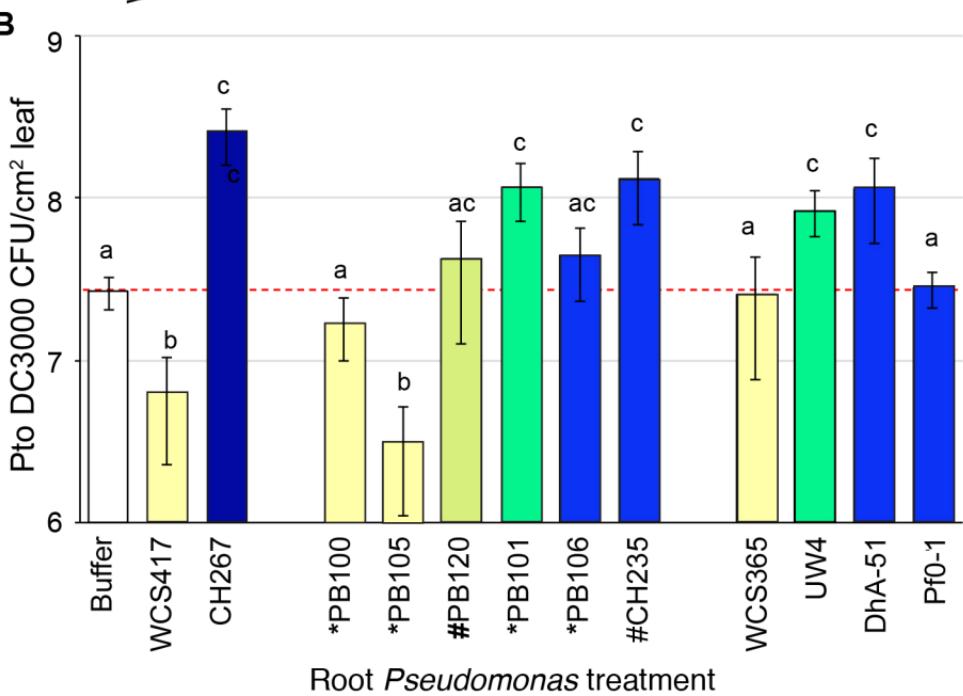
646 **S4 Figure. Distribution of *speD/E1* and the *CASDH/C* spermidine biosynthetic pathway**

647 **within subgroups in the *P. fluorescens* clade.** With the exception of Pf-5 which is within *P.*
648 *protegens*, all other ISS strains described fall within *P. madelii*, *P. jessenii* and *P. koreensis*

649 clades as defined by Hesse et al., (2018). The number of strains included in each group is shown
650 in parentheses.

A

WCS417	100.0	98.8	99.1	97.4	96.2	96.2	95.2	95.4	96.2	95.8	95.4	95.5
*PB100	98.8	100.0	99.3	98.2	96.5	96.8	95.8	95.3	96.1	95.7	95.3	95.4
*PB105	99.1	99.3	100.0	98.1	96.0	96.7	95.7	95.2	96.0	95.5	95.2	95.3
#PB120	97.4	98.2	98.1	100.0	95.8	97.1	96.9	96.2	97.1	96.5	96.5	96.6
UW4	96.2	96.5	96.0	95.8	100.0	97.9	96.5	98.4	97.9	97.4	97.4	97.3
*PB101	96.2	96.8	96.7	97.1	97.9	100.0	98.2	97.8	98.4	98.0	97.5	97.7
*PB106	95.2	95.8	95.7	96.9	96.5	98.2	100.0	98.1	98.6	99.1	99.1	99.2
DhA-51	95.4	95.3	95.2	96.2	98.4	97.8	98.1	100.0	98.1	99.1	99.1	98.9
#CH235	96.2	96.1	96.0	97.1	97.9	98.4	98.6	98.1	100.0	98.8	99.1	99.2
#CH229	95.8	95.7	95.5	96.5	97.4	98.0	99.1	99.1	98.8	100.0	99.5	99.7
#CH267	95.4	95.3	95.2	96.5	97.4	97.5	99.1	99.1	99.1	99.5	100.0	99.9
Pf0-1	95.5	95.4	95.3	96.6	97.3	97.7	99.2	98.9	99.2	99.7	99.9	100.0

B

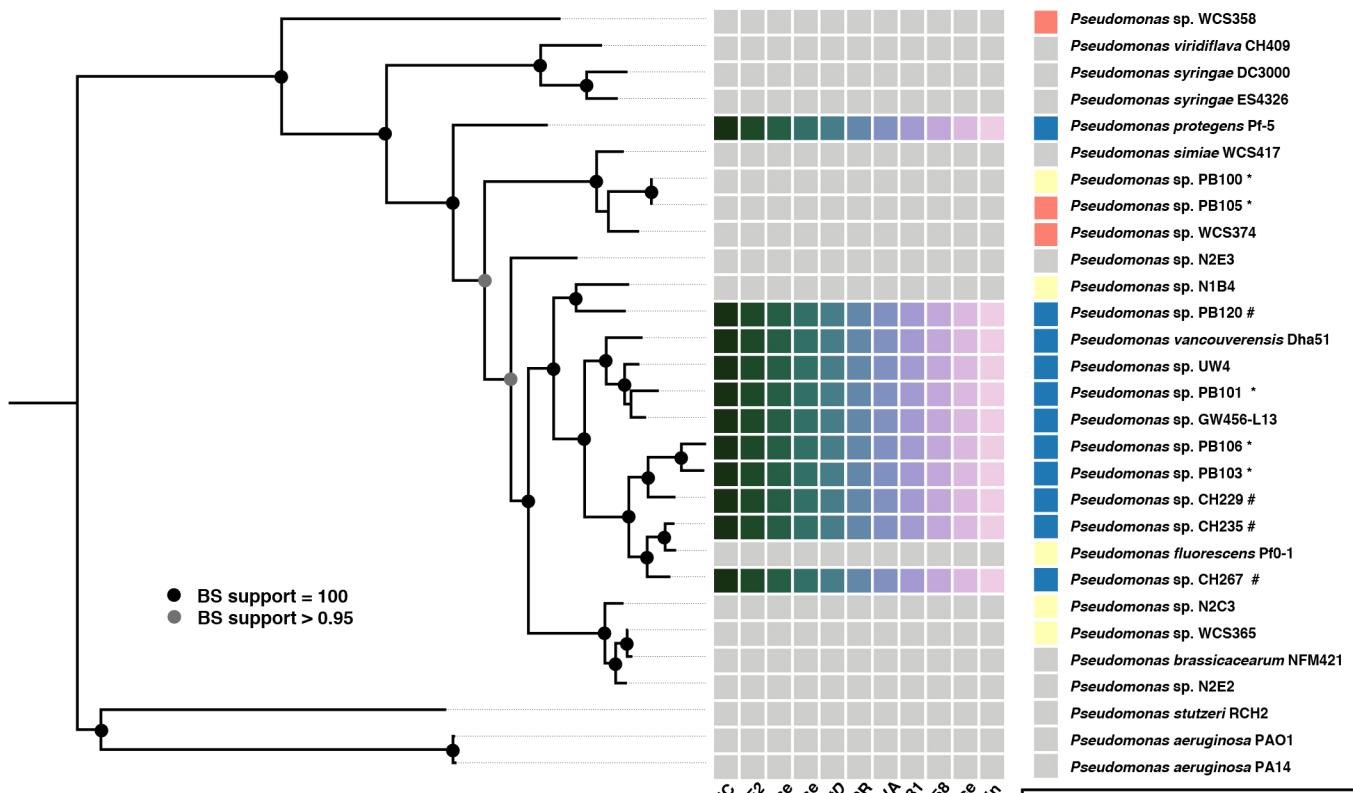
A

Pseudomonas fluorescens Pf0-1

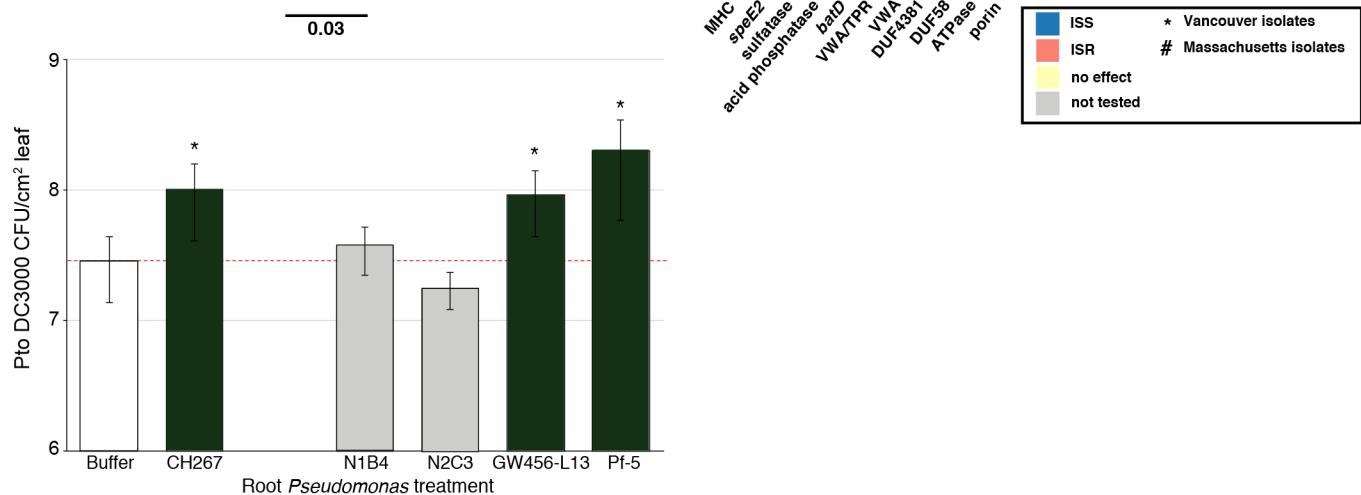
ISS-associated locus

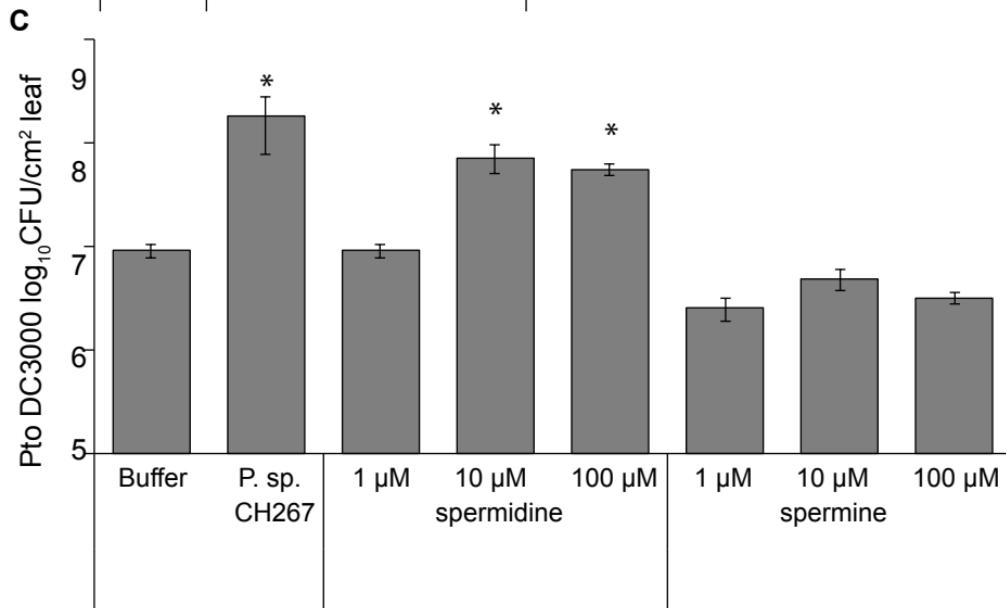
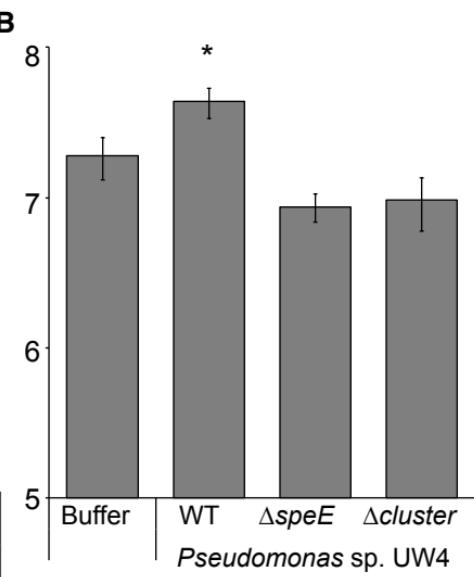
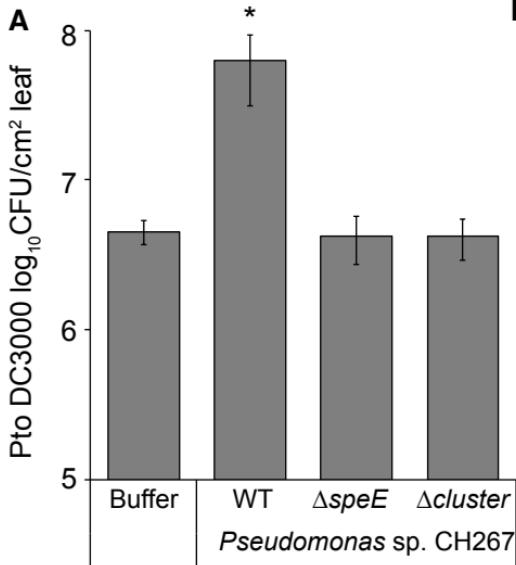
Pseudomonas sp. CH267

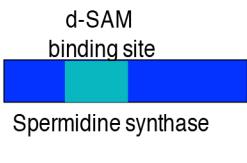
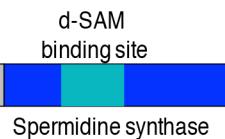
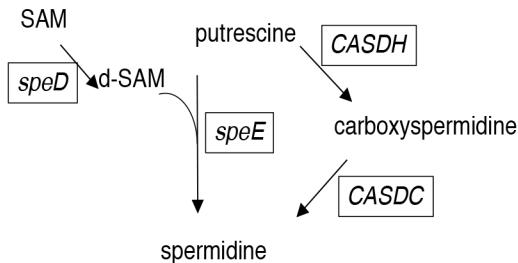
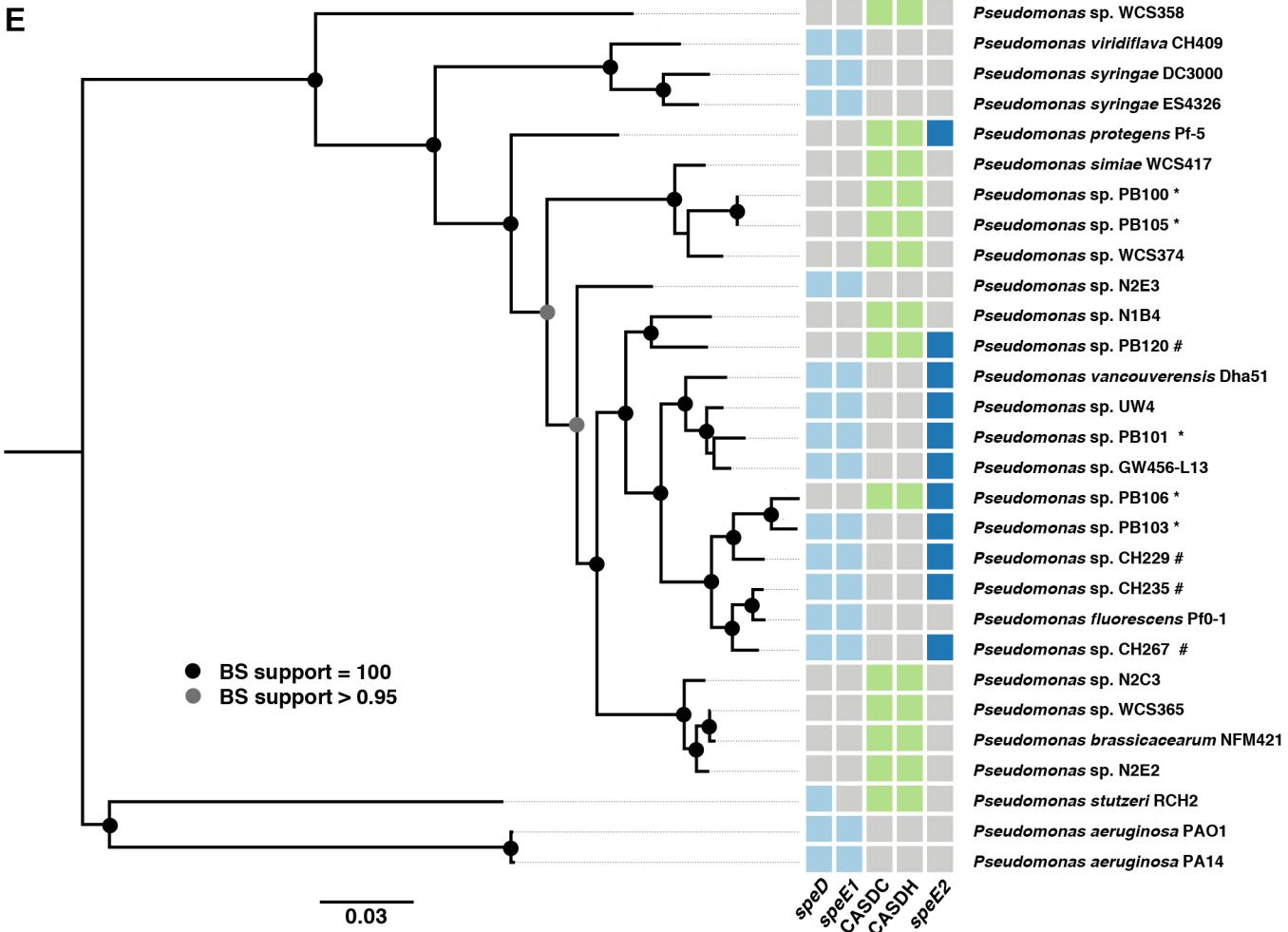
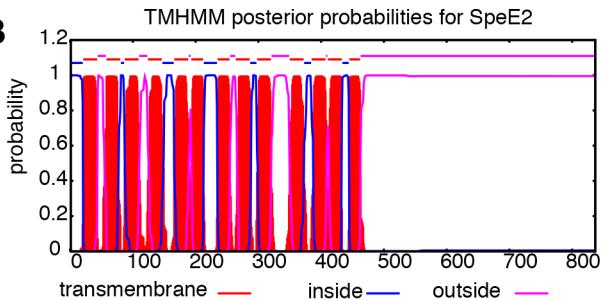
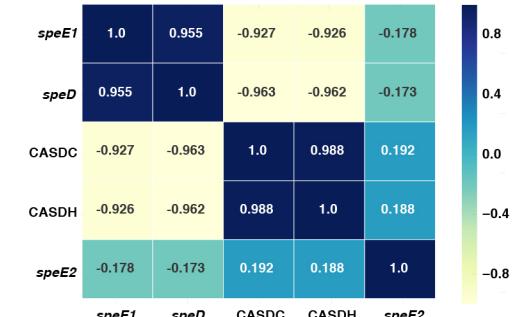
B



C

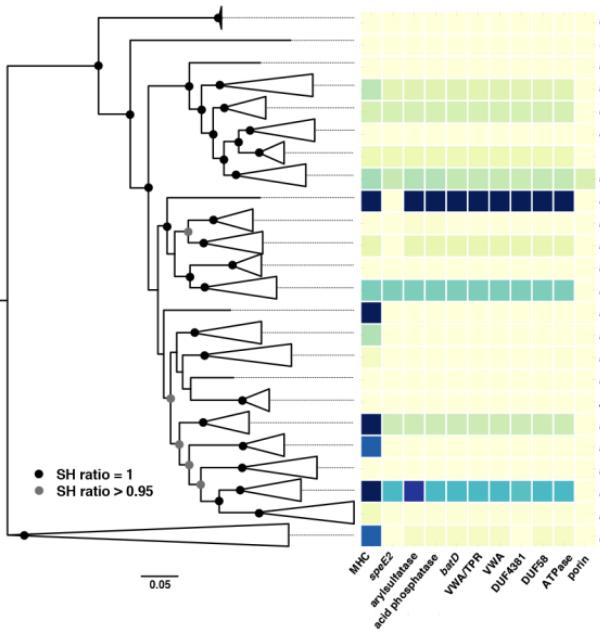




A*speE1**speE2***C****E****B****D**

A

	MHC	speE2	sulfatase	acid phosphatase	batD	VWA/TPR	VWA	DUF481	DUF58	ATPase	porin
MHC	1.0	0.671	0.657	0.63	0.634	0.637	0.638	0.637	0.626	0.637	0.412
speE2	0.671	1.0	0.953	0.923	0.937	0.933	0.933	0.937	0.913	0.937	0.592
sulfatase	0.657	0.953	1.0	0.944	0.955	0.951	0.955	0.955	0.934	0.959	0.611
acid phosphatase	0.63	0.923	0.944	1.0	0.981	0.976	0.98	0.976	0.958	0.981	0.63
batD	0.634	0.937	0.955	0.981	1.0	0.987	0.987	0.991	0.965	0.991	0.62
VWA/TPR	0.637	0.933	0.951	0.976	0.987	1.0	0.983	0.991	0.965	0.987	0.623
VWA	0.638	0.933	0.955	0.98	0.987	0.983	1.0	0.987	0.965	0.991	0.617
DUF481	0.637	0.937	0.955	0.976	0.991	0.991	0.987	1.0	0.97	0.991	0.62
DUF58	0.626	0.913	0.934	0.958	0.965	0.966	0.965	0.97	1.0	0.97	0.58
ATPase	0.637	0.937	0.959	0.981	0.991	0.987	0.991	0.991	0.97	1.0	0.62
porin	0.412	0.592	0.611	0.63	0.62	0.623	0.617	0.62	0.58	0.62	1.0

B**C****D**