



Primary Research Paper

Identification and analysis of novel tandem repeats in the cell surface proteins of archaeal and bacterial genomes using computational tools

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Abstract

We have identified four novel repeats and two domains in cell surface proteins encoded by the *Methanosarcina acetivorans* genome and in some archaeal and bacterial genomes. The repeats correspond to a certain number of amino acid residues present in tandem in a protein sequence and each repeat is characterized by conserved sequence motifs. These correspond to: (a) a 42 amino acid (aa) residue RIVW repeat; (b) a 45 aa residue LGxL repeat; (c) a 42 aa residue LVIVD repeat; and (d) a 54 aa residue LGFP repeat. The domains correspond to a certain number of aa residues in a protein sequence that do not comprise internal repeats. These correspond to: (a) a 200 aa residue DNRLRE domain; and (b) a 70 aa residue PEGA domain. We discuss the occurrence of these repeats and domains in the different proteins and genomes analysed in this work. Copyright © 2004 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

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Introduction

Most archaeal and eubacterial organisms possess a well-defined cell wall outside the plasma membrane (Beveridge and Graham, 1991). The cell wall present in Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria consists of a regularly ordered and planar array of proteins that make up the surface layer (Sleytr *et al.*, 1996). The surface-layer proteins (SLPs) are associated with conservation and variation in their structure, biology and chemistry. The conserved properties are responsible for maintaining essential functions; such as mediating cell–cell interactions, transport, protection and virulence, whereas the variations may be a consequence of environmental/ecological pressures that mediate functions specific to that organism. In pathogenic bacteria, in addition to the functions mentioned, cell surface proteins are involved in various steps of infection processes, such as adhesion or invasion of host

cells, binding to host molecules and protection against phagocytosis (Navarre and Schneewind, 1999). The surface layers are usually composed of high molecular weight glycoproteins that assemble spontaneously into two-dimensional crystalline arrays covering the entire cell surface (Beveridge, 1994). The SLPs have non-covalent binding and high-affinity interaction with the cell wall and make up to 15% of total protein content in prokaryotic cell (Mesnage *et al.*, 2000).

Several SLPs are large, multi-gene proteins that consist of conserved domains. Some domains are common to various organisms. The SLP domains are of variable length (40–80 aa residues) with conserved sequence motifs that play a significant role in structure and function. In some SLPs, the domains are present as several copies and are responsible for anchoring to the cell wall or interaction with carbohydrates and lipids. The

tandem repeats in SLPs identified to date are the SLH (surface layer homology), AB (also known as YVTN) and C repeats (also known as PKD).

The SLH domain is a repetitive modular element that is present in several bacterial cell surface proteins and is involved in non-covalent association with peptidoglycan-associated polymers (Lupas *et al.*, 1994). The SLH domain comprises 55 aa residues and the predicted secondary structure comprises two α -helices flanking a short β -strand (Lupas, 1996). The AB repeats were first identified in bacterial SLPs of *Methanosarcina mazei* (Mayerhofer *et al.*, 1995). Recently, Adindla and Guruprasad (2003) identified AB repeats in several proteins that belong to various organisms, including the PE protein family in the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* genome, and have predicted that its corresponding secondary structure comprises 4 β -strands. The C-repeat, comprising 82 aa residues, also identified in bacterial SLPs (Mayerhofer *et al.*, 1995), is similar to the PKD (polycystin kidney disease) domain present in polycystin-1 and its solution structure has been determined (Bycroft *et al.*, 1999). Recently, Jing *et al.* (2002) determined the crystal structure of the N-terminal domain in *M. mazei* SLP (PDB Code: 1L0Q). This structure corresponds to the region encoded by YVTN repeats and a PKD domain. In fact, in the crystal structure, the YVTN repeat corresponds to four β -strands, as predicted (Adindla and Guruprasad, 2003). Further, the four β -strands adopt a β -propeller fold. General information about these repeats and domains may be retrieved from publicly available databases, such as INTERPRO (Mulder *et al.*, 2003), PFAM (Bateman *et al.*, 2002) and SMART (Letunic *et al.*, 2002).

In the present context, a 'domain' refers to a region of the protein sequence that does not contain internal sequence repeats. A domain can itself be repeated in a protein and there can be several different domains per protein. The domains identified in this manner may correspond to the generally accepted crystallographer's definition of a domain that represents a region of the protein capable of folding independently and is stable, e.g. signal transduction proteins contain SH2, SH3, PH domains. On the other hand, a 'repeat' corresponds to a region of the protein sequence that occurs more than once in tandem, e.g. the YVTN repeats in cell-surface proteins of *M. acetivorans*. Both repeats and domains can be characterized by 'sequence

motifs' that may be identified according to the conservation of individual aa residues at equivalent positions derived from multiple sequence alignments.

Andrade *et al.* (2001) reviewed methods to identify repeating aa sequences in proteins and the relationship between repeat sequences and their associated functions. Repeats are thought to arise due to gene duplication and recombination events. While protein domains may exist either in high copy numbers or as a single copy per protein, repeats always exist as multiple copies (Andrade *et al.*, 2001, 2002). Repeats, often present in integer copy numbers, are usually associated with regular secondary structure and may vary in number indicating frequent loss or gain during evolution. When present in non-integer copy numbers, the first half of a repeat is present at the C-terminus while the second half is present at the N-terminus. This mode of circular permutation in repeats was proposed for the SLH domain in eubacterial proteins (Lupas, 1996).

Repeats may be identified by manual examination, if the sequence similarity is very high and if the repeats are present in tandem (Andrade *et al.*, 2001). Repeat boundaries are often difficult to predict; however, we show in this work that this can be achieved by examining the tandem repeats flanked by previously identified well-characterized domains and also by predicting their corresponding secondary structure. The popular web-based automated programs that identify internal repeats in proteins are REP (Andrade *et al.*, 2000) and RADAR (Heger and Holm, 2000). RADAR stands for rapid automatic detection and alignment of repeats in protein sequences. It uses an algorithm that segments the query sequence into repeats and identifies short, composition-biased, gapped approximate repeats and complex repeat architecture (Heger and Holm, 2000). Programs such as BLASTP (Altschul *et al.*, 1990) are also useful in detecting internal repeats and homologous repeats in a protein database. By using the BLAST program, the presence of repeats in a query protein sequence can be identified if: (a) the same region of the query is aligned against two or more distinct regions of a second protein; and (b) different regions of the query are being aligned against the same region of a second protein (Andrade *et al.*, 2001). When the PSI-BLAST program (Altschul *et al.*, 1997) is used, the statistically

significant repeats must be included in the profile for subsequent iterative searches. Once statistically significant repeats are detected, construction of a multiple sequence alignment provides insight into the extent of sequence homology among members of the new protein family and identification of the conserved sequence motifs.

Methanogenesis, the process of biological production of methane from acetate, is carried out by *Methanosarcina acetivorans* C2A. Methanosarcineae thrive in a wide range of environments and are unique amongst archaea in forming multicellular structures during different phases of growth and in response to environmental change. The complete genome sequence of *M. acetivorans* C2A was reported by Galagan *et al.* (2002); it is a model archaeal genome comprising 4524 open reading frames. A considerable portion of the *M. acetivorans* genome comprises multigene families. The large multigene families include several transport-related proteins and cell surface proteins. This organism synthesizes a cell envelope termed the S-layer, which consists of protein subunits adjacent to the cell membrane (Kandler and König, 1993). The majority of these proteins do not contain transmembrane regions and hence are secreted and play a role in generating the cell envelope (S-layer) as well as an extracellular matrix during the formation of multicellular structures (Galagan *et al.*, 2002). Major therapeutic and biotechnological applications may emerge from understanding the mechanisms underlying cell surface proteins in bacteria (Cossart and Jonquieres, 2000).

As the complete genome sequence of *M. acetivorans* is now available (Galagan *et al.*, 2002) and knowing that some cell surface proteins are associated with tandem repeats, we intended to systematically identify and analyse all sequence repeats in the cell surface proteins. We identified four novel tandem repeats. However, in the process we also identified two new domains. Further analysis corresponding to searches of the completed and unfinished genome databases also identified these repeats and domains in other archaeal and bacterial genomes.

Methods

We extracted all cell surface proteins in the *M. acetivorans* genome by searching the SWall

database in SRS (Schaftenaar *et al.*, 1996), available at <http://srs.ebi.ac.uk>. The keywords used were '*Methanosarcina acetivorans*' for organism and 'cell surface proteins' for all-text. All proteins thus retrieved were analysed with the RADAR program, available from www.ebi.ac.uk/Radar/. This program detects sequence repeats and generates multiple sequence alignments. No assumptions are made as to the expected length and number of repeats, and no restrictions are imposed on the sequence length that separates two or more repeats. In a typical analysis, a repeat region identified by the RADAR program was searched against the non-redundant GenBank and SWall databases using the PSI-BLAST and WU-BLAST2 programs, respectively. BLAST (Altschul *et al.*, 1990) is a reliable and rapid computer program that identifies in a given database all known proteins that are homologues/analogues to a query protein sequence. We also carried out similar searches against the completed and unfinished microbial genomes using the BLASTP program (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/BLAST/). The Blosum62 matrices were used and hits were sorted on *p*-value in the WU-Blast2 program. The results of all BLAST searches were used for reciprocal searches once again in order to be able to retrieve the original query sequence. Sequences identified from the above searches were aligned using the multiple sequence alignment program CLUSTALW (Thompson *et al.*, 1994), available at <http://www.ebi.ac.uk/clustalw/index.html>. The default parameters used correspond to a penalty of 10 for opening a gap, 0.05 for gap extension and 8 for gap separation. The secondary structure predictions corresponding to aa sequences of either the repeats or the domains identified in this work were carried out using the PHD program, which uses the neural network method (Rost *et al.*, 1994) and is known to yield better than 70% prediction accuracy.

Results and discussion

We identified 70 cell surface proteins (data not shown) in the *M. acetivorans* genome and only proteins containing sequence repeats were included in our analysis. We observed that several of these proteins correspond to the well-characterized

YVTN repeat (earlier referred to as the AB repeat), or to known domains, such as SLH and PKD. However, in this work, we identified four new repeats and two conserved domains in the *M. acetivorans* genome. The repeats or domains identified are not within (part of) previously reported repeats, such as the SLH, YVTN (or AB) repeats or the PKD domain. Our findings are therefore novel and may be characteristic of the cell-surface proteins. We also identified these novel repeats and domains in some of the proteins of other archaeal and bacterial genomes. The aa sequence patterns characteristic of these repeats and domains are represented according to the PROSITE description (Falquet *et al.*, 2002). The conserved aa residues inferred from multiple sequence alignments using the CLUSTALW program are used to describe sequence motifs characteristic of these repeats and domains. Often more than one sequence motif is associated with the tandem repeats or the domains. Lists of the proteins containing these repeats and domains are shown in Tables 1A–F. These tables give the protein identifiers (Gene or SWall), the number of aa residues in the protein, a description of the protein, and other well-characterized repeats and domains present in the protein, along with the number of such repeats or domains, including those identified in the present work. The schematic representations of repeats and domains analysed in this work are based on those of Galagan *et al.* (2002). The four novel repeats are labelled as; RIVW, LGxL, LVIVD and LGFP. The number of tandem repeats may vary within a protein. The two novel domains are labelled DNRLRE and PEGA. There can also be more than one copy of the domain in a protein. Some sequences representing these repeats or domains share lower than 15% pairwise sequence identity. However, we consider sequence pairs even with such low sequence identities if the corresponding e-values from the BLAST analysis are significant and if the individual sequences are characterized by the conserved sequence motifs, and if the PHD program predicts a similar secondary structure for the individual sequences.

The multiple sequence alignment program CLUSTALW is very useful for aligning representative sequences corresponding to a repeat from different proteins. However, owing to variation in the length of individual protein sequences and the number of repeats, CLUSTALW does not properly

align the corresponding repeating sequence when the whole protein sequence is used in the multiple alignments. Therefore, these had to be edited manually and the resulting alignments reflect the aa conservation within individual repeats and in all repeats over the whole length of the protein sequence. The multiple sequence alignments and source sequences are available as an on-line supplement (<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/jabout/77002016/OtherResources.html>) and from our website at <http://202.41.85.161/~lgp/>. The aa sequences corresponding to the representative repeat in each protein and for all the proteins are shown in the multiple sequence alignments in Figures 1A–F. The schematic figures used to represent these repeats and domains are shown in Figures 2A–F. These figures (drawn to an approximate scale) reflect the relative proximity and location of individual repeats and domains along the sequence. We discuss each of these repeats and domains below.

42 aa residues RIVW repeat

The RADAR program identified aa sequence repeats, each corresponding to approximately 42 aa residues in several proteins. Seven repeats present in tandem were common to most proteins analysed. The database searches identified the repeats with significant scores (e-value $<10^{-6}$) also in proteins corresponding to other genomes. A list of proteins containing this repeat is shown in Table 1A. These include several hypothetical, predicted, conserved and surface layer proteins from *M. acetivorans*, *M. mazei* and *M. barkeri* (a genome sequencing project under way at the time of our present analysis). The aa sequence pattern corresponding to this repeat according to PROSITE notation is represented as [RK]-[IVL]-[VI]-[WY]. For the sake of simplicity, we refer to this as the RIVW repeat. The repeat boundaries, in this case, were assigned based on the identification of well-characterized neighbouring domains, e.g. in the protein corresponding to the gene identifier MA2706, we observed that the 909 aa residue cell surface protein contains three PKD domains sandwiched between two RIVW repeats. This is shown in the schematic representation in Figure 2A. Likewise, all 45 proteins listed in Table 1A containing the RIVW repeats may be associated with one of nine domain architectures (see Figure 2A). In the protein corresponding to gene identifier MM1677, the PKD domain

is sandwiched between RIVW repeats and previously identified AB repeats. In the *M. mazei* protein corresponding to gene identifier MM2071 comprising 869 aa residues we observed that the RIVW repeats are associated with another 200 aa residue region referred to as the DNRLRE domain,

which is discussed later. As can be seen from Figure 2A, there are three copies of this domain in MM2071. In another protein corresponding to the gene identifier MM2742 comprising 768 aa residues, we also identified another novel domain comprising 70 aa residues, referred to as the PEGA

Table IA. Proteins containing the 42 amino acid residue RIVW repeat

Gene or SWall identifier (No. of residues)	Organism	Description; other repeats or domains: No. of repeats or domains	No. of RIVW tandem repeats
MA2284 (1003)	<i>M. acetivorans</i> (A)	Cell surface protein; PKD:1	7 + 7
MA2706 (909)	<i>M. acetivorans</i> (A)	Cell surface protein; PKD:3	7 + 7
MM2630 (937)	<i>M. mazei</i> (A)	Conserved protein; PKD:2	7
MA0487 (429)	<i>M. acetivorans</i> (A)	Predicted protein	7
MA1738 (970)	<i>M. acetivorans</i> (A)	Cell surface protein; PKD:2	7
MM2923 (1164)	<i>M. mazei</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein; YVTN:7	7
MM1677 (1063)	<i>M. mazei</i> (A)	Conserved protein; YVTN:7; PKD:1	7
MA2794 (630)	<i>M. acetivorans</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein; PEGA:1	8
MA1730 (411)	<i>M. acetivorans</i> (A)	Cell surface protein; PKD:1	2 + 5
MM2296 (392)	<i>M. mazei</i> (A)	Conserved protein	7
MM2742 (768)	<i>M. mazei</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein; PEGA:2	7
MA1293 (688)	<i>M. acetivorans</i> (A)	Cell surface protein; PKD:4	7
MM2071 (869)	<i>M. mazei</i> (A)	Conserved protein; DNRLRE:3	7
MA0488 (923)	<i>M. acetivorans</i> (A)	Cell surface protein; PKD:1	6 + 7
MA0783 (345)	<i>M. acetivorans</i> (A)	Predicted protein	7
MM1936 (374)	<i>M. mazei</i> (A)	Conserved protein	7
MA2724 (380)	<i>M. acetivorans</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein; PKD:1	7
MA2705 (330)	<i>M. acetivorans</i> (A)	Predicted protein	7
MA1838 (919)	<i>M. acetivorans</i> (A)	Cell surface protein; PKD:3; YVTN:7	5 + 2
MA0484 (329)	<i>M. acetivorans</i> (A)	Predicted protein	5 + 2
MA0260 (328)	<i>M. acetivorans</i> (A)	Predicted protein	5 + 2
MM1670 (336)	<i>M. mazei</i> (A)	Conserved protein	5 + 2
ZP_00076576 (670)	<i>M. barkeri</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein; PKD:4	7
ZP_00077009 (123)	<i>M. barkeri</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein	3
ZP_00076817 (581)	<i>M. barkeri</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein; PKD:3	7
ZP_00076955 (678)	<i>M. barkeri</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein; PKD:4	7
ZP_00077091 (938)	<i>M. barkeri</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein; PKD:3	7 + 7
ZP_00076164 (161)	<i>M. barkeri</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein	3
ZP_00078197 (685)	<i>M. barkeri</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein; PKD:4	7
ZP_00078648 (713)	<i>M. barkeri</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein; PKD:4	7
ZP_00077008 (1001)	<i>M. barkeri</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein; PKD:3	7
ZP_00077424 (728)	<i>M. barkeri</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein	7 + 7
ZP_00076578 (547)	<i>M. barkeri</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein; PKD:4	5
ZP_00078647 (560)	<i>M. barkeri</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein; PKD:2	7
ZP_00076954 (669)	<i>M. barkeri</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein; PKD:4	7
ZP_00076999 (375)	<i>M. barkeri</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein	7
ZP_00075956 (231)	<i>M. barkeri</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein	5
ZP_00077721 (275)	<i>M. barkeri</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein	6
ZP_00075574 (149)	<i>M. barkeri</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein	3
ZP_00076982 (329)	<i>M. barkeri</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein	5 + 2
ZP_00076181 (754)	<i>M. barkeri</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein; PKD:3	4
ZP_00077719 (819)	<i>M. barkeri</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein; PKD:2; YVTN:7	5 + 2
ZP_00077090 (328)	<i>M. barkeri</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein	7
ZP_00077407 (771)	<i>M. barkeri</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein; PKD:2	7
ZP_00077720 (713)	<i>M. barkeri</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein; PKD:4; YVTN:7	1

Table IB. Proteins containing the 200 amino acid residue DNRLRE domain

Gene or SWall identifier (No. of residues)	Organism	Description; other repeats or domains: No. of other repeats or domains	No. of DNRLRE domains
MM1136 (1110)	<i>M. mazei</i> (A)	Conserved protein	3
Q977X0 (1077)	<i>M. mazei</i> (A)	Disaggregatase PbHI : 7	3
MM1144 (1095)	<i>M. mazei</i> (A)	Conserved protein	3
Q977Q4 (1077)	<i>M. mazei</i> (A)	Disaggregatase PbHI : 7	3
Q977X1 (1077)	<i>M. mazei</i> (A)	Disaggregatase PbHI : 7	3
MA0957 (1196)	<i>M. acetivorans</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein PKD : 1, LGxL : 7 S-layer-related duplication domain	3
MA2384 (1000)	<i>M. acetivorans</i> (A)	Predicted protein; PbHI : 8, CADG:1	2
MM2071 (869)	<i>M. mazei</i> (A)	Conserved protein; RIVW:7	1 + 2
MM3280 (832)	<i>M. mazei</i> (A)	Conserved protein; PKD:1	1
MM2946 (675)	<i>M. mazei</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein	1
MA1059 (981)	<i>M. acetivorans</i> (A)	Predicted protein; PKD:1, PbHI : 9, CADG:1	2
MA4442 (597)	<i>M. acetivorans</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein; PbHI : 7, TonB_boxC:1	1
MM1118 (640)	<i>M. mazei</i> (A)	Conserved protein; TonB_boxC:1	1
MA3087 (936)	<i>M. acetivorans</i> (A)	Predicted protein; PbHI: 6	2
MM2804 (723)	<i>M. mazei</i> (A)	Conserved protein	1
MM1120 (698)	<i>M. mazei</i> (A)	Conserved protein	1
MA4444 (699)	<i>M. acetivorans</i> (A)	Predicted protein; PbHI : 8	1
ZP_00078100 (889)	<i>M. barkeri</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein	2

Table IC. Proteins containing the 70 amino acid residue PEGA domain

Gene or SWall identifier (No. of residues)	Organism	Description; other repeats or domain: No. of repeats or domains	No. of PEGA domains
MM 2742 (768)	<i>M. mazei</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein; RIVW:7	2
MA2794 (630)	<i>M. acetivorans</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein; RIVW:8	1
MA0637 (362)	<i>M. acetivorans</i> (A)	S-layer-like protein	2
Q56436 (469)	<i>T. thermophilus</i> (B)	S-layer-like protein	4
TM0841 (456)	<i>T. maritima</i> (B)	S-layer-like protein	4
Q8RQ51 (353)	<i>L. interrogans serovar lai</i> (B)	S-layer like protein	2
AAN47834 (527)	<i>L. interrogans serovar lai</i> (B)	S-layer-like protein	2

Table ID. Proteins containing the 45 amino acid residue LGxL repeat

Gene or SWall identifier (No. of residues)	Organism	Description; other repeats or domains: No. of other repeats or domains	Number of LGxL tandem repeats
MA0957 (1196)	<i>M. acetivorans</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein; PKD:1, DNRLRE:3	7
ALL7024 (445)	<i>Anabaena</i> sp (B)	Hypothetical protein	7
CPN0799 (349)	<i>C. pneumoniae</i> (B)	Hypothetical protein	7
CPN0797 (365)	<i>C. pneumoniae</i> (B)	Hypothetical protein	7
CPJ0797 (365)	<i>C. pneumoniae</i> (B)	Hypothetical protein	7
CPN0798 (337)	<i>C. pneumoniae</i> (B)	Hypothetical protein	7
CPN1075 (674)	<i>C. pneumoniae</i> (B)	Hypothetical protein	6
CPN0796 (680)	<i>C. pneumoniae</i> (B)	Hypothetical protein	6
XF2069 (94)	<i>X. fastidiosa</i> (B)	Hypothetical protein	2
XF2349 (745)	<i>X. fastidiosa</i> (B)	Hypothetical protein	7
XF2021 (200)	<i>X. fastidiosa</i> (B)	Hypothetical protein	4
XF1265 (309)	<i>X. fastidiosa</i> (B)	Hypothetical protein	5
ATU0778 (848)	<i>A. tumefaciens</i> (B)	Hypothetical protein	4 + 2

Table IE. Proteins containing the 42 amino acid residue LVIVD repeat

Gene or SWall identifier (No. of residues)	Organism	Description; other repeats or domains: No. of repeats or domains	No. of LVIVD tandem repeats
MA1510 (2115)	<i>M. acetivorans</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein; PKD:1, LGFP: 8	7
MM 0391 (761)	<i>M. mazei</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein; PKD:1	10 + 4
MA4 034 (757)	<i>M. acetivorans</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein; PKD:1	10 + 4
TM0946 (316)	<i>T. maritima</i> (B)	Hypothetical protein	6
ZP_00077673 (1970)	<i>M. barkeri</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein	4 + 10
ZP_00065207 (14609)	<i>M.r degradans</i> (B)	Hypothetical protein	2 + 2
ZP_00045566 (11699)	<i>Magnetococcus</i> sp. MC-1 (B)	Hypothetical protein	2
ZP_00099871 (373)	<i>D. hafniense</i> (B)	Hypothetical protein	6 (not tandem)

Table IF. Proteins containing the 55 amino acid residue LGFP repeat

Gene or SWall identifier (No. of residues)	Organism	Description; other repeats or domains: No. of repeats or domains	No. of LGFP tandem repeats
CGL2875 (657)	<i>C. glutamicum</i> (B)	PSI protein precursor	5
CGL1840 (527)	<i>C. glutamicum</i> (B)	Hypothetical protein	4
CGL1848 (629)	<i>C. glutamicum</i> (B)	Hypothetical protein	5
CGL1890 (528)	<i>C. glutamicum</i> (B)	Hypothetical protein	5
CGL0794 (527)	<i>C. glutamicum</i> (B)	Hypothetical protein	4
CGL2546 (540)	<i>C. glutamicum</i> (B)	Hypothetical protein	5
RV2721 (699)	<i>M. tuberculosis</i> (B)	Hypothetical protein	6
ML1002 (687)	<i>M. leprae</i> (B)	U22351 (Possible conserved membrane protein)	6
RV3811 (539)	<i>M. tuberculosis</i> (B)	CSP	2
Q9KIJ0 (246)	<i>M. paratuberculosis</i> (B)	Rv2721c-like protein	2
MA1510 (2115)	<i>M. acetivorans</i> (A)	Hypothetical protein; PKD:1, LVIVD:7	8
DR1115 (398)	<i>D. radiodurans</i> (B)	S-layer-like array-related protein	3
CE2709 (669)	<i>C. efficiens</i> (B)	PSI protein	5

The proteins are represented by their corresponding gene or SWall identifiers along with the number of amino acid residues indicated in brackets in the first column. The organism and corresponding phylogeny are indicated in the second column; 'A' represents archaea and 'B' represents bacteria, respectively. The third column contains the description of the proteins containing the repeats or the domains identified elsewhere, including those identified in the present work and the total number of such repeats or domains. The fourth column represents exclusively the total number of novel tandem repeats or the domains observed in this work, in proteins represented by their corresponding gene or Swall identifier in the first column. In Table IA, PKD, PEGA, DNRLRE represent domains (the latter two identified in this work) and YVTN is a tandem repeat. Proteins corresponding to gene identifiers MM1677 and MA1838 are also associated with the EF-hand motif that is known to bind calcium. The fourth column, e.g. indicating 7 + 7, represents two distinct regions along the protein, each corresponding to the seven RIVW tandem repeats, and so on. In Table IB, CADG, TonB_boxC represent domains and PbHI is a repeat. In Table IC, S-layer like protein is a domain conserved in some surface layer proteins. In Table ID, the gene identifier MA0957 comprises a S-layer related domain. In Table IE, the gene identifier ZP_00077673 comprises YD repeats. In Table IF, the gene identifier RV3811 comprises a peptidoglycan recognition protein (PGRP) region.

domain, which is discussed later. Table 1A shows that proteins containing RIVW repeats may have variable numbers of individual repeats with the exception observed in the protein corresponding to gene identifier ZP_00077720 that is identified with a single RIVW copy. Further, in (cell surface) protein corresponding to gene identifier MA1838 comprising the RIVW repeats, there are

intervening aa residues between the fifth and sixth repeats. We observed that sequences corresponding to the RIVW repeat containing proteins shown in Table 1A have pairwise percentage sequence identities that vary (range 9–73%). The consensus secondary structure is predicted to comprise four β -strands (see Figure 1A). The tandem AB repeats associated with other cell surface proteins

are known to form a β -propeller (Jing *et al.*, 2002). Likewise, it is possible that the RIVW repeats identified by us in cell surface proteins and predicted to comprise 4 β -strands in each repeat may also form a β -propeller (as represented in Figure 2A) although we have not carried out analysis to verify this in the present work. Further, we observed that the repeats are specific to the genus *Methanosarcina*, as shown in Table 1a. This suggests that these proteins may form a specific array on the cell surface and mediate a function specific to this genus via the possible β -propeller structure.

200 aa residues DNRLRE domain

In the protein represented by the gene identifier MM2071, we identified a 200 aa residue region in addition to the RIVW repeat (see Figure 2A). This region is referred as a domain as it does not comprise internal sequence repeats. The domains are present towards the N and C-termini in MM2071. The extent of similarity shared between the domains is greater than 65%. Further searches of the databases using the sequence corresponding to this domain (position 472–671) as a query in the BLAST program, we identified several proteins

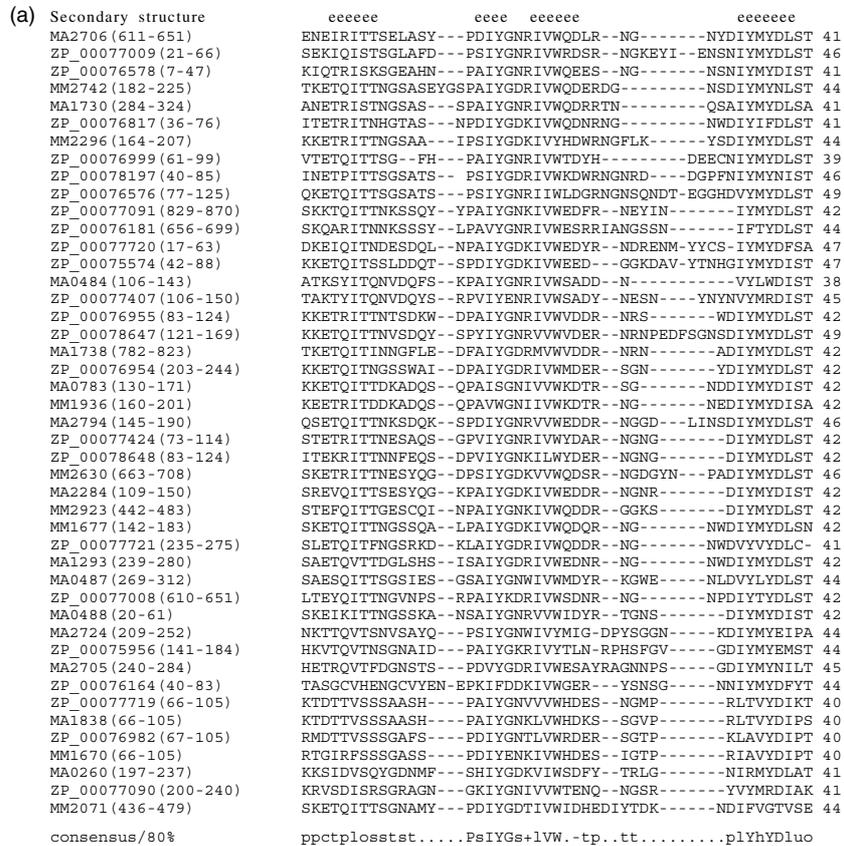


Figure 1. The multiple sequence alignments corresponding to representative repeats and domains from various proteins along with their gene or SWall identifiers and secondary structure predictions (e, strand; h, helix) for (A) RIVW repeat, (B) DNRLRE domain, (C) PEGA domain, (D) LGxL repeat, (E) LVIVD repeat and (F) LGFP repeat. The numbers given in brackets indicate the start and end amino acid residue positions corresponding to either the repeat or the domain. The 80% consensus is labelled according to the alignment generated at the website www.bork.embl-heidelberg.de/Alignment/consensus.html: alcohol (o, ST); aliphatic (l, ILV); any (., ACDEFGHIKLMNPQRSTVWY); aromatic (a, FHWWY); charged (c, DEHKR); hydrophobic (h, ACFGHIKLMRTVWY); negative (-, DE); polar (p, CDEHKNQRST); positive(+, HKR); small (s, ACDGNPSTV); tiny (u, AGS); turn-like (t, ACDEGHKNQRST). A capital letter indicates 80% conservation of corresponding amino acid residue. The secondary structure prediction indicated at the top was derived using the PHD program. Residues forming β -sheets are represented by 'e' and residues forming α -helices is given by 'h'

(b) Secondary structure	eee	eeee	eeee eeee	eeeeeee
MM1118 (437-636)	VVETDKTSLTEENSS-DI	DNRLKESTPDTVYQDKEYLDIGRRPGIGKYRDLFLNLSKY		
MA4442 (391-591)	VAGTENTSTEENATGIV	DNRLREASPDVVYQDKVYIDIGRRPGVGRYRDLFLPDLFSKY		
MA3087 (514-714)	TETEENVSFTEENATGI	ADNRLREASPIYTYQEKAYIDIGRRPGVGRYRDLFLPDLFSKY		
Q977X0 (664-863)	TTKETPAPIIINETINEA	DNRLREASPDVYQDSAFIDVGGMN-DARYRDIWFDLDEF		
MM1144 (682-881)	TTKETPAPIIINETINEA	DNRLREASPDVYQDSAFIDVGGMN-DARYRDIWFDLDEF		
Q977X1 (664-863)	TTKETPAPIIINETINEA	DNRLREASPDVYQDSAFIDVGGMN-DARYRDIWFDLDEF		
Q977Q4 (664-863)	TTKETPAPIIINETINEA	DNRLREASPDVYQDSAFIDVGGMN-DARYRDIWFDLDEF		
MM1136 (693-896)	AEKALPVVPTIDKTI	TRAIADNRLREGSPDVTYQDSAFIDVGGMN-DARYRDMVWFDLSVY		
MA0957 (598-798)	VSVTPPESEEEIVSEI	EVSDNRLREASPDVTYKSSSFDVGGMSI	SGVGRYRDAIQFDLSEY	
MM2071 (472-671)	IFVGTVSEGGYII	SEI	EVSDNRLREASPDVTYKSSSFDVGGMN-NVRYRDI	LQFDLSKY
MA2384 (593-792)	KQEDTSKQEDPSTIT	GEVYDNRLREASPDIVYQSSPFDVGGMS-IGSYRDI	WFDLSVY	
MM3280 (630-829)	TPPEDSISDGSAAK	KLVFDNRLREASPDVFQSSPYIDIGGMS-SVRYRDMVWFDLSKY		
MM2946 (474-673)	TKYASKSGSAGDQA	AGKVDNRLREASPEAVFQNTSFDIGGMS-TGRVYRDMVWFDLSKY		
ZP_00078100 (688-886)	PKLNI	EKRVTANATITDAKDNRLREISPEGVFSDTPFDAGELSNVGYRDI	SFNLSEY	
MA1059 (584-781)	ANI	TVENDSNPDEDIKIYDNRLREASPDVTIQNKPFIDVGGTDN	VGRYRDMVWFDLSKY	
MM2804 (521-720)	SPGLQTSAPT	AGPQISEMYDNRLREKSPYTYPSKPCLDLGN	SPGVGNDRDIWFDLSGY	
MM1120 (495-693)	ISGSDNEELEIVL	PLVSDNRLKEENPDSTRDTEYIDVGGESPDGGKYRDI	WFDLSKY	
MA4444 (496-694)	ASGSEEEENLKI	SLSVADNRLKEEAPNTYRETEYIDVGERP	GGGIYRDMVWFDLSKY	
ZP_00077909 (493-692)	SMQSDKAENLKI	ALPFIISDNRLREAPNITFSDSBYIDVGGKSDGGIYRDI	WFDLSKY	
consensus/80%	s t h t h DNRLREtoP-	.sapsp.aIDlGths.supYRDIhhFsLspa		
Secondary structure	hhhhh	eeeeee	eeee	eeee
MM1118 (437-636)	ND---	AENISNATLSLWYYPDGI	ERPEDI	VEVYRPA
MA4442 (391-591)	DE---	AENITNATLSLWYYPDGI	ERPEDI	VEVYRPA
MA3087 (514-714)	DD---	AENITNATLSLWYYPDGI	ERPEDI	VEVYRPA
Q977X0 (664-863)	ND---	TTEVTDSTLSLWYYPAGNER	PDVTI	EVYRPA
MM1144 (682-881)	ND---	TTEVTDSTLSLWYYPAGNER	PDVTI	EVYRPA
Q977X1 (664-863)	ND---	TTEVTDSTLSLWYYPAGNER	PDVTI	EVYRPA
Q977Q4 (664-863)	ND---	TTEVTDSTLSLWYYPAGNER	PDVTI	EVYRPA
MM1136 (693-896)	NS---	DSQITNAVLSLWYYPAGNT	RPDDT	VEVYRPA
MA0957 (598-798)	NS---	DSQITNAVLSLWYYPAGNT	RPDDT	VEVYRPA
MM2071 (472-671)	TS---	NSRITNAVLSLWYYPAGNT	RPDDT	VEVYRPA
MA2384 (593-792)	AD---	YSEVNSATLSLWYYPAGK	ARPDDT	VEVYRPA
MM3280 (630-829)	TG---	SANVNNATLSLWYYPAGI	SRSDT	VEVYRPA
MM2946 (474-673)	ET---	SAEIDNATLSLWYYPAGI	SRSDT	VEVYRPA
ZP_00078100 (688-886)	TS---	ATEVDSATLSLWYYPSS	-TRSDN	TVIEIYR
MA1059 (584-781)	SD---	QKISKALISLWYYPPEE	-SRP	EDTVEIYR
MM2804 (521-720)	NKT---	AEKISSAVLSLWYYPPT	VPKTRD	-TVVDLYR
MM1120 (495-693)	DET---	DSIEKATLSLWYYPPE	-EARP	EDIVLEVYR
MA4444 (496-694)	NQT---	DQVDEATLSLWYYPENQ	IRSKDT	ILEVYR
ZP_00077909 (493-692)				
consensus/80%	sppplspusLSLaWYYPts.tRs-DTllElYRPss.Ws.paVSNp+-psl.Wpp			
Secondary structure	eeeeeeeee	eeeeeeeee	eeee hhhhhh	eee eeeee
MM1118 (437-636)	PGGDWFD	DMNNTSQGDAPYATITIKGSDIP	DNRYE	LNVTDLV
MA4442 (391-591)	PGGDWFD	DMNNTSQGDAPYATITIKGSDIP	DNRYE	LNVTDLV
MA3087 (514-714)	PGGDWFD	DMNNTSQGDAPYATITIKGSDIP	DNRYE	LNVTDLV
Q977X0 (664-863)	AGGDWYDKNGIT	QGDTPYASIALKGS	ELPDNKYHEIDV	TELVN
MM1144 (682-881)	AGGDWYDKNGIT	QGDTPYASIALKGS	ELPDNKYHEIDV	TELVN
Q977X1 (664-863)	AGGDWYDKNGIT	QGDTPYASIALKGS	ELPDNKYHEIDV	TELVN
Q977Q4 (664-863)	AGGDWYDKNGIT	QGDTPYASIALKGS	ELPDNKYHEIDV	TELVN
MM1136 (693-896)	AGGDWYDKNGV	LQGSTPYATFTIRGS	APDNRYE	LDVTELV
MA0957 (598-798)	EGGDWYDRNGV	LQGSTPYATFTIRGS	APDNRYE	LDVTELV
MM2071 (472-671)	PGGDWYDKNGI	LQGNTPYATITITV	KGSSFP	PGDKYEL
MA2384 (593-792)	AGGDWYDRNGV	LQGSTPYATITITV	KGSSFP	PGDKYEL
MM3280 (630-829)	PGGDWYDKNGV	LQGSTPYATITITV	KGSSFP	PGDKYEL
MM2946 (474-673)	PGGDWYDKNGV	LQGSTPYATITITV	KGSSFP	PGDKYEL
ZP_00078100 (688-886)	AGGDWYDRNGV	LQGSTPYATITITV	KGSSFP	PGDKYEL
MA1059 (584-781)	AGGDWYDKNGV	LQGSTPYATITITV	KGSSFP	PGDKYEL
MM2804 (521-720)	AGGDWYDKNGV	LQGSTPYATITITV	KGSSFP	PGDKYEL
MM1120 (495-693)	PGGDWYDKNGV	LQGSTPYATITITV	KGSSFP	PGDKYEL
MA4444 (496-694)	PGGDWYDRNDV	LQGSTPYATITITV	KGSSFP	PGDKYEL
ZP_00077909 (493-692)	SGGDWYDRNGI	FQGSTPYAKVTITIKG	STL	PDNRYE
consensus/80%	GGDwad+sGl.QGssPYAo1s1+uuplPDN+YElSVT-LVpEYhSGcYENTGFLIKSR			
Secondary structure	e	eeeeeee	eee	
MM1118 (437-636)	AENADYVAFYSSEID	ENQRPLAI	200	
MA4442 (391-591)	NENADYVAFYSSEID	ENQRPLAI	201	
MA3087 (514-714)	TEADYVAFYSNEGG	ENQRPLAI	201	
Q977X0 (664-863)	DENNYYVAFYSNECG	KETQKPSLNI	200	
MM1144 (682-881)	DENNYYVAFYSNECG	KETQKPSLNI	200	
Q977X1 (664-863)	DENNYYVAFYSNECG	KETQKPSLNI	200	
Q977Q4 (664-863)	DENNYYVAFYSNECG	KETQKPSLNI	200	
MM1136 (693-896)	DENNYYVAFYSNECG	KETQKPSLNI	204	
MA0957 (598-798)	TESNYYVAFYS	SDWTDENQKPKITV	201	
MM2071 (472-671)	TDSNYYVAFYS	SDWTDENQKPKITV	200	
MA2384 (593-792)	TENNYYVAFYS	SDCNGENQKPKITV	200	
MM3280 (630-829)	TERNYYVAFYS	SDCNGENQKPKITV	200	
MM2946 (474-673)	TENNYYVAFYS	MEAGSENQRPKL	200	
ZP_00078100 (688-886)	SENDNYVAFYS	ADCGNMQVPLK	199	
MA1059 (584-781)	SESNNYVAFYS	SDCNGENQKPKITV	198	
MM2804 (521-720)	YENS	DYVAFYSLECD	EGDFEPKLDI	200
MM1120 (495-693)	AEDSDYVAFYS	SEWQNKQMPRL	SI	199
MA4444 (496-694)	SESSNYVAFYS	SEWQNKQMPRL	SI	199
ZP_00077909 (493-692)	EEDENYVAFYS	SNWQNKQMPRL	SI	200
consensus/80%	sEsSsYIAFYSS-htpcsQcPpLs1			

Figure 1. Continued

(c)	Secondary structure	eee eeeee eee eeee eeeeeee eeeeeeeeee
	Q56436 (187-256)	EATLEVDSSPRGAEVYVDCRREKTP---LSLAVRPGRHEVELRLPGYAPYRAAVNARPG
	TM0841 (314-386)	QSSSLKLRTPDPSGVDVYIDGRYVGTDDQNLNLLDPMYEVKLEKEGYETDRFTVNLAPG
	MM2742 (571-643)	FKKLRITSIPEGANILLDGEYIGKTP--KETKITDLRTYLIACLEGEYERWEQKSEVQAS
	MA2794 (562-630)	STDLRISISIPEGAKASIDGKYIGKTP--KSIISIGELKTYSVQLELEGEYKNNWQCKPDKL
	Q8RQ51 (118-188)	DGLISVTSNPEGASVYLGSEFLGKTP--ITNVRVKTYGNRLRLSMEGHVDLLKGVVEIKDD
	AAN47834 (292-362)	DGLISVTSNPEGASVYLGSEFLGKTP--ITNVRVKTYGNRLRLSMEGHVDLLKGVVEIKDD
	MA0637 (133-202)	RWTYSVSSSPSGAKVYLDGEYKGVTP---VVFNAEGRQHKLTIKKTYGTVSKEINASDD
	consensus/80%	pt.lplsS.PpGAplhlsucahGpTP...shhsc.th.plpLphpGa.sh.ttsphp.s
	Secondary structure	eeeeeeee
	Q56436 (187-256)	ERVRVFAR--LVPEP 70
	TM0841 (314-386)	EKEEIFRR--LEKRV 73
	MM2742 (571-643)	NKSEVQVEALLTEKQ 73
	MA2794 (562-630)	EKQEQIQT--LSR-- 69
	Q8RQ51 (118-188)	EETKLDLV--LKQGN 71
	AAN47834 (292-362)	EETKLDLV--LKQGN 71
	MA0637 (133-202)	PSILIEEK--LHLSL 70
	consensus/80%	pc.cl.h..Lp.t.
(d)	Secondary structure	eeee eeeee eeeee eeeee
	ALL7024 (265-312)	--NSSINPTDDLGLTGGG---YSEAKAINNLGQ--VVGFTTANGE---TNAFLTAP 48
	MA0957 (222-264)	--VTIT---DLGTLGCN---YSAEGINNKQ--VVGFTQDTGV---EHAFLWQN 43
	CPJ0797 (95-138)	--HLIK---HLGTLGGE---ASSAEGISKDGEVVVWGSDTREGY---THAFVFDG 44
	CPN0797 (95-138)	--HLIK---HLGTLGGE---ASSAEGISKDGEVVVWGSDTREGY---THAFVFDG 44
	CPN0796 (333-376)	--GMV---DLGTLGGP---ESYAQGVSDGKIVVGRAQVPSGD---WHAFICPF 44
	CP1075 (327-370)	--GMV---DLGTLGGP---ESYAQGVSDGKIVVGRAQVPSGD---WHAFICPF 44
	CPN0798 (293-336)	--GRMI---DLGTLGGG---ASFAPGVSDDGKTIVGKFETELGE---CHAFIYLD 44
	CPN0799 (274-317)	--GVMS---DLGTLGGG---YSAAGVVSATGKIVGMSSTANGK---LHAFKYVG 44
	XP2021 (75-124)	--ENWET---KTRGLSRLSDNLGNSKVVALSANGKIAAGYSETDSKT---IHAVIWSG 50
	XP1265 (91-143)	--DNWAT---KTELGSLKSDSSGASIVVALSSDGKIAAGQSSIDSRYSNLREATVWSG 53
	XP2069 (43-92)	--KNWAT---KTDLGLTQKDNLGSYVVALSSDGKIAVGYAETDSKS---LHAIWISG 50
	XP2349 (375-424)	--DHMQT---KIDLGLTKSDNSGYSISTALSADGTVAAGYSEVDSGK---DHATVWKI 50
	ATU0788 (208-253)	ATGVMT---AIDMPADV---SSVANDVSLDGRVVVVEGYFTAANV---HAFRTWA 46
	consensus/80%	. . t . hh cLGoLtus S . s . ulStsGphhsGhupstpt HAhh . .
(e)	Secondary Structure	eeeeee eeeee eeeee eeeee
	ZP_00065207 (3352-3393)	NGPFRDVKIAGRYAYIAAS--HEGVVADVADPSPMPIIAKIDTL 42
	MA1510 (170-210)	SGDAWDVAVSGKYAVAFG--AG-LVIVDISAPTSPTLVGSYDT 42
	ZP_00077673 (378-419)	SGTTYAVAVSGNYAYLASG--DNKLVIVDISNLSLKFASSCYT 42
	MM0391 (415-456)	GGWAQGITVSGNYAYVIDM--ANGFIVDISNPSPILEGMYDT 42
	MA4034 (414-455)	GGWAQHITVSGNYAYVTDN--ANGFIVDIGNPSPTLKGIDYDT 42
	ZP_00045566 (7290-7329)	MGAENGIIVSGQTAIYIS---QGDLLAINISNPTAPSVIGVYDE 40
	TM0946 (263-300)	GCKAQLWLVEGFLYIADF--NGYLTVDVSDPSHMEVFNVL 42
	ZP_00099871 (14-58)	HGRTMQVMKYKDYLYVGNMVPGIGTIIVDVTNPSLPLVCGEMPA 44
	consensus/80%	tGhs.tlhl.tpahYls...tt.lhllDlusPo...hht.h.t
(f)	Secondary Structure	eeee eeee hhhhhhh
	RV2721 (170-221)	LGAPVGDET--YDGEVTAQKFSGGEVSMNRATKEFTTVPAVLAELKQLQVAID- 52
	ML1002 (163-214)	LGVVPADES--FDGEVISQKFSGGAVFNKKSSEFTTEPTALAEQLTGLLVATD- 52
	CGL1848 (168-221)	LGPPKSNELTNPDGVGKRSEFVGGAIYWHPDTGAYA-VTLDGLRQWGLTNWESGP 54
	CGL1890 (67-120)	LGPPKSNELTNPDGVGKRSEFVGGAIYWHPDTGAYA-VTLDGLRQWGLTNWESGP 54
	CGL2875 (464-517)	LGYPSTSELKTPDGRGRFVTFEHGSIYWTATTGPWE-IPGDMLAAGTQDYEGKS 54
	CE2709 (476-529)	LGFPKTRLESTPDGRGRYVHFENGSIYWSAATGPWE-IPGDMFTAWGTQGYEAGG 54
	RV3811 (420-472)	LGAPTSPEADAADG-ARYATFAKGAMYSPVTDAAQP-ITGAIYEAWASQSYERGP 53
	CGL1840 (278-331)	LGFPPIADEAVTADGVGRFSVFPQNGVVYWHHPQHGAHP-ILGDIYSIWREGEAESGE 54
	CGL0794 (287-331)	LGFPPIADEAVTADGVGRFSVFPQNGVVYWHHPQHGAHP-ILGNIYSIWREGEAESGE 54
	CGL2546 (276-329)	LGFPPIADEAVASDCVGRFSVFPQNGVLYWHHPHGAWE-MTGFIEEVWKRGGGLDSQ 54
	Q9KIJ0 (157-207)	LGAPTNEQKNPDG-GVYQQFDGGVI--VSKTQAYV-VWGKIRDKWNQLGGSQGG 51
	MA1510 (603-654)	LGFPITDQR-EKDG-HDYCVFEGGIIIDWNSDTGTYDVKLGYEGLLFRAKDGDIV- 52
	DR1115 (239-290)	LGDPITYATRWADG--WWQRFE-GVGAYGDAVLLHANGSSRAYAVHGAIFKRYLD 52
	consensus/80%	LG.PhssEh...DG.shht.FttGsl.Wpstpt.a..h.s.hht.att.thtts.

Figure 1. Continued

where this domain is present. A list of 18 proteins comprising this domain is shown in Table 1B and some proteins, as indicated, contain more than one domain. The proteins comprising this domain are described as either conserved, hypothetical or predicted proteins and correspond to the *M. acetivorans*, *M. mazei* or *M. barkeri* genomes. One of the proteins is disaggregatase from

M. mazei. Four distinct regions within this domain are characterized by conserved sequence motifs; DNRLRE, LSLxWYYP, YENTGFLIK, AFYS. For the sake of simplicity, we refer to this 200 aa region as the DNRLRE domain. The pairwise percentage sequence identities corresponding to the DNRLRE domain varies (range 42–100%). The consensus secondary structure predicted for

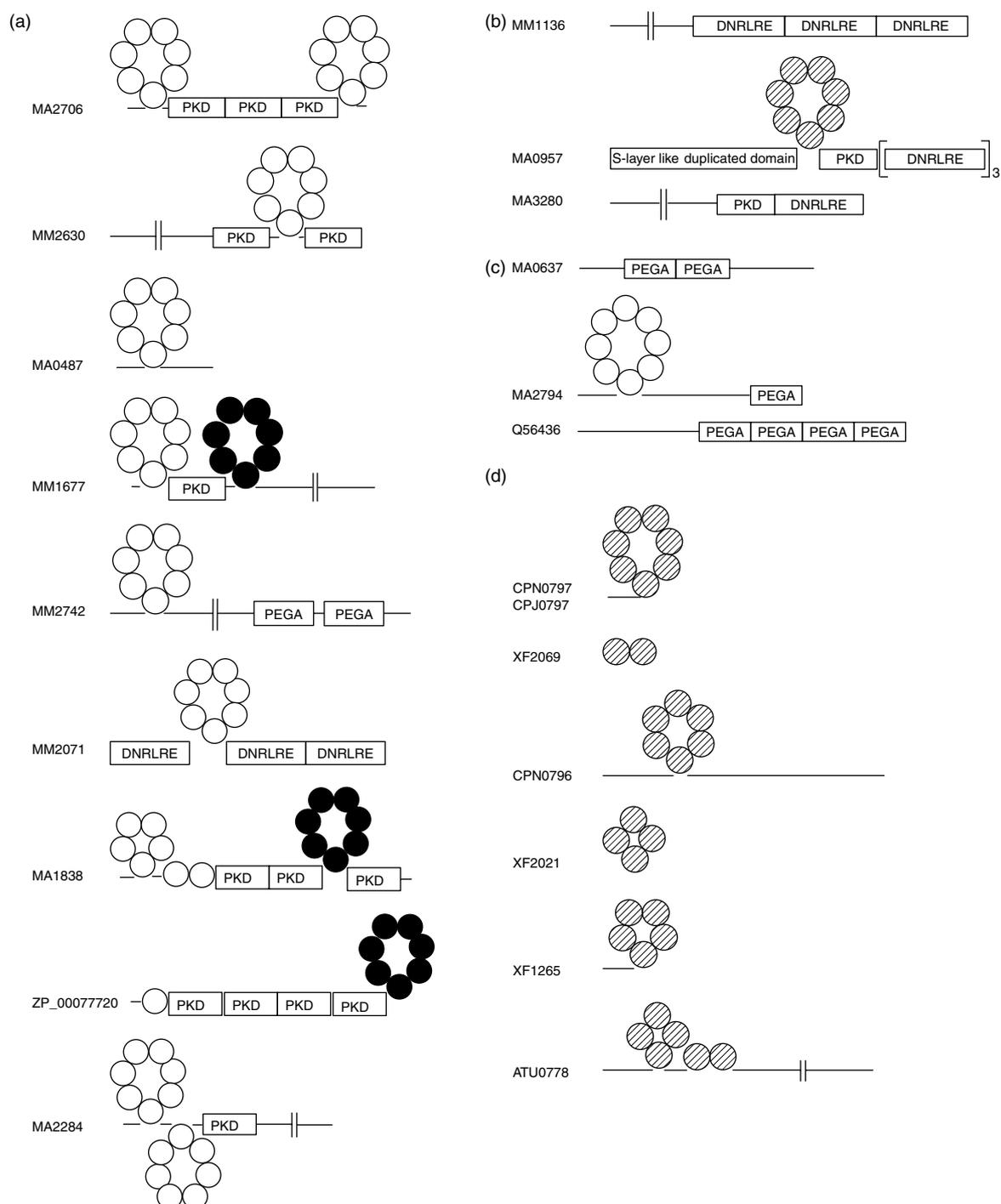


Figure 2. (A) ○ represents a single RIVW repeat; ● represents a single YVTN (or AB) repeat; DNRLRE; PKD; PEGA represent the corresponding domains. (B) ⊘ represents LGxL repeat; (E) ⊕ represents LVIVD repeat; □□□□ represents the LGFP repeat and (F) Ag 85-like domain represents a 285 amino acid residue antigen 85-like protein; PGRP represents peptidoglycan recognition protein

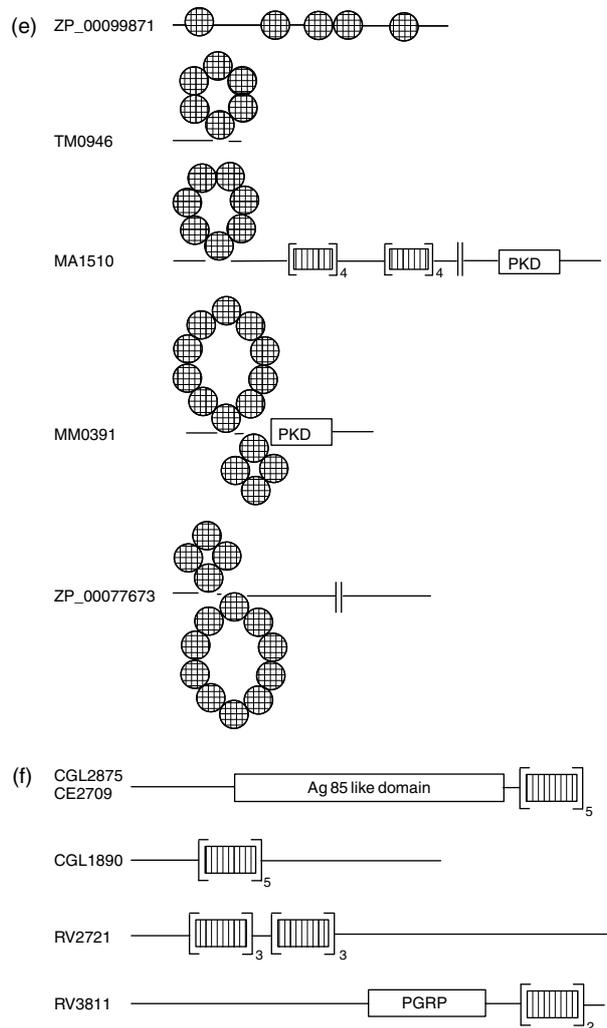


Figure 2. Continued

this domain suggests mainly β -strands and two α -helices (see Figure 1B). The association of the conserved sequence motifs to regular secondary structure may be inferred from Figure 1B. Further, based on the BLAST sequence analysis corresponding to the region outside the DNRLRE domain, we noticed that some of these proteins also contain other well-characterized regions identified by others earlier, such as PbH1, CADG and TonB-boxC. These are also indicated in Table 1B. For details of these other regions refer the INTERPRO database (Mulder *et al.*, 2003).

The schematic representation of the domain architectures that represent these 18 proteins is shown in Figure 2B. These comprise either three

DNRLRE domains, as in the protein with gene identifier MM1136 or associated with a PKD domain, S-layer duplicated domain and a LGxL tandem repeat (described later in this work) as in the protein with the gene identifier MA0957. Also, the DNRLRE domain-containing proteins, like the proteins containing RIVW repeats, appears to be specific only to the organisms of genus *Methanosarcina* and may be involved in mediating specific cell functions on the cell surface.

70 aa residues PEGA domain

RADAR analysis of the protein with gene identifier MM2742 (described as a hypothetical protein

in the *M. acetivorans* genome) indicated a 70 aa residue region that is present as two copies in addition to the RIVW tandem repeats, as shown in Figure 2A. These two 70 aa residue regions share 41% sequence identity. The BLAST program searches against the database with query sequence corresponding to the aa sequence in the region 661–723 positions in MM2742 identified other proteins. The list of proteins containing this domain is shown in Table 1C. As can be seen, the domain is observed in *Thermus thermophilus*, *Thermotoga maritima*, *Leptospira interrogans* and *M. acetivorans* and described as either hypothetical or S-layer like proteins. The multiple sequence alignment corresponding to this domain identified two characteristic sequence motifs; PEGA and LxxxG, where x is any aa residue. This is shown in Figure 1C. We refer to this as the PEGA domain. The secondary structure is predicted to comprise essentially β -strands. Based on the secondary structure predictions, we observed that PEGA sequence corresponds to a loop connecting two β -strands, whereas LxxxG sequence corresponds to the end of a β -strand and a portion of a loop connecting another β -strand. The pairwise percentage sequence identities vary (14–46%). The domain architecture representing proteins containing PEGA domain is shown in Figure 2C. The protein with gene identifier MA2794 is also associated with eight RIVW tandem repeats. By inference, we propose that the two hypothetical proteins with gene identifiers, MM2742 in *M. mazei* and MA2794 in *M. acetivorans* (see Table 1C), which comprise the PEGA domain in addition to the RIVW repeats may also be S-layer like proteins.

45 aa residues LGxL repeat

The 1196 aa residues containing protein corresponding to gene identifier MA0957 in *M. acetivorans* comprises a 45 aa residues repeat. Each repeat corresponds to the following conserved sequence motifs; LGxL, VVG, HA distributed along the repeat sequence. For simplicity we refer to these as the LGxL repeats. These repeats are present in addition to the PKD domain, S-layer-like duplicated domain and three DNRLRE domains as shown in Figure 2B. The sequence homology shared between this LGxL repeats in MA0957 varies (30–76%). The search of the database with

BLAST program using the query sequence corresponding to the region 222–264 in MA0957 identified several ‘hypothetical’ proteins containing this repeat region from organisms such as *Anabena* sp, *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, *Xylella fastidiosa* and *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*. The list of 13 proteins containing this repeat is shown in Table 1D. The length of proteins identified varied (94–1196 aa residues). Each protein represented a variable number of tandem repeats. We observed that proteins containing the LGxL repeat seem not to be associated with the repeats or the domains described until now (see Figure 2D), except the protein corresponding to the gene identifier MA0957 (see Figure 2B). The multiple sequence alignment corresponding to this repeat is shown in Figure 1D. The pairwise percentage sequence identities between sequences corresponding to LGxL repeats vary (6–68%). The secondary structure is predicted to comprise four β -strands and the conserved sequence motifs described above are associated with β -strands (see Figure 1D). The representative domain architecture corresponding to proteins comprising the LGxL tandem repeats (also likely to be associated as a β -propeller fold) is shown in Figure 2D.

42 aa residues LVIVD repeats

The protein corresponding to the gene identifier MA1510, comprising 2115 aa residues in *M. acetivorans* and described as a hypothetical protein, contains approximately 42 aa residues repeat regions. Each repeat present in tandem is associated with YAYV, LVIVD sequence motifs. We refer to these as the LVIVD repeats. The sequence identities vary (17–72%). In addition, the RADAR program also identified another repeat region comprising ~54 aa residues in MA1510, which is discussed later. The BLAST searches corresponding to the LVIVD repeats (region 170–210 in MA1510) identified a number of proteins from various organisms such as *M. mazei*, *M. barkeri*, *Thermotoga maritima*, *Microbulbifer degradans*, *Magnetococcus* MC-1, *Desulfotobacterium hafniense* that are classified as hypothetical proteins. The list of eight proteins containing the 42 aa residue LVIVD repeats and the number of repeats observed in the protein is indicated in Table 1E. The pairwise percentage sequence identities in this case vary (10–83%). The secondary structure corresponding

to the LVIVD repeat is predicted to comprise four β -strands, as shown in Figure 1E and the four β -strands may be associated as a β -propeller. The representative domain architectures corresponding to proteins containing this repeat are shown in Figure 2E. Some of the LVIVD repeat-containing proteins may also be associated with PKD domain or the LGFP repeat (discussed below).

54 aa residues LGFP repeat

The protein corresponding to the gene identifier MA1510 contains a 54 aa residues repeat with a conserved L-G-x-P-x(7)-D-G sequence motif. For simplicity we refer to this as the LGFP repeat. Four such repeats are present in tandem and there are two distinct regions along the sequence associated with the LGFP tandem repeats. The two regions are located between the well-characterized PKD domain and LVIVD tandem repeats. The BLAST searches of the LGFP sequence (corresponding to the 603–654 aa residue region in MA1510) identified the LGFP repeats in several proteins from different genomes, e.g. *Corynebacterium glutamicum*, *C. efficiens*, *M. tuberculosis*, *M. leprae*, *M. paratuberculosis*, *Deinococcus radiodurans*. Table 1F indicates the 13 proteins comprising the LGFP tandem repeats and the number of times these are observed. Once again, many proteins described as 'hypothetical' in the SWall database are observed. The *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* protein Rv3811 is a cell surface protein (CSP) and the protein from the bacterial species *D. radiodurans*, DR1115, is a S-layer-like array related protein. Two proteins, CGL2875 and CE2709, are PS1 proteins of *C. glutamicum* and *C. efficiens*, respectively. The multiple sequence alignment corresponding to the repeat shown in Figure 1F suggests that the aa conservation is more towards the N-terminal half of the repeat region. The pairwise percentage sequence identities vary (15–98%). The secondary structure is predicted to comprise two β -strands and one α -helix (see Figure 1F). The representative domain architecture for proteins comprising this repeat is shown in Figure 2F.

In another context, we know that the PS1 and PS2 are two major secretory proteins in *C. glutamicum* genome (Joliff *et al.*, 1992). Freeze-fracture electron microscopy studies of *C. glutamicum* indicated the presence of ordered arrays on its surface associated with the PS2 protein (Chami

et al., 1995). The PS1 protein corresponding to the gene identifier CGL2875 (comprising 657 aa residues) in *C. glutamicum* is encoded by the *csp1* gene and is also associated with the cell wall. CGL2875 has a N-terminal region that is similar to *M. tuberculosis* antigen 85 complex, which functions as a mycolyl transferase that catalyses the transfer of mycolic acid to arabinogalactan and trehalose monomycolate (Puech *et al.*, 2000). It has been shown that the N-terminal region (of CGL2875) possess the mycolyl transferase activity and the C-terminal region is not required for this activity (Puech *et al.*, 2000). The five LGFP tandem repeats identified by us correspond to the C-terminal region in *C. glutamicum* (gene identifier CGL2875) and *C. efficiens* (gene identifier CE2709), as shown in Table 1F and in the corresponding Figure 2F. We therefore hypothesize that the PS1 proteins in *Corynebacterium* (CGL2875 and CE2709), when associated with the cell wall, may be anchored via the LGFP tandem repeats that may be important for maintaining cell wall integrity. Experimental evidence to our hypothesis comes from the recent work of Brand *et al.* (2003) who demonstrated that the deletion of CGL2875 protein resulted in a 10-fold increase in the cell volume of the organism and inferred the corresponding protein's involvement in the cell shape formation.

Conclusions

A systematic analysis combining automated tools and manual evaluation identified four novel tandem repeats and two domains corresponding to the cell surface proteins in *M. acetivorans*. Further database searches corresponding to these newly identified tandem repeats and domains identified several other proteins, some of as-yet uncharacterized function, thereby associating cell surface-like properties to such proteins. The RIVW repeats and DNRLRE domain specific to the genus *Methanosarcina* may be responsible for structural organization and function specific to the cell wall in *Methanosarcina*. The repeats and domains identified in the present work that are common to several other organisms may mediate some important cellular function in proteins specific to archaeal and bacterial species. The proteins comprising LGxL, LVIVD and LGFP repeats amongst other repeats analysed may be associated with lower than 15%

sequence identity. The RIVW, LGxL and LVIVD repeats are predicted to comprise four β -strands per repeat, and the proteins comprising seven such tandem repeats may be associated with a β -propeller fold reminiscent of the cell surface proteins comprising the tandem AB repeats associated with a β -propeller fold. The identification of novel repeats and domains corresponding to cell surface proteins from various organisms may be useful for annotation.

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