

Luteolibacter cuticulihiirudinis sp. nov., isolated from *Hirudo medicinalis*.

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Abstract

A Gram-negative, coccoid shaped bacterium isolated from the outer surface of the medicinal leech *Hirudo medicinalis* was characterized. The 16S rRNA gene sequence comparison revealed that the bacterium was closely related to species of the genus *Luteolibacter*. *Luteolibacter pohnpeiensis* was the most closely related species (94.6 % sequence similarity), followed by *Luteolibacter luojiensis* (93.4 %) and *Luteolibacter algae* (93.3 %). Chemotaxonomic data (major ubiquinone: MK-9; major polar lipids: phosphatidylethanolamine and phosphatidylglycerol; and major fatty acids: iso-C(14:0), C(16:0), iso-C(16:1), and anteiso-C(15:0)) supported the affiliation of the isolate to the genus *Luteolibacter*. DNA-DNA hybridizations with the type strain of *L. pohnpeiensis* was 31 % (reciprocal value 30 %). A phenotypic differentiation of strain E100(T) from *L. pohnpeiensis* and the other *Luteolibacter* species was possible by several physiological tests. We conclude Strain E100(T) represents a novel species, for which we propose the name *Luteolibacter cuticulihiirudinis* sp. nov. with the type strain E100(T) (=CCM 8400(T) = LMG 26924(T)).

Beteiligte Forschungseinheiten

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