



# Characterization of Novel Bacterial Species Identified by Undergraduate Students in a General Microbiology Course.

Kristen Collins, Jordan Krebs, Karen Kirk, Katherine Smith, Trisha Duncan, KC Failor, Jeff Newman; Lycoming College, Williamsport, PA.



newman@lycoming.edu

**Abstract**  
**Background:** While surveying the microbial diversity in local freshwater creeks as part of an Undergraduate Microbiology course, the 16S rRNA sequences several isolates suggested that they may be novel species within the genera *Chryseobacterium*, *Kaistella*, *Comamonas*, and *Micrococcus*.

**Methods:** Subsequent polyphasic characterization and comparison to related Type species included morphological studies, Biolog GenIII Microplate analysis, API test panels, Fatty Acid Methyl Ester (FAME) analysis, a variety of differential and selective media, and multi-locus sequence analysis.

**Results:** The phenotypes and protein coding sequences of *Chryseobacterium* sp. BL598 were sufficiently similar to *Chryseobacterium oranimeense* that DNA/DNA hybridization or whole genome sequencing may be required to conclusively demonstrate its novelty. Strain KM showed clear phenotypic and genomic differences from its closest relatives, *Chryseobacterium luteum*, *C. shigense* and *C. crustatense*. Characteristics of strain JIC are very distinct from most *Chryseobacterium* but cluster with *Chryseobacterium* (formerly *Kaistella*) *korensis* and *Chryseobacterium hafnense*. The fatty acid composition and sequences of strain SJM are significantly different from its closest relatives, *Comamonas aquatica*, *C. kerstersii*, *C. testosteroi*, and *C. terrigena*. Strains LY01 and LYE1 appear to be atypically pigmented members of the species *Micrococcus luteus*, but will require DNA-DNA hybridization or genomic sequence to draw conclusions.

**Conclusions:** Several strains are clearly distinct and the names *Chryseobacterium angstadtii* KM, *Kaistella zaccaria* JIC, and *Comamonas franzi* SJM are proposed.

**Methods**

- Environmental unknowns cultured & characterized in Microbiology course
- Colony PCR of 16S rDNA with primers 27f & 1492r, 1 Sanger seq reaction
- Compare sequence to validly published type strains (Eztaxon.org)



Fully sequence both strands of nearly complete 16S rDNA  
 - Submit Sequence to GenBank  
 - Clustal W Alignment, Neighbor Joining Tree to infer phylogenetic relationships

Morphological/Metabolic characterization w/standard tests  
 - Colony morphology, color, Gram stain, wet mount  
 - Temperature, O<sub>2</sub>, pH, NaCl requirements  
 - Carbohydrate & Nitrogen metabolism  
 - Exoenzymes, differential and selective medium

API Test Strips (50 CH, 20E/NE, ZYM)  
 Fatty Acid Methyl Ester (FAME) Analysis (MIDI)  
 Biolog GenIII metabolic profile  
 Family-specific tests such as Multi Locus Sequence Analysis, pigment analysis, respiratory quinones, polar lipids, cell wall amino acids.

Deposit Strains in Culture Collections (e.g. ATCC, DSMZ, CCUG, JCM, ARS/NRRL)

**Species identification assigned**

**Publish new species in IJSEM**

International Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary Microbiology

## Comamonas franzi SJM

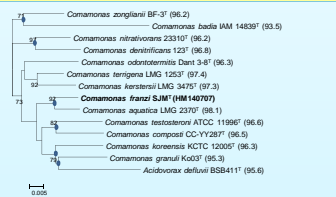


Fig C1. Neighbor Joining Tree to illustrate Phylogenetic Relationships based on 16S rRNA Sequence. Numbers in parentheses correspond to pairwise similarity to *C. franzi*.

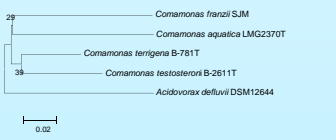


Figure & Table C1. Estimates of Evolutionary Divergence between *Comamonas* spp. Sequences.

Neighbor-joining tree (above) and distance table (below) based on the number of base substitutions per site from analysis between sequences is shown. All results are based on the pairwise analysis of 5 sequences. Analyses were conducted using the Maximum Composite Likelihood method in MEGA4 [1, 2]. All positions containing gaps and missing data were eliminated from the dataset (Complete deletion option). There were a total of 444 positions in the final dataset.

	1	2	3	4	5
1. <i>Comamonas franzi</i> SJM	-				
2. <i>Comamonas aquatica</i> LMG2370T	0.167	-			
3. <i>Comamonas terrigena</i> B-781T	0.136	0.138	-		
4. <i>Comamonas testosteroi</i> B-2611T	0.138	0.147	0.084	-	
5. <i>Acidovorax defluvi</i> DSM12644	0.178	0.177	0.141	0.141	-

Table C2. Cellular fatty acid profiles (%) of strain SJM<sup>†</sup> and most closely related *Comamonas* species grown on TSA at 30°C for 24 hrs. Strains: 1, SJM<sup>†</sup>; 2, *Comamonas aquatica* LMG2370; 3, *Comamonas terrigena* B781<sup>†</sup>; 4, *Comamonas kerstersii* LMG3475<sup>†</sup>; 5, *Comamonas nitrativorans*, S123310<sup>†</sup>; 6, *Comamonas testosteroi* B2611<sup>†</sup>. tr = trace (<1%). Fatty acids amounting to <1% of the total fatty acids in the six strains are not shown. All data from this study.

Fatty acid	1	2	3	4	5	6
10:0 3OH	3.5	4.4	4.7	4.1	4.7	4.1
12:0	3.0	3.3	3.3	3.1	3.0	2.7
14:0	4.6	3.9	4.3	3.3	3.7	tr
SF3 - 16:1 w6c/w7c	15.7	34.9	37.5	23.5	45.3	33.9
17:0	29.7	27.4	30.5	25.2	24.2	32.2
16:0 cyclo	28.2	4.4	7.9	6.5	tr	8.2
SF8 18:1 w6c/w7c	13.6	19.4	10.2	31.8	18.6	14.0

Abbrev	Cfran	Cacu	Cker	Ctes	Ctit	Cchr
strain	LMG 2370T	B-781	LMG 3475T	23310	B-2611	2611T
<- test	Comamonas aquatica	Comamonas kerstersii	Comamonas testosteroi	Comamonas nitrativorans	Comamonas terrigena	Comamonas franzi
pH 5	-	-	-	-	-	-
1% NaCl	w	+	+	+	+	+
D-fucose	-	-	-	-	-	-
1% Na lactate	-	-	-	-	-	-
glycerol	-	-	-	-	-	-
D-aspartic acid	+	+	+	+	+	+
treandromycin	-	-	-	-	-	-
L-alanine	-	-	-	-	-	-
L-arginine	+	+	+	+	+	+
L-aspartic acid	w	+	+	+	w	+
L-histidine	-	-	-	-	-	-
L-lysine	-	-	-	-	-	-
lincomycin	-	-	-	-	-	-
guanidine HCl	-	-	-	-	-	w
D-gluconic acid	w	+	+	+	+	+
glucic acid	-	-	-	-	-	-
D-saccharic acid	-	-	-	-	-	-
vancomycin	-	-	-	-	-	w
L-alanine	-	-	-	-	-	-
p-hydroxyphenylacetic acid	-	-	-	-	-	w
o-keto glutamic acid	+	+	+	+	+	+
D-malic acid	+	+	+	+	+	+
L-malic acid	+	+	+	+	+	+
bromo-succinic acid	+	+	+	+	+	+
urea	-	-	-	-	-	w
urea-40	-	w	+	+	+	+
α-hydroxy-butyric acid	-	-	-	-	-	w
acetobacetic acid	+	+	+	+	+	+
propanoic acid	+	+	+	+	+	+
Cr-carotene-lyase	w	+	+	+	+	+
fermic acid	w	+	+	+	+	+
aztreonam	w	+	+	+	+	+
Na-butyrate	w	+	+	+	+	w
Cr-carotene-lyase	w	+	+	+	+	w
valine arylamidase	w	+	+	+	+	w
acid phosphatase	w	+	+	+	+	w
trypsin-1	w	+	+	+	+	w
trypsin-2	w	+	+	+	+	w
oxidoreductase	-	-	-	-	-	nd
glutamate decarboxylase	-	-	-	-	-	+
caprylate esterase	-	-	-	-	-	+
phosphotriesterase	-	-	-	-	-	+
44C	-	-	-	-	-	nd
EG minimal medium	-	-	-	-	-	nd

Table C3. Differential Characteristics among *Comamonas* species. nd = not determined, w = weak, + = positive response, - = negative response

## Conclusions

Strain SJM is sufficiently distinct at the phenotypic and molecular levels to merit description as a novel species. The name *Comamonas franzi* sp. nov. will be proposed.

## 3 Flavobacteriaceae

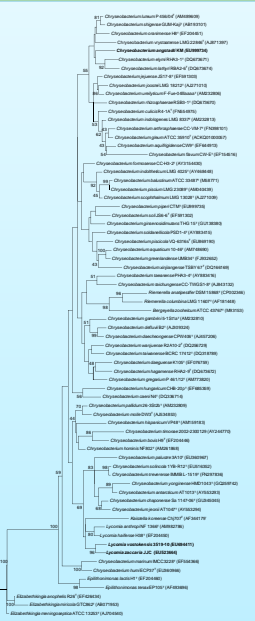


Fig F1. Neighbor Joining Tree to illustrate Phylogenetic Relationships based on 16S rRNA Sequence.

Table F1. Fatty Acid Composition of *Chryseobacterium* species and related genera. Note high percentage of 15:0 anteiso among non-*Chryseobacterium* strains.

Location	Form	Strain	KM	DSM 19565	DSM 17236	DSM 22844	DSM 20030	DSM 19399	DSM 18212	DSM 17072	DSM 12448	DSM 34	CCUG 50506	DSM 3915	JIC
10C	15:0 iso	15:0 iso	2.2	1.9	1.1	0.9	0.9	1.9	1.0	1.1	1.0	2.4	0.3	3.4	3.9
12J23	15:0 anteiso	15:0 anteiso	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
13B97	15:0 iso	15:0 iso	1.8	1.8	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
14J65	16:0 iso	16:0 iso	1.6	1.6	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
14J65	16:0 anteiso	16:0 anteiso	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
14J65	16:0 iso	16:0 iso	2.4	2.4	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
14J65	16:0 anteiso	16:0 anteiso	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
14J65	16:0 iso	16:0 iso	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
15J84	16:0 iso	16:0 iso	1.1	1.1	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
15J84	16:0 anteiso	16:0 anteiso	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
15J84	16:0 iso	16:0 iso	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
15J84	16:0 anteiso	16:0 anteiso	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	
15J84	16:0 iso	16:0 iso	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
15J84	16:0 anteiso	16:0 anteiso	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
15J84	16:0 iso	16:0 iso	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
15J84	16:0 anteiso	16:0 anteiso	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
15J84	16:0 iso	16:0 iso	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
15J84	16:0 anteiso	16:0 anteiso	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
15J84	16:0 iso	16:0 iso	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
15J84	16:0 anteiso	16:0 anteiso	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
15J84	16:0 iso	16:0 iso	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
15J84	16:0 anteiso	16:0 anteiso	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
15J84	16:0 iso	16:0 iso	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
15J84	16:0 anteiso	16:0 anteiso	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
15J84	16:0 iso	16:0 iso	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
15J84	16:0 anteiso	16:0 anteiso	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
15J84	16:0 iso	16:0 iso	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
15J84	16:0 anteiso	16:0 anteiso	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
15J84	16:0 iso	16:0 iso	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
15J84	16:0 anteiso	16:0 anteiso	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
15J84	16:0 iso	16:0 iso	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
15J84	16:0 anteiso	16:0 anteiso	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
15J84	16:0 iso	16:0 iso	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
15J84	16:0 anteiso	16:0 anteiso	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
15J84	16:0 iso	16:0 iso	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
15J84	16:0 anteiso	16:0 anteiso	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
15J84	16:0 iso	16:0 iso	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
15J84	16:0 anteiso	16:0 anteiso	0.1	0.1	0.2										