

Complete genome sequence of *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia* ESTM1D_MKCAZ16_6a (Sm18), a Mexican environmental multidrug- and amoeba-resistant strain

Pablo Vinuesa,¹ Fulvia-Stefany Argueta-Zepeda,^{1,2} Julio César Valerdi-Negreros,^{1,3} Diana Marisol Vázquez-Enciso,^{2,4} Mauricio Daniel Osorio-Herrera,^{1,5} Daniela Gutiérrez-Hernández,^{1,5} Karina Mendoza-Gómez,^{1,6} Javier Rivera,¹ Luz Edith Ochoa-Sánchez⁷

AUTHOR AFFILIATIONS See affiliation list on p. 3.

ABSTRACT *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia* ESTM1D_MKCAZ16_6a (Sm18) is a multi-drug-resistant strain isolated from river sediments in Morelos, Mexico. It is capable of replicating within acid Rab7A-positive *Acanthamoeba castellanii* phagosomes. The complete genome was assembled from Oxford Nanopore and paired-end Illumina reads, encoding 3,970 proteins and 91 RNAs on a single circular 4.48 Mbp chromosome.

KEYWORDS *Stenotrophomonas*, *Acanthamoeba*, metallostasis, multidrug resistance, amoeba, Mexico

Stenotrophomonas maltophilia ESTM1D_MKCAZ16_6a (Sm18) was isolated on MacConkey plates amended with 16 µg/mL ceftazidime from the sediment samples collected from the Las Estacas River (18.73262 N 99.11343 W), Morelos, Mexico (1). Sm18 was the only *S. maltophilia* strain found among the 108 environmental *Stenotrophomonas* isolates analyzed in that study (1). Strain Sm18 is multidrug-resistant, expressing metallo-β-lactamase activity, and resistant to 13 of the 15 drugs from five families tested (1), according to the 26th edition of the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (2). Sm18 requires the manganese importer MntH to replicate efficiently within the acidified Rab7A-positive phagosomes of *Acanthamoeba castellanii* trophozoites (3, 4). We selected Sm18, a rare example of a well-characterized environmental *S. maltophilia* strain, as our experimental model to study the genes involved in metallostasis, virulence, and host adaptation.

Genomic DNA was extracted from a 5 mL overnight culture of strain Sm18 grown in LB at 30°C using Genomic-tips 100/G (Qiagen). All subsequent protocols were performed according to the manufacturer's instructions. A short insert library was prepared using the Illumina Nextera XT DNA library preparation kit, followed by sequencing (2 × 300 cycles) on a MiSeq instrument (Illumina, Inc., San Diego, CA, USA). Raw fastq reads (4,054,325) were processed using Fastp version 0.20.0 (5), yielding 3,504,906 filtered paired-end reads. Long-read sequencing was performed on the same DNA preparation without DNA fragmentation or size fractionation using the Rapid Barcoding gDNA Sequencing Kit (SQK-RBK004), followed by sequencing on a MinION R9.4.1 device (Oxford Nanopore Technologies [ONT], Inc., Cambridge, MA, USA). All subsequent data analyses were performed using the software defaults. Base calling was performed using ONT's Albacore Sequencing Pipeline (version 2.3.3), yielding 3.25 Gbp with an N_{50} of 11.8 kbp after filtering with Filtlong version 0.2.0 (6). Long read assemblies were generated using the TryCycler version 0.5.3 pipeline (7) with Miniasm version 0.2 (8)/Minipolish version 0.1.3 (9), Flye version 2.9 (10), and Raven version 1.8.1 (11) assemblers, followed by sequential polishing of the single consensus contig with the Illumina short

Editor J. Cameron Thrash, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, USA

Address correspondence to Pablo Vinuesa, vinuesa@ccg.unam.mx.

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

See the funding table on p. 3.

Received 14 November 2025

Accepted 2 February 2026

Published 5 March 2026

Copyright © 2026 Vinuesa et al. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

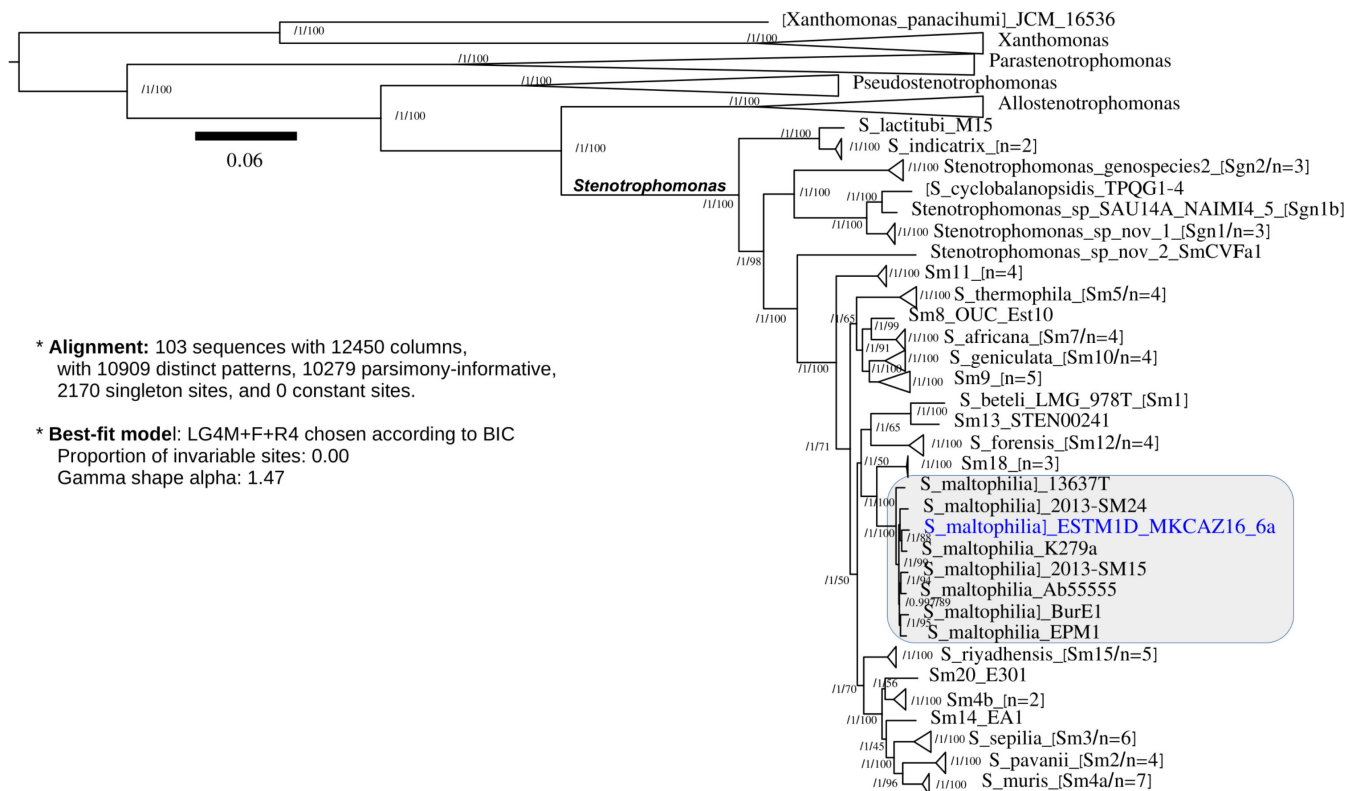


FIG 1 Maximum likelihood phylogeny estimated from a supermatrix of 106 core genome proteins selected by GET_PHYLOMARKERS out of 606 input core-genome sequences identified with GET_HOMOLOGUES from 103 genomes, showing that ESTM1D_MKCAZ16_6a (*Sm18*) is a *bona fide* *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia* strain, clustering in a perfectly supported clade with the type strain ATCC 13637^T and other well-characterized members of the species, such as K279a (16, 18). The tree was rooted with *Xanthomonas* spp. sequences. Numbers on bipartitions are aBayes/UFBoot support values. Validly described *Stenotrophomonas* species are indicated on the tree leaves following an established *Sm* clade numbering (16, 18). The number of genomes/strains in collapsed clades is indicated. Former *Stenotrophomonas* species recently reassigned to the new genera *Parastenotrophomonas*, *Pseudostenotrophomonas*, and *Allostenotrophomonas* (18) are shown as collapsed clades. *Pedostrophomonas* genomes were excluded from the analysis. The scale bar represents the number of expected substitutions per site under the best-fit model LG4M+F+R4 chosen by IQ-Tree 2 according to the Bayesian information criterion.

reads using Medaka version 1.8.1 (12) and Polypolish version 0.5.0 (13). Circularity was confirmed with TryCycler.

The genome was 4,482,207 bp long, with an average coverage of 125× and a GC% of 66.6. Gene calling and genome annotation were performed using NCBI's Prokaryotic Genome Annotation Pipeline (Docker image version 2023-10-03.build706) (14). The genome encodes 3,970 proteins, 24 pseudogenes, and 91 RNAs, including 4 rRNA operons. The gene encoding the chromosomal replication initiator protein DnaA was set as the first gene. Figure 1 shows a maximum likelihood species tree for the genus *Stenotrophomonas* inferred with IQ-TREE version 2.3.5 (15) from top-scoring core-genome proteins selected with GET_PHYLOMARKERS version 20230119 (16) and GET_HOMOLOGUES version 28082021 (17) from 103 input genomes, including relevant type strains (18). *Sm18* grouped with the clinical *S. maltophilia* reference strains ATCC 13637^T and K279a. The *Sm18* genome is valuable for studying the evolution of opportunistic pathogens in the environment and their interactions with free-living amoebae.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank Alfredo Hernández and Víctor del Moral for their expert technical support with server maintenance at the Centro de Ciencias Genómicas, UNAM. We thank all personnel at the Unidad Universitaria de Secuenciación Masiva y Bioinformática from IBt, UNAM, Mexico, for ONT MinION library construction and sequencing, and Jason

Steel at the ASU Genomics Facility (AZ, USA) for Illumina library construction and sequencing. We gratefully acknowledge the financial support received from Consejo Nacional de Humanidades Ciencias y Tecnologías (CONAHCyT Mexico, A1-S-11242), Secretaría de Ciencia, Humanidades, Tecnología e Innovación (SECIHTI CBF-2025-I-1106), and Programa de Apoyo a Proyectos de Investigación e Innovación Tecnológica (PAPIIT), Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (DGAPA-PAPIIT, UNAM: IN209321 and IN216424) to P.V.

F.-S.A.-Z., J.C.V.-N., and D.M.V.-E. were recipients of CONACYT scholarships 659308, 745705, and 720071, respectively. M.D.O.-H. received the SECIHTI scholarship 2158160, and D.G.-H. received the DGAPA-PAPIIT scholarship IN216424/009724.

AUTHOR AFFILIATIONS

¹Centro de Ciencias Genómicas, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico

²Programa de Maestría y Doctorado en Ciencias Bioquímicas, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City, Mexico

³Programa de Doctorado en Ciencias Biomédicas, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City, Mexico

⁴Instituto de Biotecnología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico

⁵Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City, Mexico

⁶Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo, Pachuca, Mexico

⁷Hospital Universitario 12 de Octubre, Madrid, Spain

AUTHOR ORCIDs

Pablo Vinuesa  <http://orcid.org/0000-0001-6119-2956>

Julio César Valerdi-Negreros  <http://orcid.org/0000-0001-7536-5483>

Diana Marisol Vázquez-Enciso  <http://orcid.org/0009-0000-2419-2332>

Luz Edith Ochoa-Sánchez  <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-1930-574X>

FUNDING

Funder	Grant(s)	Author(s)
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México	PAPIIT IN209321, PAPIIT IN216424	Pablo Vinuesa
Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONACYT)	A1-S-11242, SECIHTI CBF-2025-I-1106, beca 659308, beca 745705, beca 720071, beca SECIHTI 2158160	Fulvia-Stefany Argueta-Zepeda

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Pablo Vinuesa, Conceptualization, Data curation, Formal analysis, Funding acquisition, Investigation, Methodology, Project administration, Software, Supervision, Validation, Visualization, Writing – original draft, Writing – review and editing | Fulvia-Stefany Argueta-Zepeda, Investigation, Methodology | Julio César Valerdi-Negreros, Investigation, Methodology | Diana Marisol Vázquez-Enciso, Investigation, Methodology | Mauricio Daniel Osorio-Herrera, Investigation, Methodology | Daniela Gutiérrez-Hernández, Investigation, Methodology | Karina Mendoza-Gómez, Investigation, Methodology | Javier Rivera, Methodology | Luz Edith Ochoa-Sánchez, Investigation

DATA AVAILABILITY

The complete genome sequence of *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia* strain ESTM1D_MKCAZ16_6a (Sm18) and associated raw reads were deposited in GenBank under BioProject [PRJNA1081934](#) with accession number [CP146374](#).

REFERENCES

- Ochoa-Sánchez LE, Vinuesa P. 2017. Evolutionary genetic analysis uncovers multiple species with distinct habitat preferences and antibiotic resistance phenotypes in the *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia* complex. *Front Microbiol* 8:1548. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmicb.2017.01548>
- CLSI. 2016. Clinical and laboratory standards institute (CLSI) performance standards for antimicrobial susceptibility testing. 26th ed. Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute, Wayne, PA.
- Argueta-Zepeda F-S, Rivera J, Valerdi-Negreros JC, Rensing C, Vinuesa P. 2025. The *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia* MntR miniregulon includes novel extracytoplasmic components and affects replication in *Acanthamoeba castellanii* phagosomes. *bioRxiv*. <https://doi.org/10.1101/2025.10.14.682371>
- Rivera J, Valerdi-Negreros JC, Vázquez-Enciso DM, Argueta-Zepeda F-S, Vinuesa P. 2024. Phylogenomic, structural, and cell biological analyses reveal that *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia* replicates in acidified Rab7A-positive vacuoles of *Acanthamoeba castellanii*. *Microbiol Spectr* 12:e0298823. <https://doi.org/10.1128/spectrum.02988-23>
- Chen S, Zhou Y, Chen Y, Gu J. 2018. Fastp: an ultra-fast all-in-one FASTQ preprocessor. *Bioinformatics* 34:i884–i890. <https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/bty560>
- Rrwick/Filtlong: Quality Filtering Tool for Long Reads. 2022. GitHub. Available from: <https://github.com/rrwick/Filtlong>
- Wick RR, Judd LM, Cerdeira LT, Hawkey J, Méric G, Vezina B, Wyres KL, Holt KE. 2021. Tricycler: consensus long-read assemblies for bacterial genomes. *Genome Biol* 22:266. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13059-021-02483-z>
- Li H. 2016. Minimap and miniasm: fast mapping and *de novo* assembly for noisy long sequences. *Bioinformatics* 32:2103–2110. <https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/btw152>
- Wick R. 2024. Rrwick/Minipolish. Python. <https://github.com/rrwick/Minipolish>
- Kolmogorov M, Yuan J, Lin Y, Pevzner PA. 2019. Assembly of long, error-prone reads using repeat graphs. *Nat Biotechnol* 37:540–546. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41587-019-0072-8>
- Vaser R, Šikić M. 2021. Time- and memory-efficient genome assembly with Raven. *Nat Comput Sci* 1:332–336. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43588-021-00073-4>
- Nanoporetech/medaka Python. 2024. Oxford Nanopore Technologies.
- Wick RR, Holt KE. 2022. Polypolish: short-read polishing of long-read bacterial genome assemblies. *PLoS Comput Biol* 18:e1009802. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1009802>
- Tatusova T, DiCuccio M, Badretin A, Chetvernin V, Nawrocki EP, Zaslavsky L, Lomsadze A, Pruitt KD, Borodovsky M, Ostell J. 2016. NCBI prokaryotic genome annotation pipeline. *Nucleic Acids Res* 44:6614–6624. <https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkw569>
- Minh BQ, Schmidt HA, Chernomor O, Schrempf D, Woodhams MD, von Haeseler A, Lanfear R. 2020. IQ-TREE 2: new models and efficient methods for phylogenetic inference in the genomic era. *Mol Biol Evol* 37:1530–1534. <https://doi.org/10.1093/molbev/msaa015>
- Vinuesa P, Ochoa-Sánchez LE, Contreras-Moreira B. 2018. GET_PHYLO-MARKERS, a software package to select optimal orthologous clusters for phylogenomics and inferring pan-genome phylogenies, used for a critical geno-taxonomic revision of the genus *Stenotrophomonas* *Front Microbiol* 9:771. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmicb.2018.00771>
- Contreras-Moreira B, Vinuesa P. 2013. GET_HOMOLOGUES, a versatile software package for scalable and robust microbial pangenome analysis. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 79:7696–7701. <https://doi.org/10.1128/AEM.02411-13>
- Chauviat A, Abrouk D, Brothier E, Muller D, Meyer T, Favre-Bonté S. 2025. Genomic and phylogenetic re-assessment of the genus *stenotrophomonas*: description of *Stenotrophomonas thermophila* sp. nov., and the proposal of *Parastenotrophomonas* gen. Nov., *Pseudostenotrophomonas* gen. Nov., *Pedostenotrophomonas* gen. Nov., and *Allostentenotrophomonas* gen. Nov. *Syst Appl Microbiol* 48:126630. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.syapm.2025.126630>