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Antibiotic properties of Marine Natural Products (MNPs) derived from marine bacteria from New Caledonia against methicillin-susceptible Staphylococcus aureus (MSSA) and methicillin-resistant S. aureus (MRSA)



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## INTRODUCTION

### **CONTEXT:**

- 1 million death related to ARB in 2019<sup>1</sup>
- 10 million deaths related to ARB estimated for 2050 if no changes<sup>2</sup>.
- Establishment of a list of bacteria against which new antibiotics are urgently needed by the WHO including several ARB from the ESKAPE group
- faecium, Staphylococcus Klebsiella (Enterococcus aureus, pneumoniae, Acinetobacter baumannii, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Enterobacter spp., Escherichia coli)<sup>3</sup>.
- Circulation of ARB in the Pacific Region including New Caledonia (Fr.)<sup>4,5</sup>.
- 16S rRNA sequencing allowed the identification of several marine bacterial genera including Vibrio, Salinivibrio and *Bacillus* (Table 1).
- Contact assays against *S.aureus* were positive for BT53, BT60, BT115 and BT211 bacteria (Table 1).
- 3 marine bacteria from *Salivibrio* genus (BT53, BT60 and BT115) showed interesting activity compared to a *Bacillus* strain (BŤ50)(Figure 2).

# RESULTS

#### Table 1: Marine strains identified by 16S rRNA approach; 0: not yet tested, (+) activity, (-) no activity, the number of signs indicates the number of experiments carried out.

Bacterial CODE	Genus	Activity on MSSA & MRSA
BT 24	Vibrio	0
BT 36	Photobacterium	0
BT 50	Bacillus	()
BT 53	Salinivibrio	(+++)
BT 60	Salinivibrio	(+++)
BT 74	Vibrio	(-)
BT 88	Bacillus	(-)
BT 115	Salinivibrio	(+++)
BT 117	Vibrio	0
BT 122	Photobacterium	()
BT 135	Vibrio	0
BT 146	Bacillus	0
BT 161	Pantoea	(-)
BT211	not identified	(++)
BT 249	Halomonas	(-)
BT 280	Pseudoalteromonas	0
BT 284	Pseudoalteromonas	(-)

- New Caledonia recognized as marine biodiversity hotspot, source of innovative MNPs of pharmacological interest<sup>6</sup>.
- Bioprospecting campaigns in New Caledonia isolate certain marine bacteria with antibiotic properties<sup>7,8</sup>.

### **OBJECTIVES & APPROACHES:**

- To investigate the antibiotic potential of MNPs from New Caledonian marine bacteria and to understand their mode of action.
- To strengthen private partnership with the New Caledonian biotechnology start-up BIOTECAL.
- Implement microbiological tests and genomic approaches for bacterial identification.

## **MATERIALS & METHODS**

### Marine bacteria:

Marine bacteria collected in New Caledonian lagoons and isolated on Zobell<sup>9</sup> agar and liquid medium at 30°C or 37°C. Genus identification using 16S rRNA sequencing approach (Table 1).

### Pathogenic bacteria:

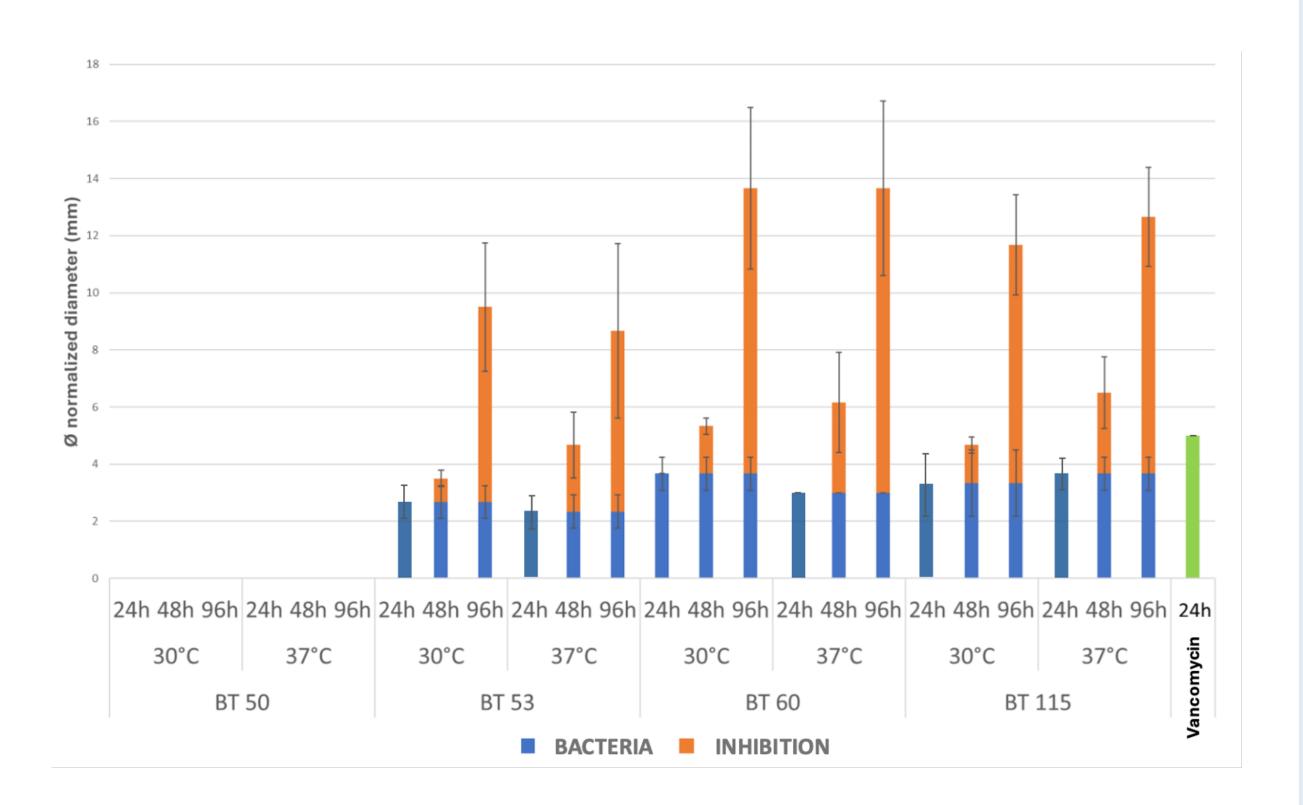
MSSA (ATCC 25923) and MRSA (CIP 65.25) strains from ATCC and CIP collection. Cultured in Lysogeny Broth (LB) liquid and Mueller-Hinton Enriched (MHE) agar médium at 37°C.

### **Co-culture assays**:

Marine bacteria co-cultured with pathogenic *S.aureus* (LB : Zobell, 1:2) for 1 week at 37°C. Collection of culture supernatant and bacterial pellet. Supernatant centrifuged to eliminate bacteria. Pellet lysed with DMSO 100%.

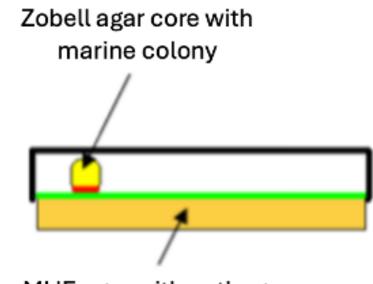
- The potential impact of the culture temperature of marine bacteria was analyzed during contact tests, and a previous culture of marine bacteria BT53, BT60 and BT115 at 37°C appears to increase the inhibition diameter at 48 hours compared to a preculture at 30°C and at 96 h, the inhibition diameters are equivalent (Figure 3).
- Interestingly, in contact test, while marine bacterial growth around the Zobell core is stable for 96H, inhibition diameter increased during time for BT53, BT60 and BT115 suggesting either a possible mobility of *S.aureus* under the marine bacteria pressure or an antibiotic effect of the marine bacteria (Figure 3).





### Contact test:

Deposit of an Zobell agar core of cultured marine bacteria on MHE plate in direct contact with seeded *S. aureus*. Incubation at 37°C for 96H. Daily macroscopic observation with measurement of inhibition halo. Growth of marine bacteria was detected around the Zobell core, and diameter measured.



MHE agar with pathogen

	Figure 1: Contact test set-up	(From BIOTECAL)
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### Well diffusion test:

LB agar seeded with *S.aureus* during the pouring of plate. Wells filled with supernatant from marine bacteria culture alone or co-cultured with S.aureus. Incubation at 37°C for 96H. Daily macroscopic observation with measurement of inhibition halo.

# **CONCLUSION & PERSPERCTIVES**

Figure 2: Contact test of BT50, BT53, BT60 and BT115 marine bacteria on MRSA. Observation after 96H idem figure 4; Example of measured inhibition diameter (orange hatched), example of measured bacterial diameter (blue hatched), diameter of the 6mm Zobell agar core (black circle). T-: Zobell core without bacteria (6mm), T+: vancomycin BIORAD 67828 at 5 µg/disc.

# Figure 3: Evolution of inhibition diameter during time in contact test against MRSA at 30°C and 37°C, n=3 <u>experiments, mean and sd;</u> Marine bacteria BT50, BT53, BT60 and BT115 were cultured at 30°C or 37°C prior to be tested against MRSA and diameter of the inhibition halo daily measured. Results show normalized halo where diameter of the Zobel core alone (6 mm) was subtracted. Growth of marine bacteria (blue) and inhibition diameter (orange) were measured. In green, the inhibition diameter of the reference antibiotic (vancomycin BIORAD 67828 at 5 µg/disc) without the disk.



- Antibiotic assays with supernatant or bacterial pellet of marine bacteria cultured alone did not reproduce inhibitory effect observed in contact test.
- Thus, co-culture assay was set up to investigate if presence of *S.aureus* is necessary for inhibitory activity. While no effect of bacterial pellet was detected (not shown), results showed inhibition of MSSA by

- 16 marine bacteria isolated from the lagoons of New Caledonia were screened and strains BT53, BT60 and BT115 belonging to the genus Salinivibrio showed an inhibitory effect on MSSA and MRSA during contact tests.
- Effect of the 3 *Salinivibrio* seems to be dependent of pre-culture incubation temperature.
- Evolution of inhibitory diameter during time suggests either an effect of marine bacteria on *S.aureus* mobility and/or an antibiotic effect.
- Co-culture of marine bacteria BT53, BT60 and BT115 with *S. aureus* showed inhibitory activity suggesting the need of pre-stimulation during culture possibly exerting regulatory effect on the production of metabolites of interests<sup>10</sup>.

Short term: Test other marine strains and resistant pathogens of the ESKAPE group; Produce extracts of marine bacteria by extractive chemistry.

Long term: Enhance the marine biodiversity of New Caledonia; Sustainable development; Response to the problem of antibiotic resistance.

supernatant of co-cultured bacteria BT53, BT60 and BT115 but not BT50 (Figure 4), reproducing results observed in contact tests. These results suggest a potential stressful condition needed for antimicrobial activity.

# Figure 4: Well diffusion test of the coculture supernatant of BT50, BT53, BT60 and BT115 marine bacteria on MSSA; T-: (LB:Zobell, 1:2), T+ :cefoxitin BIORAD 66228 at 30 μg/disc, the red arrows connected to the sign show the areas where MSSA was inhibited by the co-culture supernatant of strains BT53, BT60 and BT115.

#### References:

<sup>1</sup>Murray et al., 2019, The Lancet; <sup>2</sup>O'Neill et al., 2016, Analysis & policy observatory; <sup>3</sup>Tacconelli et al., 2017, The Lancet Infectious Diseases; <sup>4</sup>Bourles et al., 2022, Journal of Global Antimicrobial Resistance; <sup>5</sup>Colot et al., 2022, Infectious diseases Now; <sup>6</sup>Motuhi et al., 2016, Marine drugs; <sup>7</sup>Chalkiadakis et al. 2013, Journal of Applied Microbiology; <sup>8</sup>Dufourcq et al., 2014, Letters in Applied Microbiology; <sup>9</sup>Zobell et al., 1941, Journal of Marine Research; <sup>10</sup>Maglangit et al., 2020, Marine drugs.

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