

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO



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May 17, 2016  
El Paso, TX 79968

To: Dr. Welkin Pope  
Research Assistant Professor  
University of Pittsburgh

Ref: Annotated Genomes - Piccoletto & Nahla

Dear Welkin,

We are happy to submit the annotated genomes of the two phages isolated by our 2015-2016 cohort of the Phage Hunters at UTEP: Piccoletto and Nahla. The sequencing information we received indicated that the two phages differed from each other by only 61 bp. Each phage was annotated independently from the other by our students and the annotated files generated are attached. After we had finished our annotation, we performed follow-up experiments in the lab to confirm the differences indicated in the genomic sequence. To this end, we performed PCR amplifications around the region containing the extra 61 bp sequence followed by sequencing reactions of the products generated. These analyses indicated that the two genomes were identical. Nevertheless, the annotated genomes that we are submitting do not reflect this fact.

In the process of compiling the complete DNA Master file, we encountered an issue attaching BLAST data for gene 61 in Piccoletto. Although the BLAST search gave a 1:1 identity with a known gene, DNA Master did not allow us to attach the BLAST information for that gene. Besides this, during the final validation DNA Master indicated that a few genes contained incorrect lengths in both genomes. However, we manually inspected the lengths reported and verified that they were correct. We did not find any other issues during the annotation and all other genes appeared to be fairly straight-forward to annotate. All the gaps in the genomic sequences were examined in depth to verify that no other potential coding sequences were omitted.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this submission.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Germán Rosas-Acosta', written over a horizontal line.

Germán Rosas-Acosta, Ph.D.  
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The University of Texas at El Paso