**Supplementary Figure 1**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Mask 1** | **Mask 2** | **Mask 3** |
| **Mask 4** | **Mask 5** | **Mask 6** |
| **Mask 7** | **Mask 8** | **Mask 9** |
| **Mask 10** | **Mask 11** | **Mask 12** |
| **Mask 13** | **Mask 14** | **Mask 15** |

**Supplementary Figure 1.** *Bacterial colonies isolated from 15 randomly collected surgical face masks on blood agar.*

**Supplementary Table 1. BLASTn results of 16S rRNA-based identification of isolated bacteria from masks**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Mask number** | **Clone number** | **Seqeunce code** | **Trimmed sequence range** | **Sequence length** | **The highest identity record** | **Coverage (%)** | **Identity (%)** | **Genome accession number of the first highest identity record** |
| 1 | 1 | 2 | 21CDZAD040 | C:10-C:1095 | 1086 | *Bhargavaea ginsengi* | 100 | 100 | [KT719934.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/KT719934.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=1&RID=25JG1EB901N) |
| 2 | 1 | 5 | 21CDZAD020 | C:15-A:1078 | 1064 | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* | 100 | 100 | [CP119047.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/CP119047.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=1&RID=25G2BG9D016) |
| 3 | 1 | 6 | 21CDZAD014 | C:13-A:806 | 794 | *Staphylococcus warneri/pasteuri* | 100 | 100 | [MK203007.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/MK203007.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=3&RID=2B4WCTBV01N) |
| 4 | 2 | 1 | 21CDZAD049 | T:10-A:1074 | 1065 | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* | 100 | 100 | [CP065656.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/CP065656.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=1&RID=25KKUXBA016) |
| 5 | 2 | 2 | 21CDZAD039 | C:16-A:976 | 961 | *Staphylococcus epidermidis/warneri* | 100 | 100 | [CP040883.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/CP040883.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=1&RID=25JER61501N) |
| 6 | 2 | 4 | 21CDZAD005 | C:9-T:1050 | 1042 | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* | 100 | 100 | [CP040883.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/CP040883.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=1&RID=2D2B3N5Z013) |
| 7 | 3 | 1 | 21CDZAD029 | C:16-A:1142 | 1127 | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* | 100 | 100 | [CP040883.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/CP040883.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=1&RID=25H4ZG5D013) |
| 8 | 3 | 6 | 21CDZAD013 | C:15-T:806 | 792 | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* | 100 | 100 | [MT482624.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/MT482624.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=1&RID=2B4REJXX013) |
| 9 | 4 | 2 | 21CDZAD038 | A:31-T:1121 | 1091 | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* | 100 | 100 | [MT613456.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/MT613456.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=1&RID=25J99S4Y01N) |
| 10 | 4 | 3 | 21CDZAD035 | A:35-T:675 | 641 | *Staphylococcus warneri/pasteuri* | 100 | 100 | [MT642942.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/MT642942.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=1&RID=25J23833013) |
| 11 | 4 | 5 | 21CDZAD012 | C:17-T:882 | 866 | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* | 100 | 100 | [MT482624.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/MT482624.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=1&RID=2B5GVVNU013) |
| 12 | 5 | 1 | 21CDZAD048 | G:33-C:995 | 963 | *Staphylococcus aureus/argenteus* | 100 | 100 | [CP119113.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/CP119113.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=1&RID=25KJUC5U016) |
| 13 | 5 | 3 | 21CDZAD026 | A:36-A:1123 | 1088 | *Staphylococcus aureus/argenteus* | 100 | 100 | [CP119113.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/CP119113.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=1&RID=25GTP4ZE013) |
| 14 | 5 | 4 | 21CDZAD025 | T:17-A:1121 | 1105 | *Staphylococcus aureus/argenteus* | 100 | 100 | [CP119113.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/CP119113.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=1&RID=25GNBGXA016) |
| 15 | 6 | 1 | 21CDZAD037 | C:14-C:1151 | 1138 | *Staphylococcus warneri/pasteuri* | 100 | 100 | [OP263325.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/OP263325.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=2&RID=25J811HM01N) |
| 16 | 6 | 2 | 21CDZAD032 | C:14-A:1120 | 1107 | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* | 100 | 100 | [MT604781.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/MT604781.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=1&RID=25HR5VV501N) |
| 17 | 7 | 1 | 21CDZAD028 | C:19-A:1082 | 1064 | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* | 100 | 100 | [CP119047.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/CP119047.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=1&RID=25H37GJX013) |
| 18 | 7 | 3 | 21CDZAD027 | C:16-A:1079 | 1064 | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* | 100 | 100 | [CP119047.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/CP119047.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=1&RID=25GXRMBF016) |
| 19 | 8 | 1 | 21CDZAD047 | C:16-C:1043 | 1028 | *Staphylococcus hominis* | 100 | 100 | [MT544813.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/MT544813.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=1&RID=25KE2RRM013) |
| 20 | 8 | 2 | 21CDZAD031 | C:15-A:1147 | 1133 | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* | 100 | 100 | [CP024408.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/CP024408.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=1&RID=25HBN7FX016) |
| 21 | 9 | 1 | 21CDZAD046 | C:10-G:981 | 972 | *Paenibacillus lemnae* | 100 | 99.07 | MN581184.1 |
| 22 | 9 | 2 | 21CDZAD030 | C:19-C:1039 | 1021 | *Bacillus* spp*.\** | 100 | 100 | [OQ509998.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/OQ509998.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=4&RID=25H9NSXK016) |
| 23 | 9 | 4 | 21CDZAD011 | G:25-C:1087 | 1063 | *Bacillus* spp*.\** | 100 | 100 | OQ534872.1 |
| 24 | 10 | 1 | 21CDZAD045 | A:25-T:1030 | 1006 | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* | 100 | 100 | [MT605363.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/MT605363.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=1&RID=25K6MJC6016) |
| 25 | 10 | 2 | 21CDZAD024 | C:14-A:1077 | 1064 | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* | 100 | 100 | [CP119047.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/CP119047.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=1&RID=25GFE10V016) |
| 26 | 10 | 7 | 21CDZAD016 | A:22-A:1025 | 1004 | *Psychrobacter faecalis/pulmonis* | 100 | 100 | [MT269580.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/MT269580.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=1&RID=25E4SS97013) |
| 27 | 10 | 10 | 21CDZAD015 | T:19-G:1031 | 1013 | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* | 100 | 100 | [KY623304.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/KY623304.1?report=genbank&log$=nuclalign&blast_rank=1&RID=25F4JTJ2016) |
| 28 | 11 | 1 | 21CDZAD044 | T:14-A:1063 | 1050 | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* | 100 | 100 | [MT604781.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/MT604781.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=1&RID=25K4CMFA016) |
| 29 | 11 | 4 | 21CDZAD019 | T:13-G:916 | 904 | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* | 100 | 100 | [MT445298.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/MT445298.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=2&RID=25FUZW7T016) |
| 30 | 11 | 6 | 21CDZAD010 | T:10-T:795 | 786 | *Staphylococcus warneri/pasteuri* | 100 | 100 | [MT642942.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/MT642942.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=1&RID=2B6XJVB5016) |
| 31 | 12 | 2 | 21CDZAD036 | C:16-A:995 | 980 | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* | 100 | 100 | [CP040883.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/CP040883.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=1&RID=25J38YK301N) |
| 32 | 12 | 5 | 21CDZAD009 | C:12-C:1139 | 1128 | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* | 100 | 100 | [MT482624.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/MT482624.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=1&RID=2B73U1GT016) |
| 33 | 12 | 7 | 21CDZAD008 | T:24-A:1089 | 1066 | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* | 100 | 99.91 | KY623304.1 |
| 34 | 13 | 1 | 21CDZAD043 | T:15-A:973 | 959 | *Staphylococcus hominis* | 100 | 100 | [CP054883.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/CP054883.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=1&RID=25JY0YHM016) |
| 35 | 13 | 2 | 21CDZAD034 | C:13-C:1125 | 1113 | *Staphylococcus warneri/pasteuri* | 100 | 100 | [MT642942.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/MT642942.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=1&RID=25HTDYSU01N) |
| 36 | 14 | 1 | 21CDZAD042 | G:24-T:1120 | 1097 | *Bacillus altitudinis* | 100 | 99.91 | [OM670223.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/OM670223.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=1&RID=25JWSG77013) |
| 37 | 14 | 2 | 21CDZAD018 | T:21-G:1033 | 1013 | *Bacillus spp.\*\** | 100 | 100 | [MT605432.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/MT605432.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=1&RID=25FG0BXG013) |
| 38 | 14 | 3 | 21CDZAD017 | T:20-C:993 | 974 | *Sporosarcina newyorkensis* | 100 | 100 | [LN774518.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/LN774518.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=1&RID=25FEE30N013) |
| 39 | 15 | 1 | 21CDZAD041 | C:16-T:1123 | 1108 | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* | 100 | 100 | [MK425675.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/MK425675.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=1&RID=25JME1UE01N) |
| 40 | 15 | 4 | 21CDZAD021 | C:22-A:1126 | 1105 | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* | 100 | 100 | [CP119047.1](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/CP119047.1?report=genbank&log$=nucltop&blast_rank=1&RID=25G9E7N4016) |

\**Bacillus* spp: *B. thuringiensis, B. tropicus, B. cereus, B. proteolyticus, B. albus, B. toyonensis, B. subtilis, B. paranthracis, B. mobilis, B. wiedmanni,   
\*\**Bacillus spp.: *B. megaterium, B. aryabhattai, B. acidiceler, B. zanthoxyli*

**Supplementary Table 2. Molecular identification of bacteria isolated from surgical masks, and their selected biochemical characteristics**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Mask number** | **Clone number** | **Haemolysis\*** | **Salt tolerance**  **(6.5 % NaCl)** | **Mannitol fermentation** | **Coagulase** | **Result of molecular identification based on 16S rRNA** |
| 1 | 2 | - | + | - | - | *Bhargavaea ginsengi* |
| 5 | + | + | - | *-* | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* |
| 6 | + | + | + | *-* | *Staphylococcus warneri/pasteuri* |
| 2 | 1 | ++ | + | - | *-* | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* |
| 2 | ++ | + | - | *-* | *Staphylococcus epidermidis/warneri* |
| 4 | ++ | + | - | *-* | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* |
| 3 | 1 | ++ | + | - | *-* | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* |
| 6 | + | + | - | *-* | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* |
| 4 | 2 | + | + | - | *-* | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* |
| 3 | + | + | + | *-* | *Staphylococcus warneri/pasteuri* |
| 5 | ++ | + | - | *-* | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* |
| 5 | 1 | + | + | + | + | *Staphylococcus aureus/argenteus* |
| 3 | + | + | + | + | *Staphylococcus aureus/argenteus* |
| 4 | + | + | + | + | *Staphylococcus aureus/argenteus* |
| 6 | 1 | + | + | - | *-* | *Staphylococcus warneri/pasteuri* |
| 2 | ++ | + | - | *-* | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* |
| 7 | 1 | + | + | - | - | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* |
| 3 | + | + | - | *-* | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* |
| 8 | 1 | + | + | - | *-* | *Staphylococcus hominis* |
| 2 | + | + | - | *-* | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* |
| 9 | 1 | - | - | - | *-* | *Paenibacillus lemnae* |
| 2 | ++ | - | - | *-* | *Bacillus* spp. |
| 4 | ++ | - | - | *-* | *Bacillus* spp*.* |
| 10 | 1 | + | + | - | *-* | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* |
| 2 | + | + | - | *-* | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* |
| 7 | - | - | - | *-* | *Psychrobacter faecalis/pulmonis* |
| 10 | ++ | - | - | *-* | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* |
| 11 | 1 | + | + | - | *-* | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* |
| 4 | + | + | - | *-* | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* |
| 6 | + | + | + | *-* | *Staphylococcus warneri/pasteuri* |
| 12 | 2 | + | + | - | *-* | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* |
| 5 | ++ | + | - | *-* | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* |
| 7 | ++ | + | - | - | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* |
| 13 | 1 | + | + | - | *-* | *Staphylococcus hominis* |
| 2 | + | + | + | *-* | *Staphylococcus warneri/pasteuri* |
| 14 | 1 | ++ | + | + | *-* | *Bacillus altitudinis* |
| 2 | - | + | + | *-* | *Bacillus* spp. |
| 3 | - | - | - | *-* | *Sporosarcina newyorkensis* |
| 15 | 1 | + | + | - | *-* | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* |
| 4 | + | + | - | *-* | *Staphylococcus epidermidis* |

*++ intense haemolysis, + haemolysis visible under colonies, Both salt tolerance and mannitol fermentation were measured in Mannitol Salt Agar*