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Detailed description of *Senegalia massiliensis* strain Marseille-P2130^T, a bacterium isolated from the human gut.

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Running title: *Senegalia massiliensis*

Keywords: *Senegalia massiliensis*; culturomics; taxonogenomics; human gut; Bacteria

1 **Abstract**

2 Strain Marseille-P2130^T was isolated from the stool of healthy 13-month-old Senegalese
3 boy. It is a Gram-positive, aero-anaerobic rod-shaped, non-spore-forming and mobile
4 bacillus. It exhibited a 92.74% 16S rRNA gene sequence similarity with the *Brassicibacter*
5 *thermophilus* strain Cel2f, the phylogenetically closest-related species. Its genome is about
6 2.87 Mb long with 27.39 mol% G+C content. [Therefore, we provide more details of](#)
7 [Senegalia massiliensis strain Marseille-P2130T \(= CSURP2130 =DSM 103071\) which its](#)
8 [creation was announced before.](#)

9 Introduction

10 Recently, the culturomics concept developed in our laboratory allowed to change the
11 paradigm of the human gut microbiota [1]. Indeed, by this method, more than 50% of the
12 microorganisms present in the human gut microbiota are known. In order to improve culture
13 and bacterial identification, culturomics is associated with a new process named taxono-
14 genomics to provide exhaustive information and to better characterize bacterial species [4-
15 5]. Combining phenotypic characteristics and genomic analysis and comparison, this
16 polyphasic approach exceeds the limits of conventional methods long used for the
17 description of new species [7-8].

18 Here, we present the classification and features of *Senegalia massiliensis* strain
19 Marseille-P2130^T, including a description of the complete genome sequencing and
20 annotation.

21 Isolation and growth conditions

22 Strain Marseille-P2130^T was first isolated in 2015 from the stool of a healthy 13-
23 month-old Senegalese boy [11]. The sample was collected in Senegal and was then frozen at
24 -80°C. Subsequently, it was transported in dry ice to Marseille, where the bacterial culture
25 was started. The initial growth of bacterial cells was obtained on Columbia agar with 5% sheep's
26 blood after 2 days of anaerobic incubation at 37°C. The identification of strain Marseille-
27 P2130^T using Matrix Assisted Laser Desorption Ionization -Time of Flight Mass Spectrometry
28 (MALDI-TOF MS) was unsuccessful. The process was performed on a Microflex LT spectrometer
29 (Bruker, Daltonics, Bremen, Germany) as previously described [15]. The spectra obtained were
30 imported and analyzed using the Biotyper 3.0 software against the Bruker database permanently
31 improved with the local MEPHI database (**Figure 1**).

32 Strain identification and phylogenetic analysis

33 In order to identify the strain Marseille-P2130^T, the 16S rRNA gene was amplified
34 using the fD1 and rP2 primer pair (Eurogentec, Angers, France) and sequenced using the

35 Big Dye® Terminator v1.1 Cycle Sequencing Kit and 3500xLGenetic Analyzer capillary
36 sequencer (ThermoFisher, Saint-Aubin, France), as previously reported [16]. The 16S rRNA
37 nucleotide sequences were assembled and corrected using CodonCode Aligner software
38 (<http://www.codoncode.com>). The polymerase chain reaction-amplified genes coding for
39 16S rRNA of *Senegalia massiliensis* yielded 92.74% similarity level with *Brassicibacter*
40 *thermophilus* strain Cel2f (GenBank accession no: NR137216) [9], the phylogenetically
41 closest species with standing in nomenclature (**Figure 2**). This value was lower than the
42 95%, the recommended threshold for delineating a new bacterial genus based on 16S rRNA
43 gene sequence without DNA-DNA hybridization [36]. Classification and general features
44 are summarized in **Table 1**.

45 **Phenotypic and biochemical characteristics**

46 Colonies of the strain Marseille-P2130^T were grey and translucent with a size of 0.5-
47 1 mm on Columbia agar with 5% sheep's blood. Growth was observed from 28 to 45°C,
48 with an optimal growth at 37°C, and colonies were obtained after 48 hours of culture.
49 Bacterial cells were Gram-positive, rod-shaped and motile, but non spore forming (**Figure**
50 **3A**). Observed under electronic microscopy, the cells presented a mean diameter of 0.4 µm
51 and a mean length of 3.2 µm (**Figure 3B**). Bacterium had a catalase positive but no oxidase
52 negative activities. *Senegalia massiliensis* is able to grow in an environment with a pH
53 ranging from 6 to 8.5, with an optimal value of 7. Strain Marseille-P2130^T is an anaerobic
54 bacterium that can grow in a microaerophilic atmosphere. On the other hand, no growth was
55 observed under aerobic conditions. The biochemical and phenotypic features of strain
56 Marseille-P2130^T were compared to other close representative strains in the *Clostridiaceae*
57 family (**Table 2**). Using API ZYM strips (bioMérieux), positive reactions were observed for
58 esterase, esterase lipase, alkaline phosphatase, α-chymotrypsin, acid phosphatase, naphthol-
59 AS-BI-phosphohydrolase and β-galactosidase. However, we noted that the enzymatic

60 activities for lipase, leucine arylamidase, valine arylamidase, cystine arylamidase, trypsin, α -
61 galactosidase, β -glucuronidase, β -glucosidase, N-acetyl- β -glucosaminidase, α -mannosidase
62 and α -fucosidase, were negative. Using API 50 CH, positives reactions were observed for
63 glycerol, D-ribose, L-xylose, D-galactose, D-glucose, D-fructose, D-mannose, L-rhamnose,
64 inositol, D-mannitol, D-sorbitol, methyl α -D-glucopyranoside, N-acetylglucosamine,
65 amygdalin, arbutin, salicin, D-cellobiose, D-maltose, D-lactose, D-sucrose, D-trehalose, D-
66 melezitose, D-raffinose, D-turanose, D-xylose, D-fucose, L-fucose, D-arabitol, potassium
67 gluconate and starch. However, there was no metabolism for the following carbohydrates:
68 erythritol, L-arabinose, D-adonitol, methyl β -D-xylopyranoside, methyl α -D-
69 mannopyranoside, D-arabinose, inulin and glycogen. Cellular fatty acid methyl esters
70 (FAME) analysis of the strain Marseille-P2130^T was carried out by operating gas
71 chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS) as previously described [22-23]. The result
72 showed that Hexadecanoic acid (32.6%), 9-Octadecenoic acid (21.6%) and 13-methyl-
73 tetradecanoic acid (11.9%), are the most abundant fatty. Other saturated and unsaturated
74 fatty acids are also found (**Table 3**).

75 **Genomic properties and comparison**

76 The genome of strain Marseille-P2130 is 2,866,883 bp long with 27.39 mol% G+C
77 content and contains 2,933 coding genes (**Figure 4**). It is composed of 22 contigs. By
78 comparing it with others related species, its genome (2.87 Mbp) is smaller than *Alkaliphilus*
79 *oremlandii* strain OhILAsm, *Proteiniborus ethanoligenes* strain DSM 21650,
80 *Clostridiisalibacter paucivorans* strain DSM 22131, *Alkaliphilus transvaalensis* strain
81 ATCC 700919, *Paramaledivibacter caminithermalis* strain DSM 15212, *Alkaliphilus*
82 *peptidifermentans* strain DSM 18978 and *Alkaliphilus metalliredigens* strain L21-TH-D2
83 (3.12, 3.16, 3.24, 4.02, 4.05, 4.45 and 4.93 Mbp, respectively), but larger than the genome of
84 *Caldisalibacter kiritimatiensis* (2.79 Mbp). The G+C content of strain Marseille-P2130^T

85 (27.39 mol%) is smaller than *A. oremlandii*, *P. ethanoligenes*, *C. paucivorans*, *A.*
86 *transvaalensis*, *P. caminithermalis*, *A. peptidifermentans*, *A. metalliredigens* and *C.*
87 *kiritimatiensis* (36.3, 32.6, 31.4, 34, 30.5, 34.1, 36.8 and 30.1 mol%, respectively). The gene
88 content of strain Marseille-P2130^T (2,933 genes) is larger than *A. oremlandii* (n=2,898), *C.*
89 *kiritimatiensis* (n=2,557) and *P. ethanoligenes* (n=2,846), but smaller than *C. paucivorans*
90 (n=3,014), *A. peptidifermentans* (n=4,072), *A. metalliredigens* (n=4,641), *A. transvaalensis*
91 (n=3,640) and *P. caminithermalis* (n=3,543). Distribution of functional classes of predicted
92 genes according to the clusters of orthologous groups (COGs) was reported in Table 4.
93 Results from pairwise genome comparison obtained from analysis of the digital DNA-DNA
94 hybridization (dDDH) using GGDC software are shown in Table 5. OrthoANI values among
95 the closely related species ranged from 64.37%, between *A. metalliredigens* and *C.*
96 *paucivorans*, to 70.05 % between *C. kiritimatiensis* and *S. massiliensis*. When *S.*
97 *massiliensis* was compared to these closely species, values ranged from 65.93% with *A.*
98 *metalliredigens* to 70.05 % with *C. kiritimatiensis* (**Figure 5**).

99 **Conclusion**

100 On the basis of phenotypic, phylogenetic and genomic analyses, we formally propose the
101 creation of *Senegalia massiliensis* gen. nov. sp. nov., that contains the strain Marseille-
102 P2130^T. Thus, the combination of culturomics and taxono-genomics would contribute to a
103 better knowledge of the associated human microorganisms and could help to better
104 understand physiological functioning in health and disease.

105 **Description of *Senegalia* gen. nov.**

106 *Senegalia* (Se.ne.ga.lia. L. gen. n. Senegalia) is the Latin name of Senegal, where the stool
107 specimen was collected. Cells are Gram-positive, non spore-forming, motile and aero-
108 anaerobic bacilli. The type species is *Senegalia massiliensis* sp. nov.

109 **Description of *Senegalia massiliensis* sp. nov.**

110 *Senegalia massiliensis* gen. nov., sp. nov. (mas.si.li.en'sis. L. fem. adj., from *massiliensis*, of
111 Massilia), the Latin name of Marseille where the strain was first isolated. It is classified as a
112 member of the family *Clostridiaceae* within the phylum *Firmicutes*. The strain Marseille-
113 P2130^T designed the type strain of *Senegalia massiliensis* gen. nov., sp. nov., and was
114 deposited in CSUR (CSURP2130) and DSMZ (DSM 103071) collections. It is Gram
115 positive bacilli, motile, catalase positive, oxidase negative and non-spore forming. Strain
116 Marseille-P2130^T was first isolated from the stool of a healthy 13-month-old Senegalese
117 boy. Its genome is 2,866,883 bp long with 27.39 mol% G+C content and possesses 2933
118 coding genes. The genome and 16S rRNA sequences of the strain Marseille-P2130^T are both
119 deposited in GenBank under accession numbers UZAQ000000000 and LN881608,
120 respectively.

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123 submitting the genomic sequence to GenBank.

124 **Conflict of interest**

125 The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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131 **Ethics and consent**

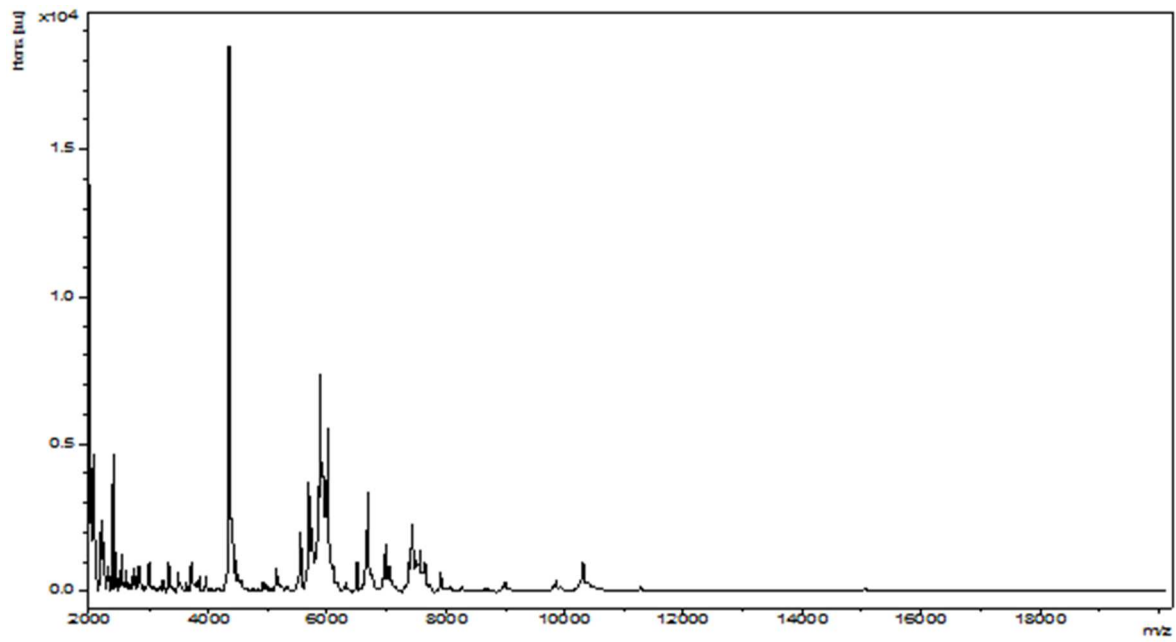
132 The child's parents provided a signed informed consent and the study was approved by the
133 ethics committee of the Institut Fédératif de Recherche IFR48 under number 09-022.

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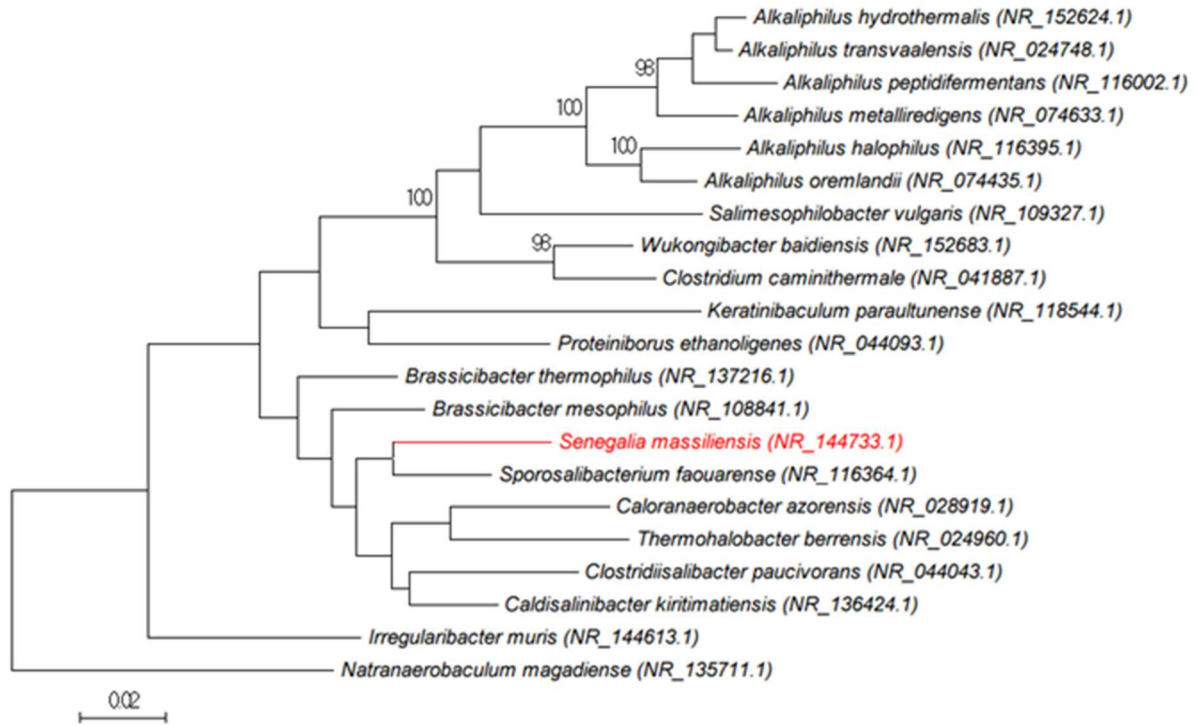
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Figure 1. Reference mass spectrum from *Senegalia massiliensis* strain Marseille-

257

P2130^T.



258

259 **Figure 2.** Phylogenetic tree highlighting the position of *Senegalia massiliensis* strain

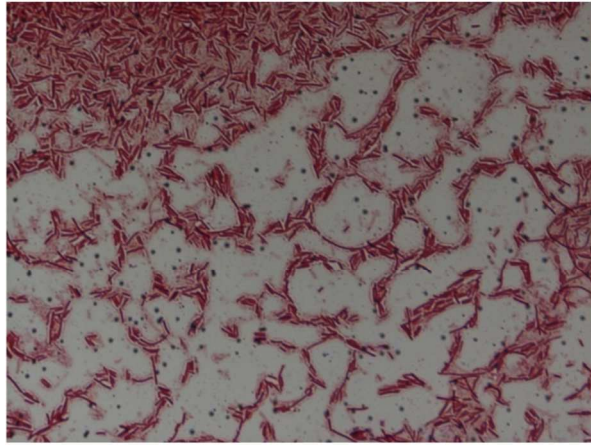
260 Marseille-P2130 relative to other close species. Sequences were aligned using CLUSTALW,

261 with default parameters, and phylogenetic inferences were obtained using the maximum

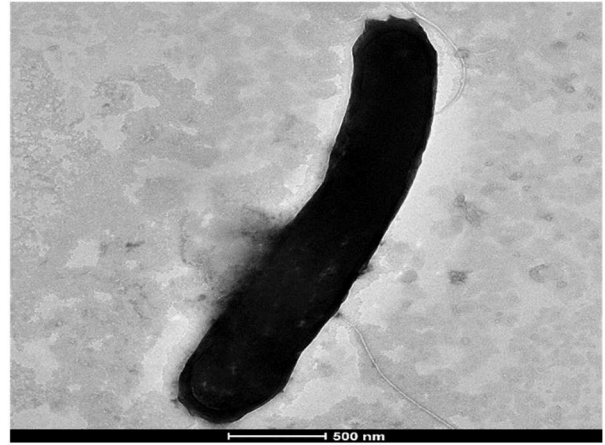
262 likelihood method within the MEGA7 software. Numbers at the nodes are percentages of

263 bootstrap values obtained by repeating the analysis 500 times to generate a majority

264 consensus tree. The scale bar indicates a 2% nucleotide sequence divergence.



A



B

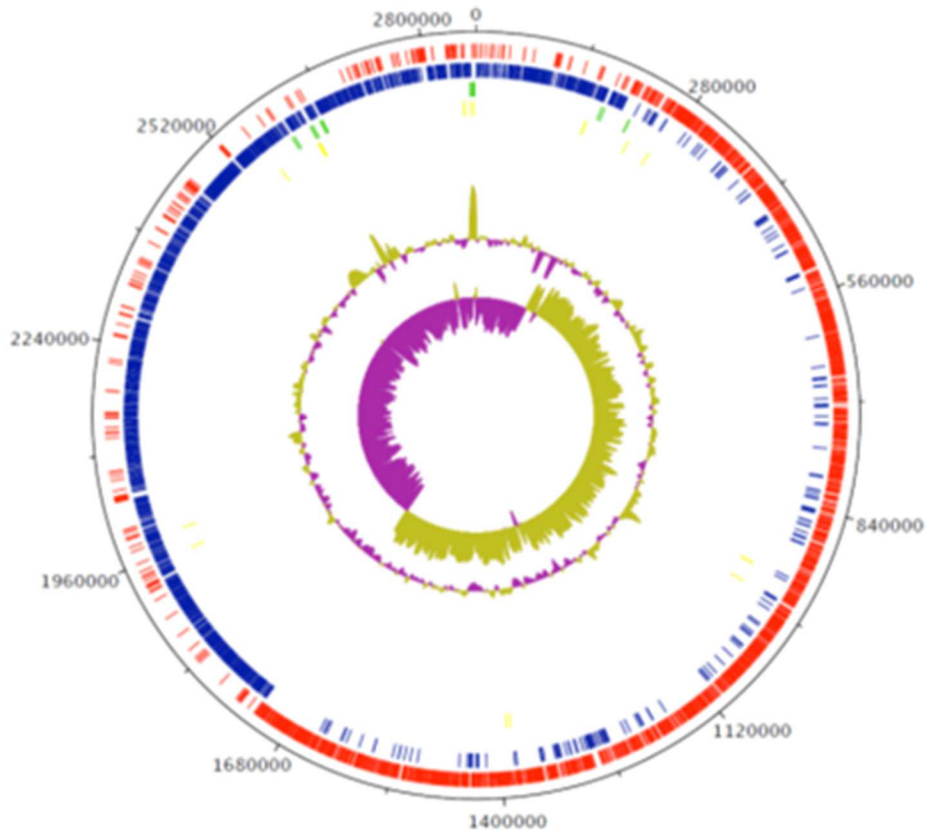
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266 **Figure 3.** The morphology of bacterial cells of strain Marseille-P2130:

267 A. Gram staining of *Senegalia massiliensis* strain Marseille-P2130.

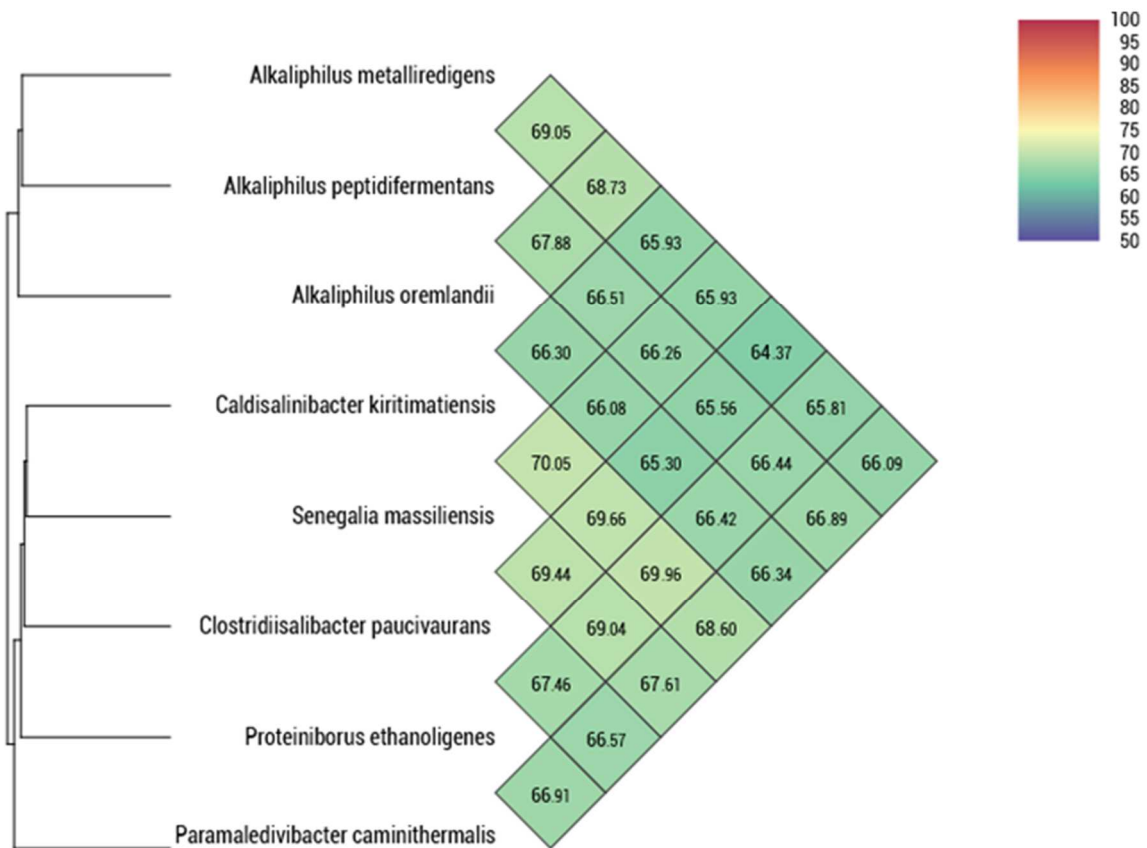
268 B. Transmission electron microscopy of *Senegalia massiliensis* strain Marseille-P2130 using

269 Tecnai G20 electron microscope (FEI Company). The scale bar is equal to 500 nm.



270

271 **Figure 4.** Graphical circular map of the chromosome. From outside to the center: Contigs
 272 (red), COG category of genes on the forward strand (three circles), genes on forward strand
 273 (blue circle), genes on the reverse strand (red circle), COG category on the reverse strand
 274 (three circles), G+C content.



275

276 **Figure 5.** Heatmap generated with OrthoANI values calculated using the OAT software

277 between *Senegalia massiliensis* and other closely related species with standing in

278 nomenclature.

279 **Table 1.** Classification and general features of *Senegalia massiliensis* strain Marseille-P2130.

Property	Terms
Current Classification	Domain : <i>Bacteria</i> Phylum : <i>Firmicutes</i> Class : <i>Clostridia</i> Order : <i>Clostridiales</i> Family : <i>Clostridiaceae</i> Genus : <i>Senegalia</i> Species : <i>Senegalia massiliensis</i> Type: strain Marseille-P2130
Gram stain	Positive
Cell shape	Rod
Motility	Motile
Sporulation	No sporulating
Temperature range	28-45°C
Optimum temperature	37°C
pH range (optimum)	7
Oxygen requirement	Anaerobic
Carbone source	Unknown
Habitat	Human gut
Biotic relationship	Free-living
Pathogenicity	Unknown

Table 2. Differential characteristics of *Senegalia massiliensis* strain Marseille-P2130 (data from this study) compared to other close bacteria

Properties	<i>Senegalia massiliensis</i>	<i>Clostridiisalibacter paucivorans</i>	<i>Alkaliphilus oremlandii</i>	<i>Alkaliphilus transvaalensis</i>	<i>Proteiniborus ethanoligenes</i>	<i>Sporosalibacterium faouarensense</i>
Cell diameter (µm)	0.3-0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4–0.7	0.5-0.6	0.5
Oxygen requirement	Aero-anaerobic	Anaerobic	Anaerobic	Anaerobic	Anaerobic	Anaerobic
Shape	bacilli	bacilli	bacilli	bacilli	bacilli	bacilli
Gram stain	+	+	+	+	+	+
Motility	+	-	+	+	-	+
Indole	-	-	NA	+	-	NA
Production of						
Alkaline phosphatase	+	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Catalase	+	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oxidase	-	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Nitrate reductase	-	NA	-	+	+	NA
Urease	-	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
β-galactosidase	+	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
N-acetyl glucosamine	-	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Acid from						
L-arabinose	-	+	NA	NA	-	+
Ribose	+	-	NA	-	-	-
Mannose	+	-	NA	-	-	-
Mannitol	+	NA	NA	NA	-	+
D-glucose	-	NA	NA	-	-	+
D-fructose	+	-	+	-	-	+
D-maltose	+	NA	NA	-	-	-
D-lactose	+	NA	NA	-	-	-
G+C content (%)	27.4	33.0	36.1	36.4	38.0	37.7
Habitat	Human colon	Wastewater	Environment	Environment	Environment	Soil

282 **Table 3.** Cellular fatty acid profiles (%) of *Senegalia massiliensis* strain Marseille-P2130 compared
 283 with other species. **1**, *Senegalia massiliensis* strain Marseille-P2130^T; **2**, *Clostridiisalibacter*
 284 *paucivorans* strain 37HS60^T [38]; **3**, *Alkaliphilus transvaalensis* strain SAGM1^T [39]; **4**,
 285 *Proteiniborus ethanoligenes* strain GW^T [40]; **5**, *Sporosalibacterium faouarensense* strain SOL3f37^T [41];
 286 TR, trace amounts < 1%. -, not detected;

Fatty acids	Names	1	2	3	4	5
12:00	Dodecanoic acid	1.2	-	-	-	-
13:00	Tridecanoic acid	TR	-	2.3	-	4.4
14:00	Tetradecanoic acid	9.2	14.3	1.7	15.58	21.6
15:0 anteiso	12-methyl-tetradecanoic acid	1.0	1.5	2.8	-	3.9
15:0 iso	13-methyl-tetradecanoic acid	11.9	6.6	51.6	4.30	41
16:00	Hexadecanoic acid	32.6	7.6	3.9	25.40	1.2
16:1n5	11-Hexadecanoic acid	TR	-	1.9	6.18	-
17:00	Heptadecanoic acid	TR	-	-	-	0.6
17:1n7	10-Heptadecenoic acid	TR	19.3	12.2	9.49	-
18:00	Octadecanoic acid	4.7	-	7.2	12.03	1.3
18:1n7	11-Octadecenoic acid	1.7	-	2.0	-	-
18:1n9	9-Octadecenoic acid	21.6	-	1.1	11.20	-

287 **Table 4.** Distribution of functional classes of predicted genes according to the clusters of orthologous
 288 groups (COG) of proteins of *Senegalia massiliensis* strain Marseille-P2130.

289

Code	Value	Description
[J]	244	Translation, ribosomal structure and biogenesis
[A]	0	RNA processing and modification
[K]	225	Transcription
[L]	114	Replication, recombination and repair
[B]	1	Chromatin structure and dynamics
[D]	52	Cell cycle control, cell division, chromosome partitioning
[Y]	0	Nuclear structure
[V]	80	Defense mechanisms
[T]	181	Signal transduction mechanisms
[M]	148	Cell wall/membrane/envelope biogenesis
[N]	71	Cell motility
[Z]	0	Cytoskeleton
[W]	11	Extracellular structures
[U]	28	Intracellular trafficking, secretion, and vesicular transport
[O]	116	Posttranslational modification, protein turnover, chaperones
[X]	26	Mobilome: prophages, transposons
[C]	173	Energy production and conversion
[G]	144	Carbohydrate transport and metabolism
[E]	202	Amino acid transport and metabolism
[F]	92	Nucleotide transport and metabolism
[H]	124	Coenzyme transport and metabolism
[I]	89	Lipid transport and metabolism
[P]	145	Inorganic ion transport and metabolism
[Q]	34	Secondary metabolites biosynthesis, transport and catabolism
[R]	255	General function prediction only
[S]	203	Function unknown
—	563	Hypothetical protein

290

291 **Table 5.** Pairwise comparison of *Senegalia massiliensis* strain Marseille-P2130 with other species using GGDC formula 2 (DDH estimates based on identities
 292 / HSP length)*.

	<i>Senegalia massiliensis</i>	<i>Alkaliphilus metalliredigens</i>	<i>Alkaliphilus oremlandii</i>	<i>Alkaliphilus transvaalensis</i>	<i>Alkaliphilus peptidifermentans</i>	<i>Proteiniborus ethanoligenes</i>	<i>Clostridiisalibacter paucivorans</i>	<i>Paramaledivibacter caminithermalis</i>	<i>Caldisalibacter kiritimatiensis</i>
<i>Caldisalibacter kiritimatiensis</i>	19.7±2.4	37.2±5	34±4.9	17.5±4.4	18±4.5	18.9±4.6	16.9±4.4	23.6±4.7	100%
<i>Paramaledivibacter caminithermalis</i>	15.2±4.3	28.4±4.9	26.4±4.8	16±4.3	19.5±4.6	19±4.5	23.6±4.7	100%	
<i>Clostridiisalibacter paucivorans</i>	17.5±4.5	25±4.8	16.7±4.4	31±4.9	17.8±5.4	18.6±5.5	100%		
<i>Proteiniborus ethanoligenes</i>	17.3±4.1	19.9±4.6	19.8±4.6	18.7±4.6	16.2±4.3	100%			
<i>Alkaliphilus peptidifermentans</i>	17.2±4.4	25.5±5.2	24.8±4.8	19.9±4.7	100%				
<i>Alkaliphilus transvaalensis</i>	27.4±4.8	23.5±4.8	22.2±4.7	100%					
<i>Alkaliphilus oremlandii</i>	29.9±4.9	26.8±4.9	100%						
<i>Alkaliphilus metalliredigens</i>	33.9±4.9	100%							
<i>Senegalia massiliensis</i>	100%								

293 *The confidence intervals indicate the inherent uncertainty in estimating DDH values from intergenomic distances based on models derived from empirical
 294 test data sets (which are always limited in size) These results are in accordance with the 16S rRNA and phylogenomic analyses as well as the GGDC results