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Microbial ACBP/DBI-like genes are rare in the human gut microbiome and show no links with obesity.

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36 Acyl coenzyme A (CoA) binding protein (ACBP) can be encoded by several organisms across the
37 domains of life, including microbes, and has shown to play major roles in human metabolic
38 processes. However, little is known about its presence in the human gut microbiome and whether
39 its microbial counterpart could also play a role in human metabolism. In the present study, we
40 found that microbial ACBP/DBI sequences were rarely present in the gut microbiome across
41 multiple metagenomic datasets. Microbes that carried ACBP/DBI in the human gut microbiome
42 included *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Lautropia mirabilis* and *Comamonas kerstersii*, but these
43 microorganisms were not associated with body-mass index, further indicating an unconvincing
44 role for microbial ACBP/DBI in human metabolism.

45

46

Introduction

47 Acyl coenzyme A (CoA) binding protein (ACBP) is also called diazepam-binding inhibitor (DBI).
48 In humans and mice, this small (10 kDa) protein plays a dual role, reflecting its double name. As
49 an intracellular protein, ACBP/DBI binds to medium- and long-chain acyl CoA esters, reducing
50 their toxicity and facilitating their transport through different subcellular compartments, hence
51 stimulating lipid metabolism (1–3). As an extracellular protein, ACBP/DBI binds to the peripheral
52 benzodiazepine receptor (hence displacing the benzodiazepine diazepam from its binding site),
53 which is the ionotropic gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA)_A receptor (GABAAR) possessing
54 another endogenous ligand, γ -aminobutyric acid, the major inhibitory neurotransmitter (4, 5). In
55 the central nervous system, ACBP/DBI can be proteolytically cleaved to yield several
56 neuropeptides, one of which, octadecaneuropeptide (ODN) interacts with a G protein coupled
57 receptor (GPCR) in the central nervous system (6, 7).

58

59 ACBP/DBI is ubiquitously expressed and can be released from cells through an unconventional,
60 autophagy-dependent pathway (8). It then acts as a paracrine mediator to inhibit autophagy

61 through an action on GABAAR, which is expressed in many cell types outside of the central
62 nervous system (9). Hence, antibody-mediated neutralization of extracellular ACBP/DBI offers the
63 possibility to stimulate autophagy by interrupting a paracrine feedback inhibition loop. In humans,
64 obesity and metabolic syndrome are associated with elevated ACBP/DBI levels in the plasma
65 (10), while anorexia nervosa is characterized by abnormally low concentrations of circulating
66 ACBP/DBI (9, 11). In mice, injection of recombinant ACBP/DBI protein into the peritoneal cavity
67 or the tail vein causes a GABAAR-dependent increase in feeding. This appetite-stimulatory effect
68 of ACBP/DBI is also observed for proteins in which the acyl CoA binding moiety has been
69 mutated. Conversely, injection of a neutralizing antibody blocks feeding responses and
70 counteracts weight gain or favors weight loss in multiple experimental conditions. These findings
71 suggest that ACBP/DBI is involved in the pathophysiology of human obesity (12).

72

73 ACBP/DBI is a phylogenetically conserved protein, as ACBP/DBI homologs have been described
74 in all eukaryotic phyla and even in some bacterial species (13, 14). In the nematode
75 *Caenorhabditis elegans* and in the insect *Drosophila melanogaster*, ACBP/DBI orthologs
76 stimulate pharyngeal pumping and mouth hook movement, which are the functional equivalents
77 of mammalian mastication (15). In the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, ACBP/DBI is the only
78 protein known to be released in response to nutrient or oxidative stress (16, 17). Extracellular
79 ACBP/DBI stimulates sporulation of yeast in a GPCR-dependent fashion, hence allowing yeast
80 cells to swarm out to find new food resources (15, 18). Thus, the appetite-stimulatory function of
81 ACBP/DBI appears to be phylogenetically conserved (19–21).

82

83 Reportedly, the genomes of some bacteria code for ACBP/DBI orthologs (22, 23). It is well known
84 that human obesity is associated with major shifts in the composition of the intestinal microbiome
85 (24, 25). Moreover, fecal microbial transplantation (FMT) of the stools from obese (but not lean)

86 individuals into mice can transfer features of obesity and metabolic syndrome, establishing cause-
87 effect relationships between alterations in the gut microbiome and the obese phenotype (26, 27).

88

89 Intrigued by these observations, we wondered whether specific microbial species in the human
90 gut might encode for and express ACBP/DBI-like proteins, thus potentially influencing human
91 metabolism and eating behavior. Here, we report a detailed bioinformatics analysis of ACBP/DBI-
92 like genes encoded by the human intestinal microbiome and analyze their possible implication in
93 obesity. We found that ACBP/DBI is mostly encoded by eukaryotes, its presence in bacteria is
94 mostly limited to pathogenic taxa, and that its rare presence in the human gut is not associated
95 with alterations in the body mass index (BMI).

96

97 **Results**

98

99 **ACBP/DBI-like proteins are rarely encoded into members of the human microbiome**

100 To assess whether microbial ACBP/DBI ortholog genes could potentially contribute to
101 microbiome-dependent gut metabolism, we first looked for their presence in 99,211 microbial
102 genomes from NCBI as of January 2019. Using an initial set of 1,098 UniRef-annotated
103 orthologous ACBP/DBI sequences (see **Methods**) to search these genomes, we found ACBP to
104 be present in 3,635 of them, encompassing 1,668 unique TaxIDs, with the majority belonging to
105 *Proteobacteria* (89% of genomes). Species with the largest number of genomes encoding ACBP
106 showed it to be part of the core genome of several known pathogens from the *Burkholderia* genus,
107 as well as *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and *Ralstonia solanacearum* (**Table 1**). While
108 *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* can be found in the human gut (28, 29) - although usually at low
109 abundance - the bacterial taxa in NCBI containing ACBP are at best very rare members of the
110 human microbiome.

111

112 Because genomic sequencing captures only a limited fraction of the human microbiome diversity
113 (30–33), we proceeded by searching homologous sequences of known ACBP genes in
114 metagenome-assembled genomes (MAGs). We screened 154,000 MAGs previously recovered
115 from the human microbiome sampled from almost 10,000 individuals spanning diverse geography
116 and lifestyle (**Supplementary Table 1**). We found only 129 out of the 154,000 MAGs (0.08%) to
117 encode ACBP, belonging to 14 species-level genome bins (SGBs). One of these SGBs was
118 classified as *Deinococcus-Thermus* and another as *Chitinophagaceae*, whereas the remaining
119 12 all belonged to *Proteobacteria*, with the closest known taxa being again *Burkholderia* or taxa
120 linked with sample-processing contamination such as *Ralstonia* or *Acidovorax* (34). This
121 exploration of microbial genomes and MAGs thus highlights a lack of ACBP/DBI ortholog genes
122 in microbes of putative relevance in the human microbiome.

123

124 **Phylogenetic modelling of ACBP/DBI is highly taxonomically consistent**

125 To better assess the sequence diversity of the ACBP/DBI gene, we phylogenetically modelled its
126 sequence variants found in human MAGs and reference genomes from NCBI across different
127 organisms. This analysis revealed very distinct eukaryotic *versus* microbial ACBP/DBI
128 sequences, despite the relatively short alignment length used for phylogenetic inference (**Figure**
129 **1**). This distinct pattern between the two domains was also seen when using pairwise nucleotide
130 identities calculated from multiple sequence alignments (**Supplementary Figure 1**). We found
131 ACBP to be widespread across the domains of life, with ACBP sequences found in eukaryotic
132 phyla including *Streptophyta*, *Arthropoda*, *Nematoda*, *Ascomycota* and *Chordata* and present in
133 10 different bacterial phyla. Some taxa such as the genera *Daphnia* and *Variovorax* exhibited
134 clearly defined clades, whilst other taxa such as the phyla *Arthropoda* and *Actinobacteria*
135 displayed more diverse and paraphyletic phylogenies. The bacterial genera *Burkholderia* and

136 *Paraburkholderia* showed a clearly defined subtree. ACBP sequences belonging to MAGs
137 recovered from the human microbiome were widespread across the phylogeny but always
138 maintained a consistent taxonomic structure. This adherence between phylogeny and taxonomy
139 for ACBP/DBI suggests vertical evolutive trajectories for this gene, as a comparison between
140 prokaryotic phylogenies built at the whole genome level was highly consistent with the
141 phylogenetic tree constructed for the ACBP/DBI gene (**Supplementary Figure 2**), with very
142 limited evidence (if any) of horizontal transfer events, and consequently a low likelihood that yet-
143 to-be-characterized taxa not captured by our analysis carry ACBP/DBI ortholog genes.

144

145 **ACBP/DBI is rarely found in human gut microbiomes**

146 To further investigate whether the few ACBP/DBI-positive genomes and MAGs recovered from
147 the human microbiome could potentially contribute to gut metabolism, we evaluated their
148 prevalence across 7,698 human gut metagenomes present in the curatedMetagenomicData R
149 package (35), spanning different countries, age categories and health conditions (**Figure 2A**,
150 **Supplementary Table 2**). We found that the majority of MAGs belonging to these SGBs were
151 very rarely found in samples across different datasets, with two known SGBs classified as
152 *Acidovorax* sp 12322_1 (kSGB 12676) and *Cupriavidus metalidurans* (kSGB 12928) achieving
153 the highest overall prevalence (0.3%).

154

155 Since MAGs rely on the success of metagenomic assembly and binning and thus may miss some
156 low-abundance or hard-to assemble taxa, we further screened unbinned contigs as well as the
157 raw reads for each sample. The use of unbinned contigs (assembled reads) indeed led to an
158 increase in the overall prevalence of ACBP/DBI positive samples but this number remained low
159 (0.6% - **Figure 2B**). When we aligned raw metagenomic reads to the set of retrieved ACBP/DBI

160 sequences we further observed an increase in the overall relatively low prevalence across
161 samples (1.79%), although we cannot exclude that some of the hits are false positives that inflate
162 the prevalence estimation. Notably, some datasets such as CM_madagascar from a non-
163 Westernized society (30) and VincentC_2016 comprising fecal microbiome of 98 hospitalized
164 patients treated with antibiotics and that used laxatives (36), showed a higher prevalence of
165 ABCP/DBI in their raw metagenomes when compared to others, 19.64% and 25.76%,
166 respectively. On the contrary, 35 datasets (83%) had a prevalence of 0%.

167

168 This analysis thus reinforces the very low prevalence of ABCP/DBI-positive taxa and of the
169 ABCP/DBI gene in the human gut microbiome which appears inconsistent with a hypothesis of a
170 role of this microbial gene variant in human metabolism. Moreover, the taxonomy assignments of
171 the species (from MAGs and NCBI genomes) found to encode ACBP/DBI and occasionally
172 present in some gut microbiome datasets (**Figure 2A**) points at sample contamination as a
173 potential source for those taxa. Indeed, *Pseudoxanthomonas*, *Acidovorax*, *Comamonas*, *Delftia*,
174 *Ralstonia* and *Cupriavidus* have been previously described as common reagent and laboratory
175 contaminants (34).

176

177 **Lack of correlation between ACBP/DBI-positive species and body mass index**

178 Although we found a low prevalence of ACBP/DBI encoding members in the human gut
179 microbiome, theoretically there could still be a possibility that low-prevalent low-abundance taxa
180 can somehow contribute to human gut metabolism. To evaluate a possible link between microbial
181 ACBP/DBI ortholog genes and obesity, we performed a meta-analysis of correlations between
182 species-level abundances and BMI as a read-out using 1,899 gut samples from healthy
183 individuals curated within the *curatedMetagenomicData* (35) effort (**Figure 3, Table 2**). We found
184 14 taxa to be significantly associated with BMI (random effects model FDR <0.1, **Supplementary**

185 **Table 3**), with species such as *Flavonifractor plautii*, *Coprococcus comes* and *Blautia*
186 *hydrogenotrophica* associated with increased BMI, in line with previous reports (37, 38). We also
187 found species associated with decreased BMI, which included *Oscillibacter* sp 57_20, *Alistipes*
188 *shahii* and *Odoribacter splanchnicus*, as previously described (39). However, these 14 species
189 significantly associated with BMI were all ACBP/DBI-negative. Within the limited panel of
190 ACBP/DBI-positive species at least occasionally found in the gut microbiome, only
191 *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Lautropia mirabilis* and *Comamonas kerstersii* were sufficiently
192 prevalent in these samples to perform the meta-analysis but showed no significant associations
193 (q-values >0.8, **Figure 3**). These results indicate that species found to encode ACBP/DBI in the
194 human gut microbiome do not show associations with BMI.

195

196 **Discussion**

197 ACBP/DBI plays a major role in the control of appetite and metabolism through a phylogenetically
198 conserved pathway that is conserved in yeast, nematodes, insects and mammals (15, 20, 21, 40).
199 Intrigued by the observation that ACBP/DBI is a highly conserved protein that is even encoded
200 by some bacteria, as well as by the link between human obesity and the gut microbiome, we
201 investigated the prevalence of ACBP/DBI in intestinal commensals and their potential correlation
202 with the body mass index.

203

204 The bioinformatic analyses presented in this paper based on extensive available metagenomic
205 datasets suggest that ACBP/DBI producing bacterial species are rather rare in the human
206 microbiome and are mostly produced by eukaryotic species (as exemplified by the yeast *S.*
207 *cerevisiae*) and environmental or potentially pathogenic bacteria (exemplified by *Comamonas*
208 *kerstersii* that can cause peritonitis, bacteremia and sepsis (41–43)), as well as potential sample

209 contaminants. Indeed, the presence of ACBP/DBI producing species in the human gut appears
210 relatively rare. Moreover, we did not find any correlation between the presence of ACBP/DBI
211 encoding species and BMI across a large cumulative dataset comprising 1,899 samples from
212 healthy gut metagenomes. These results refute the hypothesis that the production of ACBP/DBI
213 by the gut microbiome might affect whole body metabolism, at least in the context of the normal
214 microbiome.

215

216 Despite our findings, it could still be possible that microbes that are strongly associated with the
217 mucosal tissue in the upper intestinal tract (and that hence would be grossly underrepresented in
218 fecal samples) might have some local or systemic effects. It is also noteworthy to mention that
219 the lack of an association between ACBP/DBI gene carriage and obesity found here did not take
220 into account gene expression levels, which could be relevant as they might not mirror gene
221 presence and/or abundance patterns. Moreover, in the context of infections, bacterial ACBP/DBI
222 might exert some physiological effects on the host. However it is unclear whether prokaryotic
223 ACBP/DBI orthologues possess similar functions as those present in yeast or other eukaryotes,
224 despite previous work showing strong conservation of amino acids at the majority of sites
225 determined to be important for ACBP structure and function across phyla (22). ACBP/DBI inhibits
226 autophagy (9, 19), and autophagy is a potent mechanism to eliminate intracellular bacteria (44),
227 meaning that the subversion of autophagy (also called xenophagy) might contribute to the
228 virulence of pathogenic species. Thus, *Streptococcus pneumoniae* degrades the essential
229 autophagy protein ATG14 to assure its survival in host cells (45); while *Salmonella typhimurium*
230 targets the V-ATPase-ATG16L1 axis to avoid xenophagy (46), just to mention a few examples. In
231 view of these premises, it might be interesting to generate recombinant ACBP/DBI protein
232 encoded by bacterial species and to evaluate them for their autophagy-inhibitory and metabolic
233 effects.

234

235 The appetite-stimulatory effects of ACBP/DBI are lost in mice that bear a phenylalanine (F) to
236 isoleucine (I) substitution at position 77 in the N-terminal domain of the gamma2 subunit of
237 GABAAR (10, 47), supporting the contention that this neurotransmitter receptor is responsible for
238 the obesogenic activity of DBI. ACBP/DBI is a GABAAR antagonist, while GABA is a GABAAR
239 agonist. Of note, GABA, the natural agonist of GABAAR can be produced by a series of bacteria.
240 Reportedly, oral administration of GABA-producing *Lactobacillus brevis* strains reduces the
241 abundance of mesenteric adipose tissue, enhances insulin secretion following glucose challenge
242 and improves plasma cholesterol clearance (48). Hence, it is possible that, beyond their
243 documented effects on depression (49, 50), GABA-producing bacteria might affect whole-body
244 metabolism including appetite control. This hypothesis will be actively investigated by our
245 laboratories.

246

247 **Materials and Methods**

248 **Identification of ACBP/DBI sequences and phylogenetic tree reconstruction**

249 To obtain a more comprehensive set of ACBP/DBI sequences we downloaded amino acid
250 sequences that matched the keyword "ACBP" from UniProt90 (51), mapped their identifiers to
251 those of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory's coding sequences using UniParc and used
252 the resulting DNA sequences to search, using BLASTn (52), all 99,211 microbial genomes
253 available in NCBI, that included the whole set of 17,607 microbial species (16,959 bacteria, 648
254 archaea) available as of January 2019 and 154,723 metagenome assembled genomes (MAGs)
255 from (30). Matching queries were filtered to include only alignments with >70% identity, alignment
256 length >100nt and an e-value <1x10⁻⁵. We found no evidence that more permissive minimum
257 alignment lengths lead to increased ACBP/DBI detection.

258

259 To build a phylogenetic tree of the known and metagenomically retrieved sequences, we clustered
260 sequences at 97% sequence identity using UCLUST (parameters: '-id 0.97') (53) and aligned
261 centroid cluster sequences using MAFFT (parameters: '--localpair --maxiterate 1000') (54). We
262 removed gappy regions and ACBP/DBI sequences with insufficient aligned positions from the
263 multiple sequence alignment using Jalview (55), resulting in 240 nucleotides of aligned positions
264 and 1,223 sequences. The tree was built using fastTree (parameters: '-mlacc 2 -slownni -spr 4 -
265 fastest -mlnni 4 -no2nd -nt') (56) and refined with RAxML (parameters: '-m GTRGAMMA -t') (57).
266 GraPhlAn (58) was used for tree annotation and visualization.

267

268 We used PhyloPhlAn 3 (59) to build a phylogeny on 3,490 reference prokaryotic genomes and
269 129 MAGs (which we found to contain ACBP/DBI) using the parameters '-diversity high --accurate --
270 force_nucleotides' and the set of up to 400 PhyloPhlAn genome markers. We compared trees built using
271 PhyloPhlAn 3 and ACBP/DBI (with the aforementioned methods) in terms of their normalized
272 pairwise branch lengths and used the *tqDist* (60) function available in the R quartet package to
273 compare their quartet distances using a random sampling of 477 genomes repeated 1000 times.

274

275 **Search of ACBP/DBI sequences in human gut metagenomes**

276 The prevalence of both known and unknown species-level genome bins (kSGBs and uSGBs)
277 from a previous repository (30) with ACBP/DBI encoding MAGs was calculated using 7,698
278 human gut metagenomes present in the curatedMetagenomicData (cMD) version 1.16.0 R
279 package (35). A given sample was deemed positive if a MAG belonging to the ACBP/DBI
280 encoding SGB was found.

281

282 We used the set of retrieved ACBP/DBI sequences to search, using BLASTn, all contigs
283 assembled from human gut metagenomes available in cMD. Samples were considered to be

284 positive for ACBP if any of their contigs had a significant hit (>70% identity, alignment length
285 >100nt and an e-value <1x10⁻⁵).

286

287 We aligned raw reads from these gut metagenomes to the set of retrieved ACBP/DBI sequences
288 using bowtie2 (61). Resulting BAM files were filtered to keep only alignments with >50nt of
289 matching positions and were used to calculate the breadth of coverage of each sequence using
290 Samtools (62) and VCF utils (63). Samples' whose metagenome presented ACBP/DBI sequences
291 with breadth >80% were considered positive.

292

293 **Correlations between BMI and species' abundances**

294 We used the PREDICT 1 dataset comprising 1,001 healthy individuals from the UK and 97 from
295 the US (38), as well as publicly available datasets collected in cMD and profiled with version 3 of
296 MetaPhlAn (64, 65). Of the 57 datasets available, we selected those that had samples with the
297 following characteristics: (i) gut samples collected from healthy adult individuals at first collection
298 ("days_from_first_collection"=0 or NA), (ii) samples with age, sex and BMI data available. Outlier
299 samples were removed if their BMI value was outside 3.5 and 7.5 times the interquartile range
300 (IQR) of samples meeting the above criteria (IQR = 5.03). Only datasets with at least 50 samples
301 were considered: Asnicar_2020_UK (953 samples out of 1,001), Asnicar_2020_US (92 samples
302 out of 97) (38), CosteaPI_2017 (82 samples out of 279) (66), DhakanDB_2019 (80 samples out
303 of 110) (67), HansenLBS_2018 (57 samples out of 208) (68), JieZ_2017 (140 samples out of 385)
304 (39), SchirmerM_2016 (437 samples out of 471) (69), and ZellerG_2014 (58 samples out of 199)
305 (70).

306

307 For each species, Spearman's correlations with BMI were computed using the *pcor.test* function
308 from the *ppcor* R package controlling for age and sex. Resulting correlations were used as input

309 to the *metacor* function from the *meta* R package using Fisher's Z transformation of correlations
310 and the Paule-Mandel estimator of between-study variance in the random effects model. P-values
311 from the random-effects model were corrected using false discovery rate (FDR) through the
312 Benjamini-Hochberg procedure, which are reported in the figure as q-values. We report q-values
313 of ACBP/DBI-carrying taxa found in these datasets, as well as species with FDR <0.1.

314

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332

333 **Competing interests**

334 The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

335

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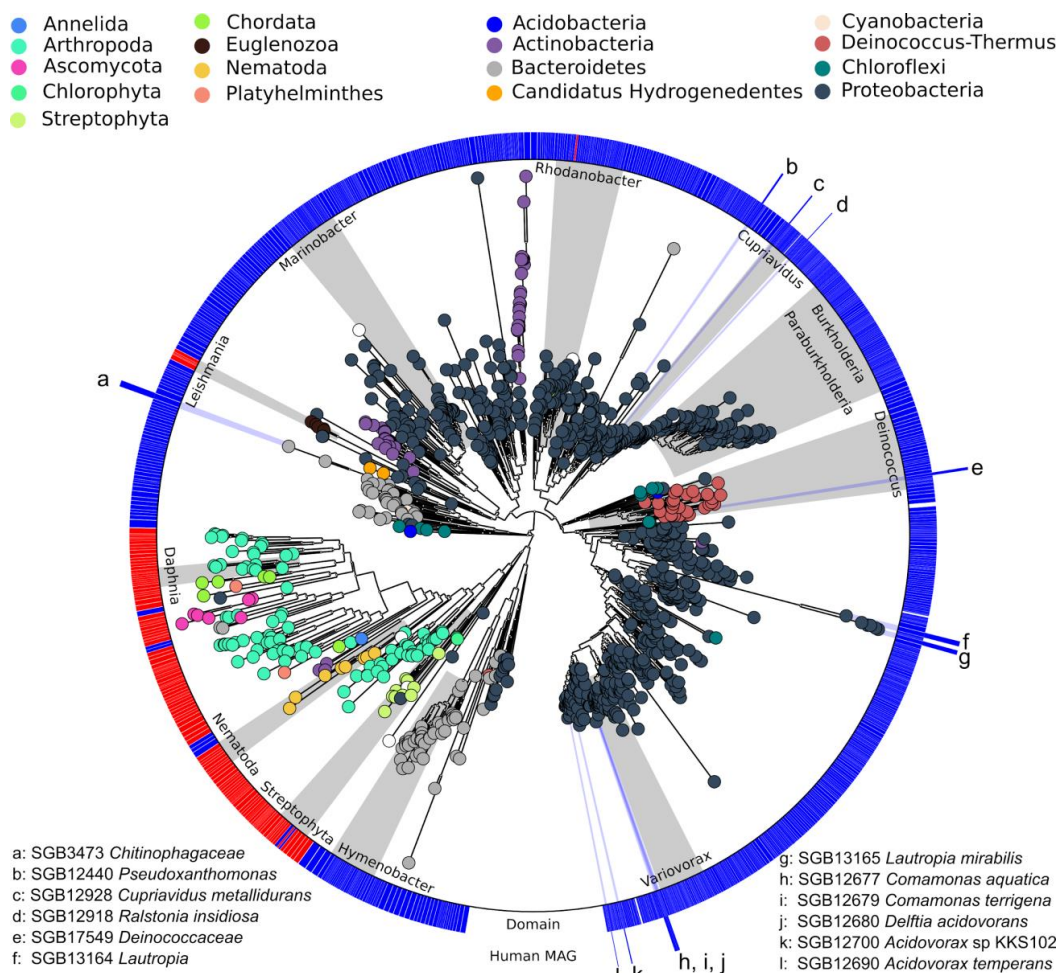
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Figure 1. Whole phylogeny of the ACBP/DBI gene sequences across kingdoms and phyla. The tree was built using 1,223 ACBP/DBI nucleotide sequences retrieved from UniProtKB, reference genomes from NCBI and human metagenome assembled genomes (MAGs) belonging to species-level genome bins (SGBs) from Pasoli et al. 2019 (see **Methods**). Sequences were clustered at 97% identity prior to multiple sequence alignment and the tree was built using 240nt of aligned positions.

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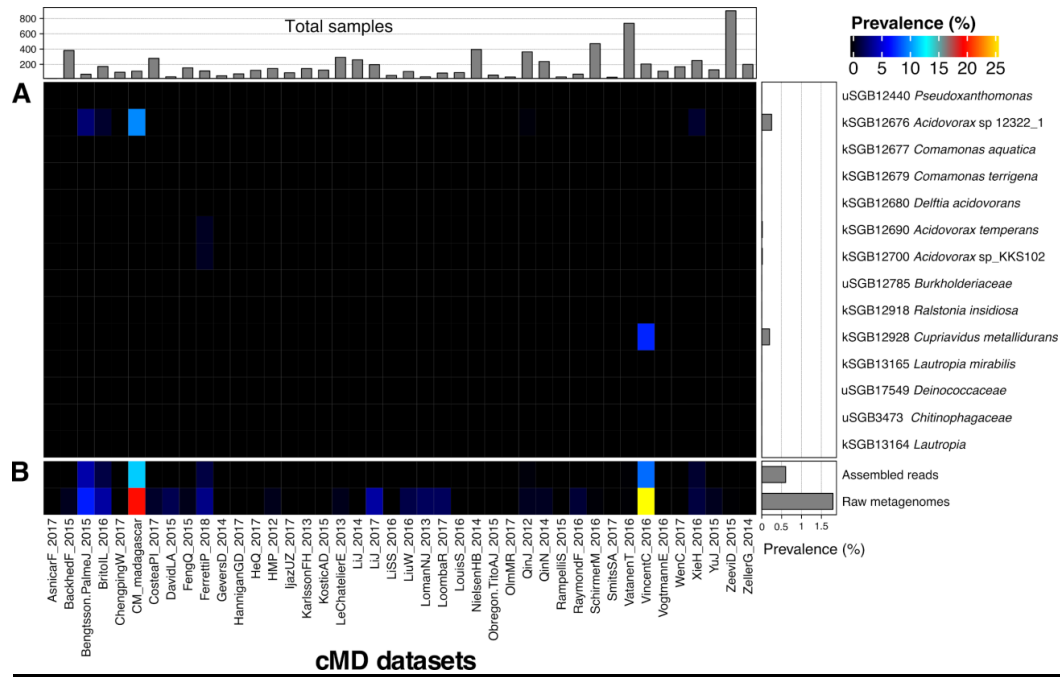
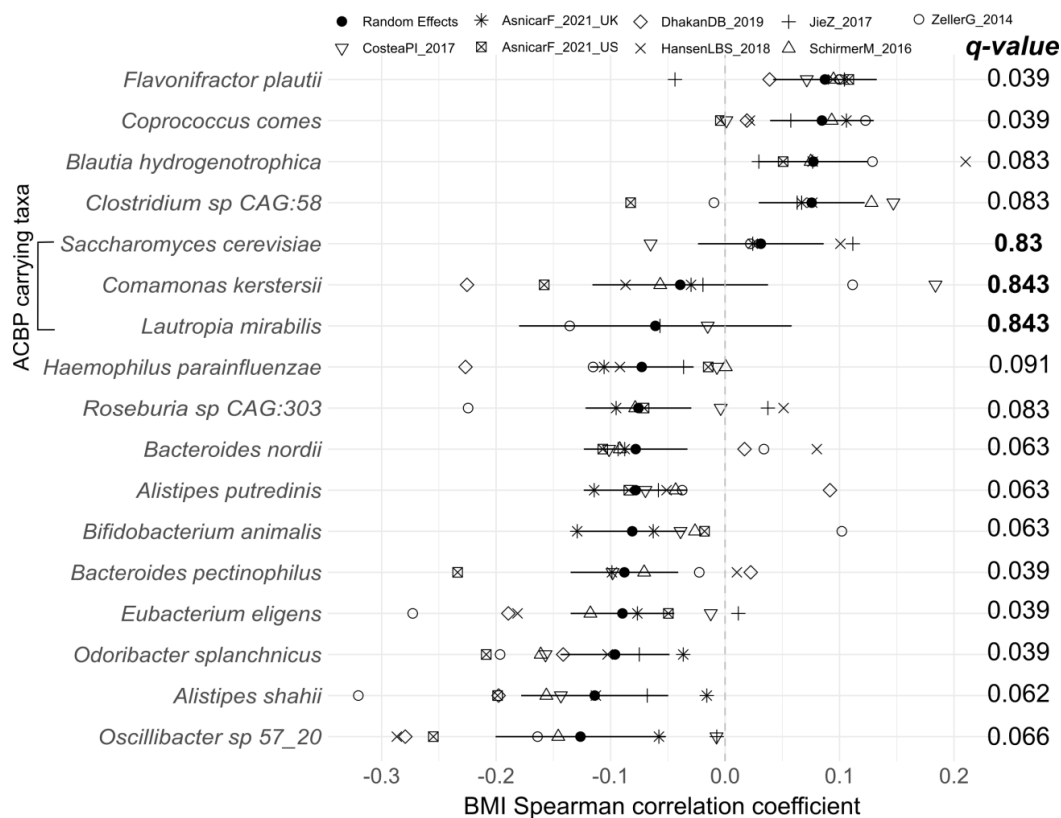


Figure 2. ACBP/DBI is rare in human gut metagenomes. Prevalence of ACBP encoding SGBs from the human microbiome (Panel A) for all datasets available in curatedMetagenomicData representing 7,698 metagenomic samples from the human gut. Panel B reports the prevalence of assembled reads (contigs) with a significant hit to ACBP sequences and metagenomic reads that map to ACBP sequences with a breadth of coverage >80% (see **Methods**).



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Figure 3. ACBP/DBI carrying taxa present in the human gut show no significant associations with BMI. We performed a meta-analysis of partial correlations (adjusted for age and sex) between species abundances and BMI across 1,899 samples from healthy gut metagenomes using a random effects model. Meta-analysis p-values were corrected for multiple hypothesis testing correction using the false discovery rate (q-values). ACBP-carrying species are shown, as well as species whose FDR <10%.

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574 **Table 1.** Top 10 species with the largest number of ACBP/DBI encoding genomes based on
575 available reference genomes

Taxonomy	# of genomes with ACBP (% positive from genomes searched)
Bacteria;Proteobacteria;Betaproteobacteria;Burkholderiales;Burkholderiaceae;Burkholderia;Burkholderia pseudomallei	663 (100%)
Bacteria;Proteobacteria;Betaproteobacteria;Burkholderiales;Burkholderiaceae;Burkholderia;Burkholderia ubonensis	291 (100%)
Bacteria;Proteobacteria;Betaproteobacteria;Burkholderiales;Burkholderiaceae;Burkholderia;Burkholderia cenocepacia	242 (99.1%)
Bacteria;Proteobacteria;Betaproteobacteria;Burkholderiales;Burkholderiaceae;Burkholderia;Burkholderia multivorans	198 (100%)
Eukaryota;Ascomycota;Saccharomycetes;Saccharomycetales;Saccharomycetaceae;Saccharomyces;Saccharomyces cerevisiae	109 (93.9%)
Bacteria;Proteobacteria;Betaproteobacteria;Burkholderiales;Burkholderiaceae;Burkholderia;Burkholderia cepacia	98 (100%)
Bacteria;Proteobacteria;Betaproteobacteria;Burkholderiales;Burkholderiaceae;Ralstonia;Ralstonia solanacearum	80 (100%)
Bacteria;Proteobacteria;Betaproteobacteria;Burkholderiales;Burkholderiaceae;Burkholderia;Burkholderia stagnalis	64 (100%)
Bacteria;Proteobacteria;Betaproteobacteria;Burkholderiales;Burkholderiaceae;Burkholderia;Burkholderia mallei	56 (100%)
Bacteria;Proteobacteria;Betaproteobacteria;Burkholderiales;Burkholderiaceae;Burkholderia;Burkholderia vietnamiensis	44 (100%)

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578 **Table 2.** Demographic information of gut samples from healthy individuals used in the meta-
579 analysis

Dataset name	n	Age (years)			BMI (kg/m ²)			Sex (n)	
		Mean	Min	Max	Mean	Min	Max	Female	Male
AsnicarF_2021_UK	953	45.6	18.5	65.9	25.3	18.7	40.0	686	267
AsnicarF_2021_US	92	42.5	22.3	65.9	25.9	18.8	38.8	61	31
CosteaPI_2017	82	50.6	29	75	27.4	20.0	38.0	52	30
DhakanDB_2019	80	35.6	19	71	23.6	19.2	36.4	42	38
HansenLBS_2018	57	48.7	22.4	65.4	28.5	21.3	35.1	30	27
JieZ_2017	140	61.0	38	107	23.7	18.8	32.1	76	64
SchirmerM_2016	437	27.8	18	75	22.9	18.8	34.4	246	191
ZellerG_2014	58	61.0	25	84	24.8	20.0	34.0	31	27

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