

Full Length Research Paper

## Molecular identification of acetic acid bacteria isolated from fermented mango juices of Burkina Faso: 16S rRNA gene sequencing

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Acetic acid bacteria are known for their ability to oxidize ethanol to acetic acid. This study investigated to identify dominant strain acetic acid bacteria involving in fermented juice of mango and capable to produce Vinegar, total of 4 bacteria (CRSBAN-BVA1, CRSBAN-BVK1, CRSBAN-BVK2, CRSBAN-BVI1) bacteria strains were preselected for the analyses. The strains were examined with biochemical, physiological and phenotypical methods such as Gram die, catalase and oxidase test, ethanol oxidation to acetic acid, and over to CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O and also metabolism of carbohydrate was tested, for their affiliation to the genera of acetic acid bacteria. Subsequently, genotypic identification was conducted by sequencing the gene coding for 16S rRNA of one targeted strain and phylogenetic analysis was realized throughout 16S rRNA sequences. The results showed that one of the isolated strain (CRSBAN-BVA1) present 99. 90% of similarity in the sequence 16S rRNA region with *Acetobacter tropicalis*. It demonstrated that bacterial diversity in the mango vinegar is dominated by *A. tropicalis*. Therefore this strain is potentially useful for its utilization as a starter in vinegar production.

**Key words:** Fermented juice, acetic acid bacteria, 16S rRNA gene sequence, *Acetobacter tropicalis*.

### INTRODUCTION

Acetic acid bacteria (AAB) are important organisms in food and beverage industries etc. It is known that they adapt well to sugary and alcoholized fluid (Muramatsu et al., 2009). AAB are Gram negative, rod shape and

obligate aerobic bacteria with the ability to oxidize ethanol to acetic acid (Moryadee et al., 2008; Maal et al., 2010). Belonging to the family of *Acetobacteriaceae*, AAB are classified in twelve genera: *Acetobacter*, *Gluconobacter*,

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*Acidomonas*, *Gluconacetobacter*, *Asaia*, *Kozakia*, *Swaminathania*, *Saccharibacter*, *Neoasaia*, *Granulibacter*, *Tanticharoenia* and *Ameyamaea* (Sengun et al., 2011). They are ubiquitous organisms that are well adapted to sugar and ethanol rich environments (Bartowsky et al., 2008). Vinegar, from the French vinaigre, meaning sour wine, can be made from almost any fermentable carbohydrate source, including apples, dates, grapes, pears, coconut, honey, mangos etc (Johnston and Gaas, 2006). Burkina Faso, as in other Sahelian countries, fruits production is dominated by mango. The production of fresh mangoes is estimated at around 337101 ton per year (CEFCOD, 2013). However, factors such as: lack of control over harvesting, packaging and storage standards, poor road infrastructure, poor commercialized on the local market and inadequacy of processing infrastructures, inflict enormous losses which handicap this sector. The resulting annual losses are estimated at about 30-40% of mango production (Ngamo et al., 2010; Vayssieres et al., 2013). However, mango is a substrat rich in fermentable substances sugars.

Thus, transforming them via biotechnological processes to obtain exotic products like vinegar by the local strain of AAB would be interressant. In Burkina like the other majority countries of West Africa, the most of vinegar consumed comes from the dilution of acetic acid of chemical origin because of lack of AAB strain. To raise this challenges two *Acetobacter* strains, *Acetobacter tropicalis* and *Acetobacter pasteurianus* were isolated Dolofrom mango fruit (*Mangifera indica*) in Senegal and (local beer obtained by fermenting cereal product) in Burkina Faso respectively (Ndoye et al., 2006).

This study aimed to isolate an AAB strain whose features make them applicable for biological vinegar production. Thus, we first isolated, identified and characterized AAB strains of mangos fruits. A recent classification of the AAB includes the genera of *Acetobacter*, *Acidomonas*, *Ameyamaea*, *Asaia*, *Gluconacetobacter*, *Gluconobacter*, *Granulibacter*, *Kozakia*, *Neoasaia*, *Neokomagataea*, *Saccharibacter*, *Swaminathania* and *Tanticharoenia* (Yamada and Yukphan, 2008; Mamlouk and Gullo, 2013).

AAB are generally found in nature because they can use a variety of substrates (Sharafi et al., 2010) and these bacteria have been isolated from alcoholic beverage, vinegar, fruits and fruit juice, flowers, honey, sugar cane, soil and water (Klawpiyapamornkun et al., 2015). Mango waste has a high carbohydrate and organic acid content that creates an acidic niche (Ouattara et al., 2018). Therefore, fermented juice of mango is a good source for isolation of AAB (Ouattara et al., 2018). The methods of identification based on the analysis of the phenotypical characteristics of the bacteria of non precise acetic acid and also very long do not have is not enough with the identification to the species. To optimize their use, it is necessary to determine their 16S rRNA gene sequences to understand

their taxonomic positions.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Sampling

One kilogram of mango samples were collected from four sites in Burkina Faso (Bobo-Dioulasso, Banfora, Orodara and Ouagadougou) (Figure 1). Six different varieties (Amelie, Kent, Sauvage, Brooks, Lippens and Springfield) of mangos were collected. A total of 80 mangos samples of different varieties were collected in May-July 2016 and 2017. After collection, they were subsequently crushed aseptically and were stored for spontaneous fermentation at room temperature.

### Screening of acetic acid bacteria (AAB)

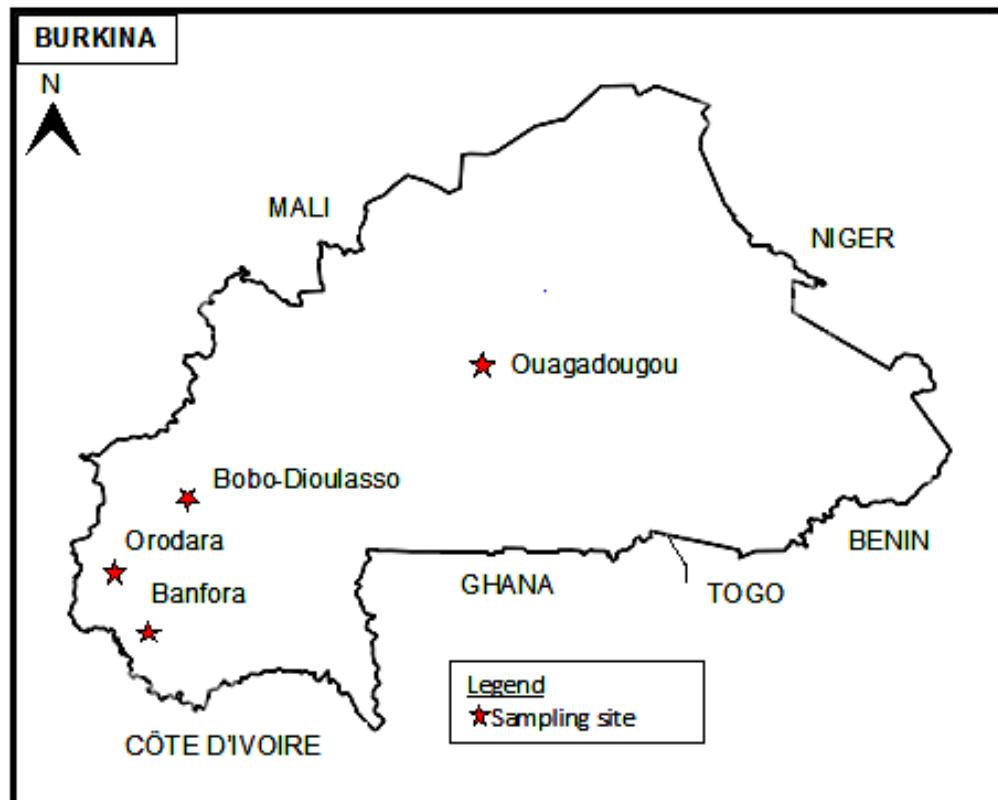
Screening of potentially AAB was performed on GYE modified medium. Prefermented mango were transferred in a GYE enrichment medium containing of glucose 2% (w/v), yeast extract 1% (w/v), ethanol 2% (v/v) and acetic acid 1% (v/v). Samples were incubated under agitation (120 rpm) at room temperature (30°C) for one week (Mounir et al., 2016). A volume of 100 µl from different dilutions were inoculated in GYC solid medium (10% glucose, 1.0% yeast extract, 2.0% calcium carbonate, 1.5% agar, pH 6.8) supplemented with 100 mg l<sup>-1</sup> of Cycloheximide and nystatin were to inhibit the growth of fungi and lactic acid bacteria, respectively (Sharafi et al., 2010; Kadere et al., 2008). This antibiotic was added to the culture medium from the stock solution after the medium had been sterilized. Plates dish were incubated at 30°C for 2-3 days under aerobic conditions. Only isolates which were able to produce clear halos around the colonies, characteristic fundamental associates a colony to the group of acetic bacteria were further characterized (Cleenwerck and De Vos, 2008). *Acetobacter* and *Gluconobacter* were distinguished from each other on Carr medium in the presence of bromocresol green. *Acetobacter* turns the media color to yellow and then to green while *Gluconobacter* turns it into yellow.

### Phenotypic characterization of acetic acid bacteria (AAB)

Biochemical and morphological identification tests were performed to confirm that the selected isolates belong to *Acetobacter* genera. Morphology of bacteria, including their shape, size, arrangement, Gram and motility, was characterized using cells grown on GYC at 30°C under aerobic conditions (Cleenwerck et al., 2002). Tests, such as catalase, oxidase, and growth in varying concentrations of ethanol and glucose, were employed according the method of Conventional biochemical. Other biochemical tests such as carbohydrate assimilation was performed on presumed *Acetobacter* strains.

### DNA preparation

DNA extraction was performed according method by Ruiz et al., (2000) with the following modifications. Cells were grown overnight in 5 ml medium, centrifuged at 4000 g and washed twice with 5 ml of water. The pellet was suspended in 300 ml of 3% (w/v) SDS-TE buffer (10 mmol l<sup>-1</sup> Tris-HCl, pH 7.5; mmol l<sup>-1</sup>EDTA) and incubated for 10 min at room temperature. After addition of 200 ml TE buffer, 500 ml of phenol-chloroform-isoamyl alcohol (25: 24: 1, v/v), the



**Figure 1.** Chart presenting sampling site.

aqueous phase was separated by centrifugation for 10 min at 10 000 g. The DNA was precipitated with isopropanol and washed with 70% (v/v) ethanol. Finally, the DNA was resuspended in 20 ml TE buffer to a final concentration of 1150 ng/ml and stored at -20°C.

#### PCR amplification, sequencing, and phylogenetic analysis of 16S rRNA genes

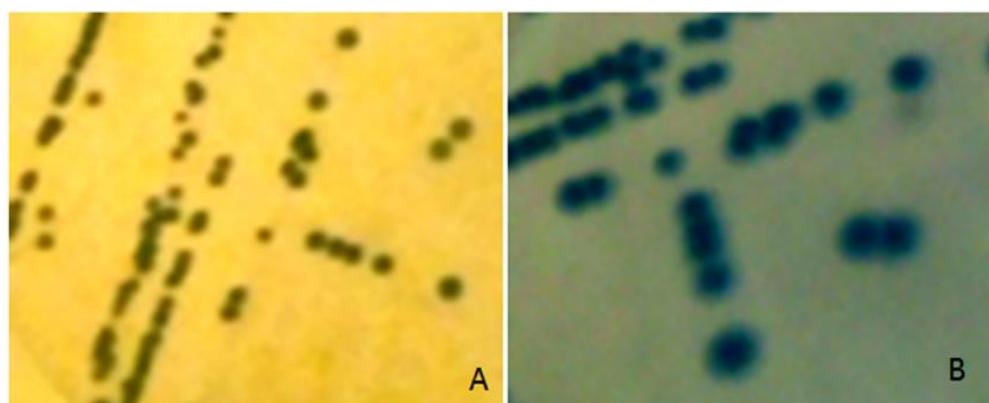
DNA for 16S rRNA gene sequencing was extracted by the method of Wilson (2001) with minor modifications (Cleenwerck et al., 2002). The 16S rDNA genes of both community bacteria were amplified by PCR using the pair of 16S rDNA gene universal primers. Forward primer (5'-AGAGTTTGATCTGGCTAG-3') and Reverse primer (5'-ACGGCTACCTGTTACGACTT-3') which is targeted to bacterial 16S rDNA gene was used. The forward and reverse 16S rDNA gene universal primers generate a 1.5 kb fragment. The polymerase chain reaction (PCR) reaction was performed in 0.5 ml microcentrifuge tubes (Eppendorf, UK) with 25 µl of reaction mixture: 12.5 µl "Go Taq Green" master mix (2.5 units Taq DNA polymerase, 1X Qiagen PCR buffer and 200 µM of each dNTP), 0.5 µl forward primer (10 µM), 0.3 µl reverse primer (10 µM) and 1.5 µl RNA template, and made up to 25 µl with 10.2 µl of nuclease-free sterile distilled water. The PCR protocol consisted of an initial denaturation step of 95°C for 5 min followed by 30 cycles of denaturation at 94°C for 1 min, primer annealing at 44°C for 30 s and elongation at 72°C for 2 min, final holding at 73 °C for 4 min. PCR reaction was performed in a 20 well block thermocycler (TECHGENE, UK). Sequence blast, alignment and phylogenetic trees were obtained from the website le BIBI <https://umr5558-bibiserv.univ-lyon1.fr/lebibi/lebibi.cgi>. The topology of the trees was

evaluated using bootstrap method with 1000 replicates. Alignments of 16S rDNA sequences from the GenBank database were screened to select the most suitable primers to use in the detection and identification of AAB.

## RESULTS

### Phenotypical identification of strains

The examination of the primary screened such as macroscopic, microscopic and biochemical of isolated strain showed that this strain related to AAB group. Overoxidation in Carr medium resulted in conversion of blue color of medium to yellow after 24-48 h and then reconversion of yellow color to blue after 72-96 h (Figure 2). Also utilization of CaCO<sub>3</sub> and creation of transparent zones around the colonies in Frateur medium confirmed that the isolated strain was AAB. All strains were able to produce acid from following sugars such as: glucose, mannose, melibiose and mannitol and were unable to produce acid from arabinose, galactose, fructose, lactose, maltose, sucrose and saccharose. The preliminary identification on the basis of biochemical and physiologique tests (Table 1) brought about the possibility of having the *Acetobacter*. Hence the 16s rRNA technique was further employed to confirm the isolate.



**Figure 2.** Color of colonies in Carr medium after 24h (A) and after 96h (B).

**Table 1.** Bio-chemical and physiological characters of the obtained *A. tropicalis*.

Biochemical/physiologic test	<i>Acetobacter tropicalis</i> CRSBAN-BVA1	Strains		
		CRSBAN-BVK1	CRSBAN-BVI1	CRSBAN-BVK2
Gram	-	-	-	-
Motility	+	+	+	+
Catalase	+	+	+	+
Oxidase	-	-	-	-
Ketogenesis of glycerol	-	-	-	-
Cellulose production	+	+	-	-
Peroxydisation	+	+	+	+
Saccharose	+	+	+	+
Glucose	+	+	+	+
Sucrose	-	-	-	-
Fructose	-	-	+	+
Lactose	-	-	-	-
Arabinose	-	-	-	-
Meliobiose	+	+	+	+
Mannitol	+	+	+	+
Galactose	-	-	-	-
Maltose	-	-	-	-
Mannose	+	+	+	+

Symbols: + (positive), - (negative).

### Identification of *A. tropicalis*

The phylogenetic affiliation of strain was based on 16S rRNA gene sequence analysis, where it was shown to belong to the genus *Acetobacter*. The phylogenetic analysis of the strains (Figure 3) was carried out using leBiBi software to determine similarity and close relationship of isolate. The phylogenetic tree analysis revealed that sequence was closely related to *Acetobacter* species. Figure 3 showed that strain *A. tropicalis* (CRSBAN-VBA1) belonged to the stable

subcluster containing *A. orleanensis*, *A. malorum*, *A. cerevisiae*, *A. farinalis*, *A. persici*, *A. indonesiensis*, *A. tropicalis*, *A. senegalensis*, *A. cibinongensis*, *A. orientalis*, *A. musti*, *A. oeni*, *A. estunensis*, *A. sicerae*, *A. aceti*, *A. thailandicus*, *A. oryzifermantans*, *A. ascendens*, *A. pasteurianus*, *A. pomorum*, *A. suratthaniensis*, *A. syzygii*, *A. lambici*, *A. okinawensis*, *A. fabarum*, *A. lovanensis* and *A. ghanensis*. The 16S rRNA gene sequence similarities obtained by pairwise alignment with the Bio Numerics 4.5 software package between strain *A. tropicalis* (CRSBAN-BVA1) and the type strains or

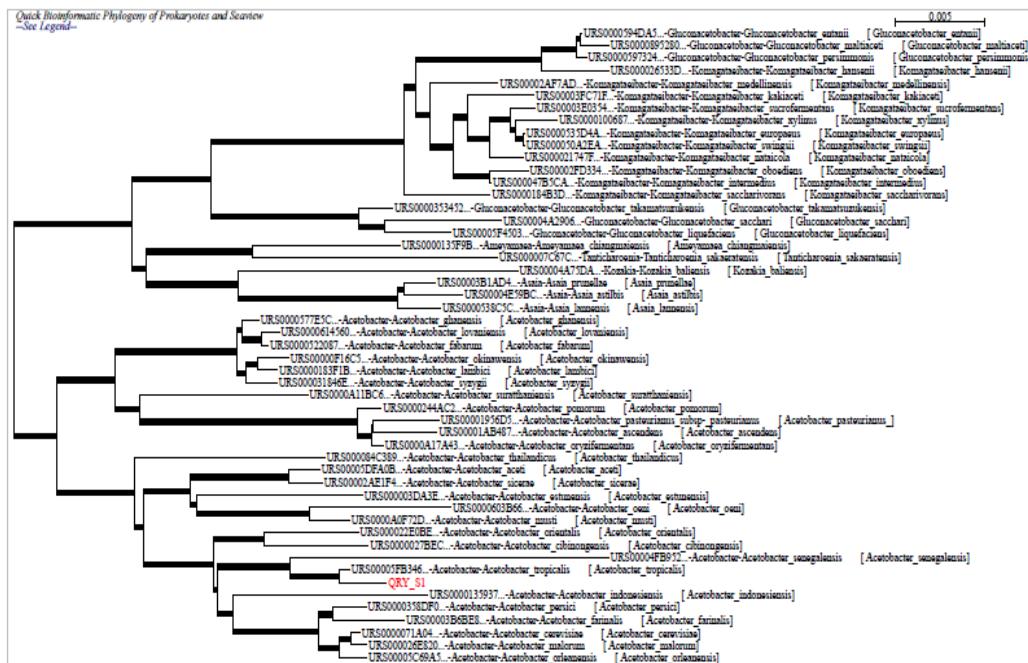


Figure 3. Phylogenetic analysis of the sequence *Acetobacter tropicalis* (CRSBAN- BVA1).

another strains of recognized *Acetobacter* species were represented in Table 2.

## DISCUSSION

Acetic acid bacteria are characterized by the ability to oxidize alcohols or sugars incompletely, and a common feature to most of strains their capacity to oxidize ethanol to acetic acid. Although strains of AAB that are generally isolated with GYC plates showed distinct clear zones (Trcek, 2005). The methods based on the presence of a clear zone was not completely believable because other strains, such as some lactic acid bacteria, could also form distinct clear zones (Trcek, 2005). The result of biochemical tests showed that the isolated strains from fermented juice of mangos belonged to genus of *Acetobacter* or *Gluconacetobacter*. In addition to their ability to oxidise ethanol, *Acetobacter* and *Gluconacetobacter* species can further oxidise acetic acid to CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O, generating the so-called acetate overoxidation, that is carried out by the tricarboxylic acid cycle (TCA) when there is a high level of dissolved oxygen and no ethanol in the medium. According to Sakurai et al., (2013), strains of *Gluconobacter* are not able to overoxidise because of non-functional α-ketoglutarate dehydrogenase and succinate dehydrogenase of tricarboxylic acid cycle; they can only oxidize ethanol to acetic acid (Du Toit and Pretorius, 2002). Hence the presence of the ethanol in the medium represses the activity of TCA enzyme cycles in

*Acetobacter* genus. The results of acid production with different sugars showed also that strains produced acid with some sugars and did not have the capacity to produce acid with other sugars. These results are slightly comparable to those found by Lisdiyanti et al. (2000) and kadere et al. (2008). According to Lisdiyanti et al., (2000) this slight difference is a variability between strains of *Acetobacter* genus.

On the Carr medium, the production of the acid in the medium by strain can be seen in form of clearing of opacity of medium or the colour change of bromocresol green confirms that the isolate is *Acetobacter* species. Sharafi et al., (2010); Mounir et al., (2016) had reported that color change of the indicator bromocresol green in the medium from green to yellow confirm that the isolate is *Acetobacter*. The production of acid acetic of this strains was previously determined by Ouattara et al., (2018), where it was shown that these strains had the capacity to produce a high concentration of acetic acid and the highest was found with strain CRSBAN-BVA1. Molecular characterization will confirm our results. Molecular techniques have been employed by PCR-amplified fragment of the gene coding for 16S rRNA to confirm that the isolate is *Acetobacter*.

The fast molecular detection was proven to be efficient and accurate According 16S rRNA sequencing and phylogenetic tree analysis, the isolate was further proven to be *A. tropicalis*. The comparison of 16S rRNA gene sequence of the strains with the total nucleotide collection in the LEBIBI nucleotide database was used to assign the bacterial name with ≥ 99% similarity. The greatest

**Table 2.** Alignments of 16S rRNA sequences grouped by closest sequence.

Closest species based on 16S rRNA sequence	Accession number of 16SrRNA ref seq.	% of 16s rRNA similarity	Closest species based on 16S rRNA sequence	Accession number of 16SrRNA ref seq.	% of 16s rRNA similarity
<i>Acetobacter orleanensis</i>	URS00005C69A5	98.38	<i>Acetobacter lovaniensis</i>	URS0000614560	96.56
<i>Acetobacter malorum</i>	URS000026E820	98.47	<i>Acetobacter ghanensis</i>	URS0000577E5C	96.85
<i>Acetobacter cerevisiae</i>	URS0000071A04	98.68	<i>Asaia lannensis</i>	URS0000538C5C	95.93
<i>Acetobacter farinalis</i>	URS00003B6BE8	97.86	<i>Asaia astilbis,</i>	URS00004E59BC	95.75
<i>Acetobacter persici</i>	URS0000358DF0	98.27	<i>Asaia prunellae</i>	URS00003B1AD4	95.95
<i>Acetobacter indonesiensis</i>	URS0000135937	97.48	<i>Acetobacter lovaniensis</i>	URS00004A75DA	96.14
<i>Acetobacter tropicalis</i>	URS00005FB346	99.90	<i>Acetobacter ghanensis</i>	URS000007C67C	95.73
<i>Acetobacter senegalensis</i>	URS00004FB952	97.87	<i>Asaia lannensis</i>	URS0000135F9B	95.95
<i>Acetobacter cibinongensis</i>	URS0000027BEC	98.07	<i>Asaia astilbis,</i>	URS00005F4503	95.96
<i>Acetobacter orientalis</i>	URS000022E0BE	98.38	<i>Asaia prunellae</i>	URS00004A2906	95.96
<i>Acetobacter musti</i>	URS0000A0F72D	98.08	<i>Gluconacetobacter takamatsuzukensis</i>	URS0000353452	96.14
<i>Acetobacter oeni</i>	URS0000603B66	96.97	<i>Komagataeibacter saccharivorans</i>	URS0000184B3D	95.85
<i>Acetobacter estunensis</i>	URS000003DA3E	97.36	<i>Komagataeibacter intermedius</i>	URS000047B5CA	95.96
<i>Acetobacter sicerae</i>	URS00002AE1F4	97.66	<i>Komagataeibacter oboediens</i>	URS00002FD334	95.75
<i>Acetobacter aceti</i>	URS00005DFA0B	97.57	<i>Komagataeibacter nataicola</i>	URS000021747F	95.75
<i>Acetobacter thailandicus</i>	URS000084C389	97.25	<i>Komagataeibacter swingsii</i>	URS000050A2EA	95.83
<i>Acetobacter oryzifermenans</i>	URS0000A17A43	97.25	<i>Komagataeibacter europaeus</i>	URS0000535D4A	95.65
<i>Acetobacter ascendens</i>	URS0001AB487	95.95	<i>Komagataeibacter xylinus</i>	URS0000100687	95.95
<i>Acetobacter pasteurianus</i>	URS00001956D5	95.95	<i>Komagataeibacter sucrofermentans</i>	URS00003E0354	95.65
<i>Acetobacter pomorum</i>	URS0000244AC2	96.26	<i>Komagataeibacter kakiaceti</i>	URS00003FC71F	95.83
<i>Acetobacter suratthaniensis</i>	URS0000A11BC6	95.93	<i>Komagataeibacter medellinensis</i>	URS00002AF7AD	95.85
<i>Acetobacter syzygii</i>	URS000031846E	96.54	<i>Komagataeibacter hansenii</i>	URS000026533D	95.83
<i>Acetobacter lambici</i>	URS0000183F1B	96.54	<i>Gluconacetobacter persimmonis</i>	URS0000597324	95.95
<i>Acetobacter okinawensis</i>	URS00000F16C5	96.44	<i>Gluconacetobacter maliacetii</i>	URS0000895280	95.85
<i>Acetobacter fabarum</i>	URS0000522087	96.44	<i>Gluconacetobacter entanii</i>	URS0000594DA5	95.65

similitude (99.90%) was obtained with the species *A. tropicalis* and another similitude which various between 95.75 to 98.68% with other species such as *Acetobacter*, *Asaia*, *Gluconacetobacter* and *Komagataeibacter* were represented in Table 2. *A. tropicalis* was identified as the only predominant group. The phylogenetic tree reflects

the results obtained in Table 2. Lisdiyanti et al., (2000) in their study on the diversity of AAB in Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines, have isolated *A. tropicalis* from fermented foods (palm wine and rice wine), fruits (lime, orange, guava, coconut), and coconut juice whose similarity is in a range of 96.5 to 98.9% between the type strain

of *A. tropicalis* and the type strains of other *Acetobacter* species. Others researchers as Kounatidis et al., (2009) have isolated *A. tropicalis* with in similitude 99.7% from fermented wine. In Senegal *A. tropicalis* with in similitude 99.3% was isolated from mango fruit (*Mangifera indica*) (Ndoye et al., 2007). These similarities are

slightly lower than our which was 99.90%. Hence the identity of the isolates were confirmed by the 16s rRNA method, as *A. tropicalis*

## Conclusion

In this study, AAB were isolated and identified from fermented juice of mangos—sing of 16S rRNA gene sequence has allowed differentiation between species and could represent a tool for a rapid and low cost effective preliminary profiling of Acetic Acid Bacteria genera. The molecular technique can also be useful to highlight the phylogenetically closely related species. This first knowledge of the acetic acid bacteria will serve as a guide in selecting starter for the production of vinegar in Burkina Faso.

## CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The authors have not declared any conflict of interests.

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