

# Genomic and functional features of the biosurfactant producing *Bacillus* sp. AM13

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**Abstract** Genomic studies provide deeper insights into secondary metabolites produced by diverse bacterial communities, residing in various environmental niches. This study aims to understand the potential of a biosurfactant producing *Bacillus* sp. AM13, isolated from soil. An integrated approach of genomic and chemical analysis was employed to characterize the antibacterial lipopeptide produced by the strain AM13. Genome analysis revealed that strain AM13 harbors a nonribosomal peptide synthetase (NRPS) cluster; highly similar with known biosynthetic gene clusters from surfactin family: lichenysin (85 %) and surfactin (78 %). These findings were substantiated with supplementary experiments of oil displacement assay and surface tension measurements, confirming the biosurfactant production. Further investigation using LCMS approach exhibited similarity of the biomolecule with biosurfactants of the surfactin family. Our consolidated effort of functional genomics provided chemical as well as genetic leads for understanding the biochemical characteristics of the bioactive compound.

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## Introduction

Bacterial natural products have gained wide attention in recent years due to their extensive applications in food and pharmaceutical industries. These industrially and biologically important biomolecules encompass variety of active compounds like terpenoids, bacteriocins, lipopeptides, etc (Nerurkar 2010; Raaijmakers et al. 2010). Biosurfactants, specifically the ‘Lipopeptides’, are amphiphilic cyclic peptides and usually linked with a fatty acid chain (Nerurkar 2010). Surfactants have been widely studied for years, both with structural and functional aspects. Apart from environmental and industrial uses, these biomolecules have wide biological applications (Rodrigues et al. 2006; Ongena and Jacques 2008). Biosurfactants are known to have antibacterial, hemolytic, and antiviral activity, possessing a specific mechanism that affects the membrane permeability and eventually leading to cell disruption (Heerklotz and Seelig 2007).

These structurally complex biomolecules require equally complex machinery for their biosynthesis. Nonribosomal peptide synthetases (NRPS) are one of the complex set of proteins amongst the several known machineries required to produce bacterial natural products (Ansari et al. 2004; Wang et al. 2014). Various studies have been carried out to understand the biosynthetic gene clusters harbored by bacteria (mainly *Bacillus* genera) for actively synthesizing such compounds (Yakimov et al. 1995; Mukherjee et al. 2009; Al-Bahry et al. 2013; Donio et al. 2013). Although, gene clusters responsible for the production of NRPS molecules share very similar modules, most of these have a potential to produce isoforms of the same biomolecule (Naruse et al. 1990; Konz et al. 1999;

Domingos et al. 2015). Considering the diversity in their structures and functions, it is necessary to carry out extensive screening and characterization using unified methodology of chemical genomics and thus to create a platform for breakthrough understanding of such biomolecules (Payne et al. 2007; Zerikly and Challis 2009; Lu et al. 2014; Aleti et al. 2015). Furthermore, such efforts could eventually lead to the development of better drugs, considering both the production cost and improvement in their effectiveness.

The present study involves the use of an integrated approach to understand the functional genomics of a biosurfactant producing bacterial isolate, *Bacillus* sp. AM13. Moreover, this study aims to understand the genetic basis of biosynthetic machinery involved in the production of the bioactive molecule, along with comprehending its chemical nature.

## Material and methods

### Sample collection and bacterial isolation

Soil samples near a pond situated at Ambala, Haryana, India (30° 21' 23.64" N, 76° 51' 28.26" E) were collected in triplicate. Samples were transported to the laboratory at 4 °C and were processed immediately. For bacterial isolation, 1 g soil sample was serially diluted in sterile saline solution. Each dilution was spread onto NA and R2A medium (pH 7.2 ± 0.2) and incubated at 30 °C for 2–7 days.

### Primary screening of antibacterial activity

Bacterial isolates were screened for antibacterial activity against *Escherichia coli* ATCC 25922 and *Bacillus subtilis* ATCC 10876 (data not shown). Isolates demonstrating desired zones were further screened by the same protocol against two multi-drug resistant bacteria (MDR), *Enterobacter* sp., resistant to sulfamethoxazole, ampicillin, azithromycin, and tetracycline, and *Serratia* sp. GMX1, resistant to sulfamethoxazole, ampicillin, azithromycin, tetracycline, and netilmicin as described in the previous study (Kapley et al. 2016). Isolates with antibacterial activity against both the MDR strains were selected for further characterization. However, this study focuses only on strain AM13. This strain was deposited at Microbial Culture Collection, Pune, India, and catalogued with the accession number MCC 2971.

### Genome sequencing

Genomic DNA extraction was carried out using the method described in the previous study (Prakash et al. 2012). The genomic DNA was fragmented using Ion Shear Plus Reagents Kit (Life technologies, USA) and purified using Agencourt Ampure XP DNA reagent (Beckman Coulter,

USA). The fragmented DNA was ligated with barcode adapters. Adaptor-DNA constructs were purified and size selected and amplified via PCR as per manufacturer's instructions. Quantification and size distribution analysis was carried out on high sensitivity DNA chip kit on Agilent Bioanalyzer 2100 (Agilent technologies, Santa Clara, USA). Emulsion PCR and sequencing of the DNA libraries were carried out using Ion PI chip Ion Proton system (Life technologies, USA).

### Genomic data preprocessing, assembly, and annotation

All Ion-proton quality-approved, trimmed, and filtered data were exported as BAM files for further bioinformatics analysis. The *De Novo* assembly method was employed to carry out the assembly of quality-filtered reads using MIRA assembler version 4.9.3 (Chevreux et al. 1999). Genome annotation was carried out using Rapid Annotation using Subsystem Technology (RAST) (Aziz et al. 2008) and Prokaryotic Genome Automatic Annotation Pipeline (PGAAP) (Angiuoli et al. 2008). tRNAScan (Lowe and Eddy 1997) and RNAmmer 1.2 (Lagesen et al. 2007) were used to predict transfer RNA (tRNA) and ribosomal RNA (rRNA) genes, respectively.

### Nucleotide sequence submission

This Whole Genome Shotgun project has been deposited at GenBank under the accession LKCP000000001. The version described in this paper is version LKCP01000000.

### Phylogenetic analysis and comparative genomics

16S ribosomal sequence retrieved from the AM13 genome was used to carry out phylogenetic analysis. Sequence similarity search was carried out using EzTaxon database with available type strains (Chun et al. 2007). Additionally, Multi Locus Sequence Typing (MLST) approach (using seven housekeeping genes) was used to determine the taxonomic identity of the isolate. For MLST analysis, sequences for nearest neighbors were retrieved from the available genomes. Average nucleotide identity (ANI) and tetra-nucleotide correlation index (Richter et al. 2015) were calculated with the closest species using an online tool, JSpeciesWS (<http://jspecies.ribohost.com/jspeciesws>). CGview, a comparative genomics tool (Grant and Stothard 2008), was used to compare and visualize the genomes of closely related species with *Bacillus* sp. AM13.

### Prediction and analysis of genomic features of *Bacillus* sp. AM13

Specialized pipelines like antibiotics and secondary metabolite analysis SHell (antiSMASH) version 3.0.4 (Weber et al. 2015) and Natural Product Domain Seeker

(NapDos) (Ziemert et al. 2012) were used to predict and annotate genes involved in production of secondary metabolites. Additionally, genomic data was screened for the presence of Insertion sequence (IS) elements and Phages using, IS Finder (Siguier et al. 2006), and PHAge Search Tool (PHAST) (Zhou et al. 2011), respectively. Screening of Genomic islands (GI) was carried out using the integrated method available in IslandViewer tool (Dhillon et al. 2015), which uses all three methods namely IslandPick, SIGI-HMM, and IslandPath-DIMOB for prediction of Genomic Islands (GI).

### Extraction of biosurfactant

A cell-free supernatant from the culture broth was obtained by centrifugation at 10,000 rpm for 20 min at 4 °C. pH of the supernatant was adjusted to 2, using 6 M HCl and was subjected to acid precipitation by placing it at 4 °C overnight. The off-white precipitate was separated by centrifugation at 10,000 rpm for 30 min at 4 °C as described by Domingos et al. (2015). The precipitate was extracted thrice with methanol. Solvent was evaporated using a rotary evaporator at 40 °C, leaving behind relatively pure biosurfactant, which was dissolved in methanol for further use.

### Hemolytic activity and oil displacement assay

As biosurfactants are known to lyse erythrocytes, blood agar method is often used for preliminary screening of such microorganisms. A fresh single colony of the culture was taken and spotted onto sheep blood agar plate (HiMedia, India). The plates were incubated for 24–48 h at 37 °C. Hemolytic activity was detected as the occurrence of a defined clear zone around a colony, as described in previous studies (Carrillo et al. 1996). Additionally, bacterial extract was tested for its ability to displace oil from a watery surface (Morikawa and Hirata 2000). Petri plates (diameter 90 mm) were filled with 30 ml of distilled water. Twenty microliters of sterile (filtered, 0.45 µm) crude oil was carefully layered on top of the water phase with a micropipette. Ten microliters of bacterial extract was added in the center of the oil surface. Clearing zone that appeared around the application site was observed. The diameter of this clearing zone on the oil surface correlates to surfactant activity.

### Surface tension measurement

Biosurfactant production of strain AM13 was determined by its ability to reduce the surface tension of the culture medium. The reduction in surface tension was measured by Platinum Iridium Wilhelmy plate method using a DCAT11 digital surface tensiometer (Data Physics, USA). The strain AM13 was grown in Trypticase Soy Broth (TSB) at three different time intervals (24, 48, and 72 h) to observe the pattern of biosurfactant production. A cell free broth was obtained by

centrifuging culture broth (50 ml) at 10,000 rpm for 20 min. The surface tension measurements were done by using cell free broth of all three-time points. The instrument was calibrated beforehand using Milli-Q water. All measurements were done at room temperature (25 °C). To increase the accuracy of the surface tension measurements, readings were taken in triplicates for each time interval.

### Thin layer chromatography

Preliminary characterization of the biosurfactant was done by TLC method. Surfactin standard (Sigma Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA) of 1 mg ml<sup>-1</sup> was used as control. Three microliters of methanolic extract was spotted on TLC plates Merck silica gel 60; mixture of chloroform and methanol was used as mobile phase in the ratio 7.5:2.5 v/v. Iodine was used to develop the plate. Simultaneously, preparative TLC was carried out as described in the previous study (Lavermicocca et al. 2000) to partially purify the extract. The band with  $R_f$  value corresponding to the surfactin standard was collected by scrapping off the band and eluted with methanol. This methanolic extract was later checked for its antibacterial activity and also used for LC-MS analysis.

### LC-MS analysis

Methanolic extract was diluted as 1:10 methanol/water (v/v) before injecting into LC-MS apparatus. An Agilent 1260 binary LC system (Agilent technologies, Waldbronn, Germany) consisting of a binary pump, thermostatted autosampler, and column compartment was used. The separation was performed at 40 °C on an RRHT Zorbax SB column, 100 × 2.1 mm, 1.8 µm (Agilent technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA). Mobile phase A consisted of 0.1 % Formic acid, whereas mobile phase B was acetonitrile. The flow rate was 0.3 ml/min with a linear gradient from 5 to 95 % in 13 min. The total time of analysis was 30 min. Mass spectrometry was carried out using 6540 Ultra- High definition accurate mass QTOF LC/MS system (Agilent technologies, Santa Clara, USA), equipped with a dual AJS-ESI. The LC-MS/MS was operated in full scan mode (from 400 to 1700 m/z ratio) to determine molecular mass of the biosurfactant molecule. Surfactin (Sigma Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA) of concentration 1 mg ml<sup>-1</sup> was used as standard. The extracted ion chromatograms with mass spectra were used for further analysis.

## Results

### Antibacterial activity

Strain AM13 exhibited antibacterial activity against all test organisms including Multi-Drug Resistant (MDR) bacterial

strains (Fig. S1). Moreover, the fraction obtained from preparative thin-layer chromatography (TLC) showed antibacterial activity against test bacterial strains.

### Genome sequence and general features

Genome sequencing of strain AM13 using Ion Proton platform yielded 4,654,704 reads with a mean read length of 168 bp. Quality filtered reads (>Q30) used for assembly resulted into 104 contigs. However, only 99 good quality contigs, with an average coverage of 163.24 X and genome size of 3,734,657 bp (Table 1), were used for further analysis. PGAAP revealed that the genome harbored 3791 genes (3481 CDS), while 4030 genomic features were annotated by RAST server (RAST Genome ID: 1386.173) as described in Table 1. Based on the genomic data, GC content was found to be 41.6 %, which is similar to most of the closely related species (Villanueva et al. 2014).

### Phylogenetic analysis and comparative genomics

A full-length 16S rRNA gene sequence of 1537 bp (retrieved using RNAmmer 1.2) was selected for phylogenetic analysis. It was found that the strain AM13 shared high similarity with *Bacillus safensis* FO-36b<sup>T</sup> (99.93 % similarity), followed by *Bacillus pumilus* ATCC 7061<sup>T</sup> (99.87 %) and *Bacillus altitudinis* 41KF2b<sup>T</sup> (99.54 %). Phylogenetic analysis indicated that strain AM13 formed a separate clade with *B. safensis* FO-36b<sup>T</sup>, within the *B. pumilus* group (Fig. 1a). Phylogenetic analysis using concatenated dataset of seven MLST genes highlighted its relatedness with *B. safensis* (Fig. 1b, Table S1). Furthermore, the genome comparison approach employed using JSpeciesWS (results shown in Table S2), also substantiated its high similarity with *B. safensis*. Further confirmation of the taxonomic identity based on genome comparison using CGview tool supported these findings. Figure 2 represents a circular map of the genome illustrating various coding regions along with the location of tRNA, rRNA, and other genes. The comparison

**Table 1** Genome features. The table enlists the general genome characteristics obtained after annotation using PGAAP

Feature	NCBI PGAAP description
Coverage	163.24X
No. of Contigs	104 (99*)
Genes	3791
CDS	3481
tRNAs	84
Pseudogenes	202
GC content (%)	41.6

\*The final submitted number of contigs to NCBI

revealed high similarity between genomes in the regions harboring tRNA and rRNA genes along with few other regions as seen in Fig. 2. The height of the BLAST hits (which is drawn proportional to the percent identity of the hits) shows that the strain AM13 (BLAST 1) and *B. safensis* (BLAST 3) share high genome similarity as compared to the genome of *B. pumilus* (BLAST 2).

### Genome profile: screening of GI, IS elements, and pro-phage

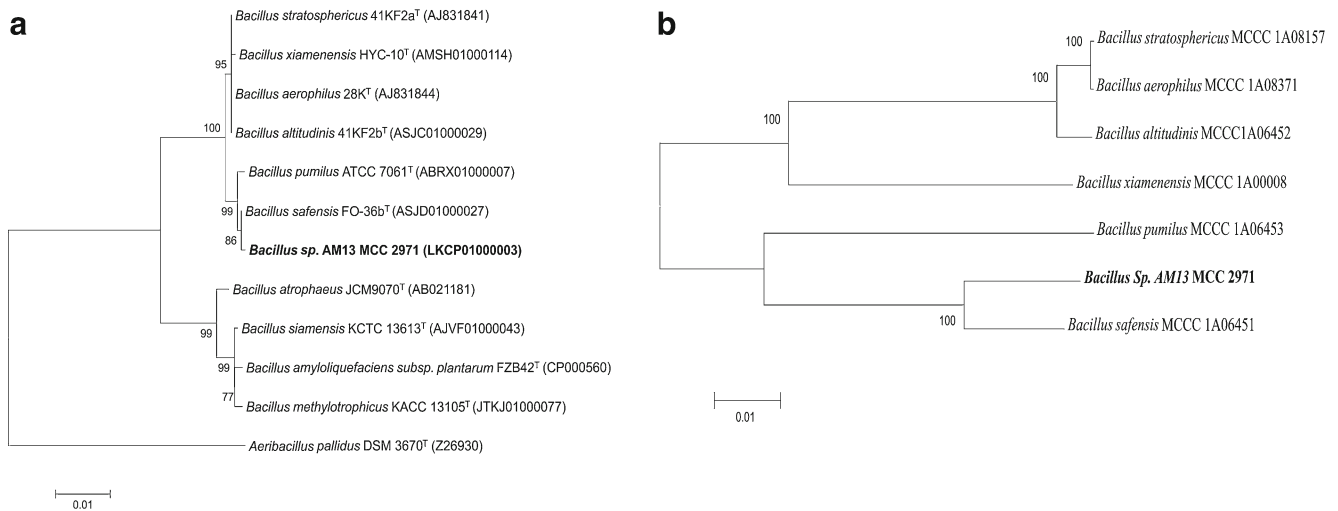
The presence of two pro-phages, one intact pro-phage and an incomplete pro-phage, was observed in the genome, as revealed by PHAST (Fig. 3a). Screening of horizontal gene transfer (HGT) events (mobile genetic elements), predicted the presence of nine regions of genomic islands (see Fig. 3b). Functional features of the genes in these predicted GI regions were determined using annotation files obtained from RAST and PGAAP. Our analysis suggested that these regions harbored genes mainly encoding few ribosomal, hypothetical, and viral proteins. However, some GI regions also included transport-related genes and Plantazolicin synthase D subunit. The list of predicted genes in the probable GI's is described in Table S3. Furthermore, very few significant hits for IS (Insertion Sequence) elements related to Prophage origin were found using the IS Finder tool.

### Secondary metabolite prediction and NRPS cluster analysis

Secondary metabolite prediction using antiSMASH revealed the presence of a biosynthetic gene cluster, with a similarity of 85 % (gene similarity) with known lichenysin cluster and 78 % with the known surfactin cluster (Fig. 4). This gene cluster was found to be highly similar to the genome of *B. pumilus* W8 (Fig. 4). Domains and their substrate specificity predicted using antiSMASH and NaPDoS suggested that the predicted gene cluster belonged to NRPS family, specifically to the biosurfactant group.

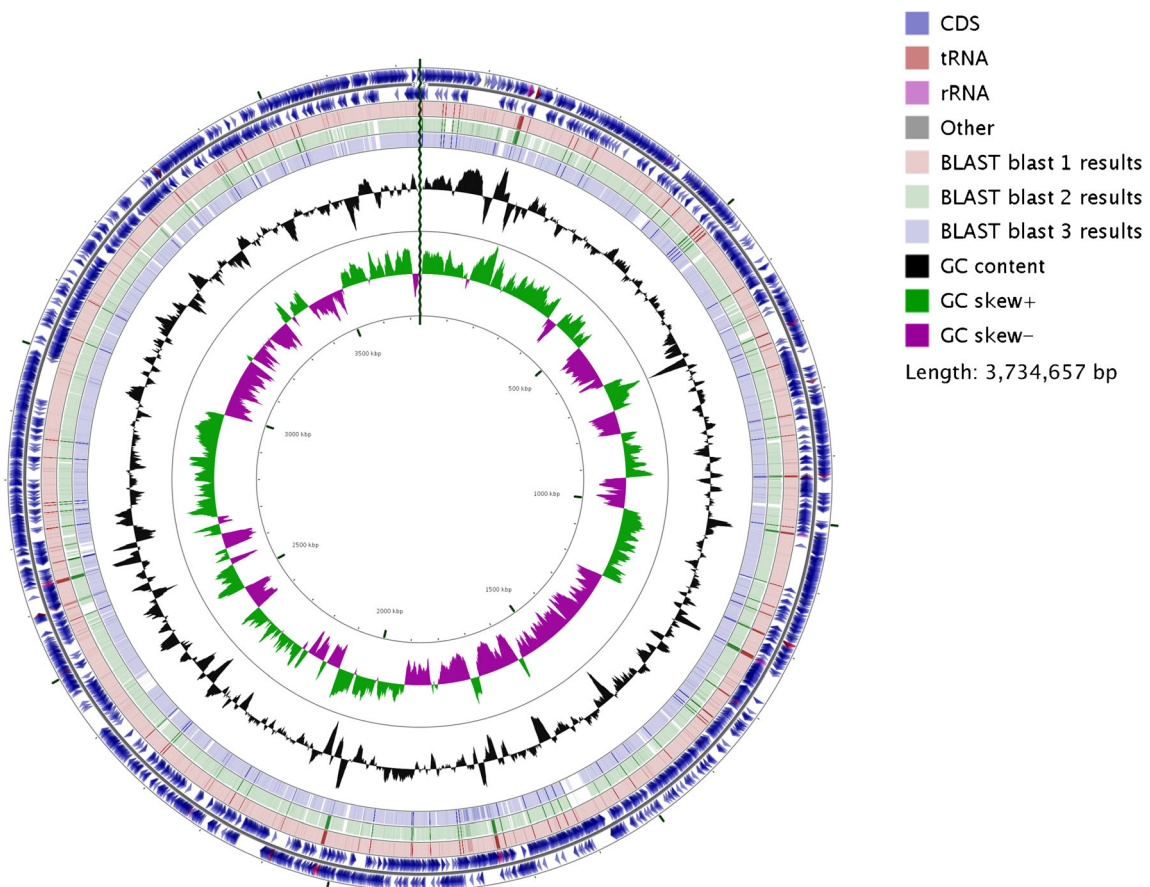
### Biosurfactant activity

It is evident from the study carried out by Morikawa and Hirata (2000) that the extent of oil displacement is directly proportional to the amount of biosurfactant produced. Methanolic extract of strain AM13 displaced the oil layer completely to the circumference of the petri dish, indicating its capacity to produce biosurfactant. Additionally, strain AM13 demonstrated  $\beta$ -hemolytic activity, producing a clear zone of 1.7 cm around the colony on blood agar plate, which reasserts biosurfactant production of strain AM13. Biosurfactant activity of the strain AM13 was also confirmed by its ability to



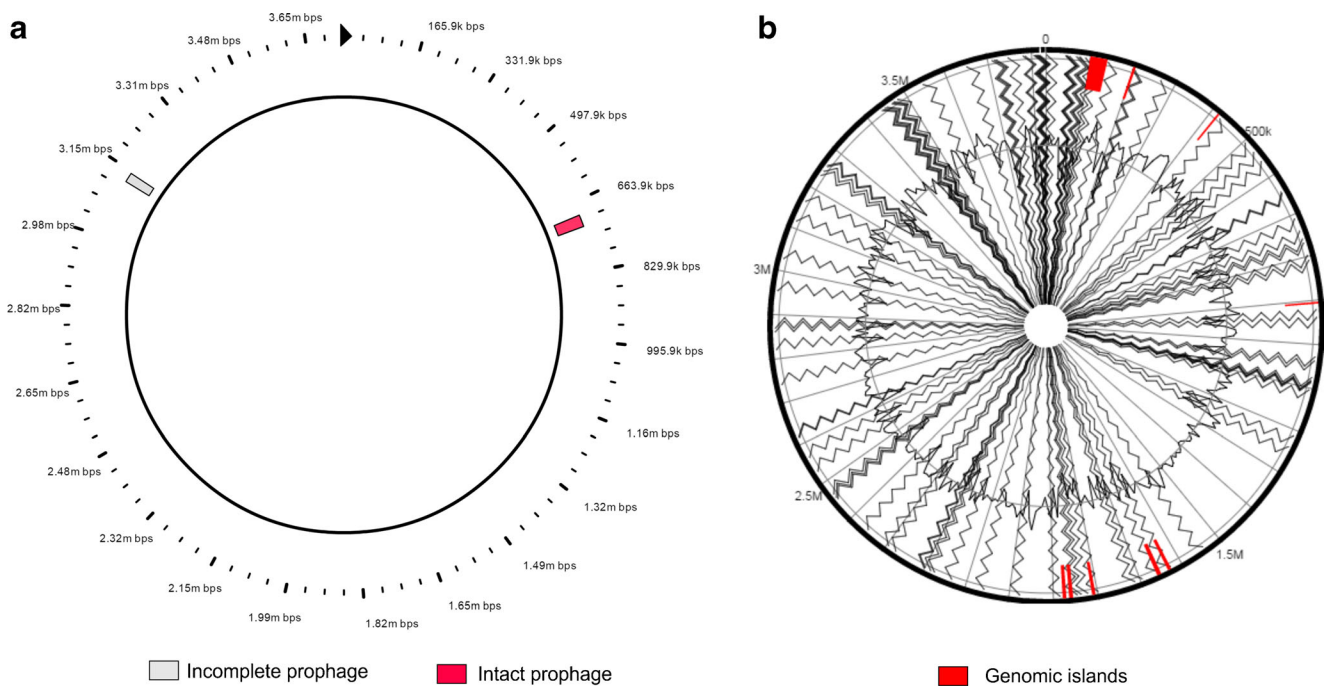
**Fig. 1** Phylogenetic analysis. **a** Phylogenetic relationship of isolate AM13 with closely related taxa based on 16S rRNA gene sequences (16S rRNA gene sequence of *Aeribacillus pallidus* was used as outgroup). **b** Phylogenetic relationship of isolate AM13 with closely related taxa within *Bacillus pumilus* group, based on MLST approach. The phylogenetic trees were constructed using Neighbor-Joining method.

The percentage of replicate trees in which the associated taxa clustered together in the bootstrap test (1000 replicates) is shown next to the branches. The evolutionary distances were computed using the Kimura 2-parameter method and are in the units of the number of base substitutions per site. The rate variation among sites was modeled with a gamma distribution (shape parameter = 1)



**Fig. 2** Circular genome plot. The figure represents comparison of genomes (BLAST) between isolate AM13 (BLAST1), *Bacillus pumilus* SAFR032 (BLAST2) and *Bacillus safensis* FO-36b (BLAST3). The

arrows in the outer rings indicate the features (CDS) within the genome of strain AM13, while the height of the BLAST hits is proportional to percent identity of the hit



**Fig. 3** Prophage and Genomic islands analysis. Genome contigs of the isolate AM13 were screened for any horizontal gene transfer profiles using PHAST and Islandviewer. **a** The figure illustrates the circular map

of the genome and the predicted prophages along with their positions in the genome. **b** Circular plot of the genome contigs along with the predicted genomic islands using IslandViewer tool

#### A1. Homologous gene clusters

Query sequence



CP010075\_c1: *Bacillus* sp. WP8, complete genome. (100% of genes show similarity)



#### A2. Homologous known gene cluster

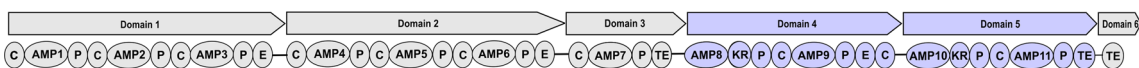
Query sequence



BGC0000381\_c1: Lichenysin biosynthetic gene cluster (85% of genes show similarity)



#### A3. antiSMASH predicted NRPS cluster



<b>AMP1:</b> Glu/Gln	<b>AMP5:</b> Asp	<b>AMP9:</b> Val
<b>AMP2:</b> Leu	<b>AMP6:</b> Leu	<b>AMP10:</b> PhAc
<b>AMP3:</b> Leu	<b>AMP7:</b> Ile	<b>AMP11:</b> Gly/Val/Ile
<b>AMP4:</b> Val/Leu/Ile	<b>AMP8:</b> PhAc	

<b>C:</b> Condensation sites
<b>AMP:</b> AMP binding sites
<b>P:</b> Peptidyl Carrier Protein (PCP)
<b>E:</b> Epimerization domain
<b>TE:</b> Thioesterase
<b>KR:</b> Ketoreductase

**Fig. 4** NRPS cluster analysis. The figure depicts the presence of bio-synthetic (NRPS Non-ribosomal peptide synthetase) synthesizing gene cluster in the genome of isolate AM13. NRPS gene cluster predicted and annotated by antiSMASH along with their closest genome (*A1*) and

biosynthetic gene cluster homologs (*A2*) are represented in the above figure. The section *A3* in the figure is an illustration of the predicted arrangement of the domains along with the annotated modules

reduce the surface tension of the culture medium to 31.233, 29.185, and 29.055 mN m<sup>-1</sup> in 24, 48, and 72 h, respectively.

### Chemical characterization of biosurfactant

The TLC technique used showed the presence of a biomolecule ( $R_f=0.9$ ) similar to the standard surfactin ( $R_f=0.9$ ). Chemical characterization of the fraction (with antibacterial activity) obtained from preparative TLC was further deciphered by mass spectrometry. Although, the data obtained from ESI (+)-MS showed few differences in ratio, four major ions of m/z 1036, 1044, 1058, and 1072 were observed to be similar and predominant, confirming its relatedness with members of the surfactin family (Fig. 5).

### Discussion

The advent in sequencing technologies has revolutionized our understanding about several microbial mechanisms. Along with revealing several hidden genomic features, it has dramatically improved various approaches like deciphering novel metabolic pathways, genome-based phylogeny, and to carry

out comparative genomics to understand the genome wide variations in closely related organisms (Land et al. 2015). Recent developments in genomic studies have helped researchers to reveal complexity of metabolic pathways involved in the production of wide variety of secondary metabolites produced by bacteria (Van Lanen and Shen 2006; Lam 2007; Doroghazi et al. 2014). Although, various efforts have been made to decipher the functionality of these bioactive molecules, genomic information has increased the magnitude of our understanding about varied types of biomolecules that could be synthesized by identical genetic machinery (Bergmann et al. 2007; Harvey et al. 2015). Previous studies suggest that genome sequencing efforts have enabled to understand the intricacies involved in metabolic pathways of the bacterium (Pal et al. 2015; Kapley et al. 2016). The present study uses an integrative approach of functional genomics, not only to characterize the bioactivity but also to understand the genomic features of this complex gene clusters. Our study focuses on one such potential bacterial isolate with antibacterial activity.

Primarily, various phylogenetic studies have revealed the complexity in taxonomic classification of bacterial isolates belonging to genus *Bacillus* (Liu et al. 2013; Branquinho et al. 2014). Several groups in this genus, especially the



**Fig. 5** LCMS analysis. Mass spectrometry profile for the biosurfactant produced by isolate AM13. X-axis represents the m/z ratio; Y-axis represents the abundance (count) of each fragment. **a** Mass spectrum of the extract of isolate AM13. **b** Mass spectrum of the standard surfactin used

*Bacillus cereus* and *B. pumilus* group, are known to be the most complex groups for taxonomic classification, based on 16S rRNA gene sequencing (Liu et al. 2013). Although, MLST approach may improve the taxonomic resolution of these groups, genomic data is known to overcome all the drawbacks associated with the former method (Rey et al. 2004). Our integrative approach, which includes use of 16S rRNA gene, seven MLST genes, ANI, and Tetra-nucleotide Correlation index method, helped us to confirm the taxonomic classification of strain AM13 as *B. safensis* (Fig. 1 and Table S2). The genome wide comparison carried out emphasized the level of similarity and complexity in genomes of these closely related species within *B. pumilus* group.

Furthermore, our efforts to carry out genome sequencing of the strain AM13 helped us to decipher the gene repertoire involved in synthesis of bioactive molecules. The secondary metabolite prediction and annotation revealed the presence of a NRPS gene cluster, similar to known lichenysin biosynthetic gene cluster (85 % of the genes showed similarity), followed by surfactin biosynthetic gene cluster (78 % similarity). Additionally, the identity of each individual domain of the gene cluster was confirmed using NapDos and BLAST tool from NCBI database, which also revealed its similarity with gene clusters responsible for synthesizing bacterial lipopeptides (specifically of surfactin family). The arrangement of domains was observed as illustrated in Fig. 4, with predictions of the substrate of each adenylation domain (AMP binding site). It was noted that predicted gene cluster consists of six domains (Fig. 4). Domain 1, 2, 3, and 6 are typical NRPS domains, which include modules for condensation (C), AMP binding sites, peptide carrier proteins (PCP), epimerization (E), and thioesterase (TE). Interestingly, ketoreductase (KR) module was found in domain 4 and 5 along with these typical NRPS modules. Previous studies suggest that domain 4 and 5 are found in species of *B. pumilus* group producing similar biosurfactants (Konz et al. 1999; Koumoutsis et al. 2004; Domingos et al. 2015). From substrate prediction analysis, amino acid sequence of the lipopeptide was found to be Glu/Gln-Leu-Leu-Val/Leu/Ile-Asp-Leu-Ile (domain 1–3, see Fig. 4).

Although few potential GI were evident in the genome, region harboring the biosynthetic gene cluster was devoid of any mobile elements (Fig. 3). This finding further confirmed the inheritance of biosynthetic gene cluster, ruling out any possibility of HGT in strain AM13. Other experiments carried out based on the genomic insights obtained to understand and characterize the bioactive compound provided further leads about the chemical nature of the compound. Strain AM13 exhibited  $\beta$ -hemolytic and oil displacement activity, which are amongst the key tests to determine the production of biosurfactants, as suggested in previous studies (Carrillo et al. 1996; Satpute et al. 2010). Additionally, mass spectrometry (MS) analysis revealed its similarity with the standard

surfactin used. Specifically, the predominant peaks with m/z ratio 1022, 1036, 1044, 1058, and 1072 were present in common and thus could be attributed to the surfactin family (Fig. 5). Previous studies carried out on characterization of biosurfactants have also reported the presence of similar mass profiles for lipopeptides primarily belonging to the surfactin family (Yakimov et al. 1995; Ben Ayed et al. 2014; Domingos et al. 2015). Phylogenetic analysis carried out along with the ANI approach successfully revealed the taxonomic classification of the isolate to be *B. safensis*. The NRPS cluster prediction and characterization of the antimicrobial biomolecule confirmed its chemical nature to be a biosurfactant belonging to surfactin family.

In summary, this study reports an integrative approach to characterize the antimicrobial compound along with insights into genomic features of strain AM13. Such methodological approaches will help researchers to explore the variety of biosurfactants and their potential usage in human health, industry, and environmental protection.

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**Conflict of interest** The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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