



# Complete genome sequence of *Bacillus velezensis* 157 isolated from *Eucommia ulmoides* with pathogenic bacteria inhibiting and lignocellulolytic enzymes production by SSF

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## Abstract

*Bacillus velezensis* 157 was isolated from the bark of *Eucommia ulmoides*, and exhibited antagonistic activity against a broad spectrum of pathogenic bacteria and fungi. Moreover, *B. velezensis* 157 also showed various lignocellulolytic activities including cellulase, xylanase,  $\alpha$ -amylase, and pectinase, which had the ability of using the agro-industrial waste (soybean meal, wheat bran, sugarcane bagasse, wheat straw, rice husk, maize flour and maize straw) under solid-state fermentation and obtained several industrially valuable enzymes. Soybean meal appeared to be the most efficient substrate for the single fermentation of *B. velezensis* 157. Highest yield of pectinase ( $19.15 \pm 2.66 \text{ U g}^{-1}$ ), cellulase ( $46.69 \pm 1.19 \text{ U g}^{-1}$ ) and amylase ( $2097.18 \pm 15.28 \text{ U g}^{-1}$ ) was achieved on untreated soybean meal. Highest yield of xylanase ( $22.35 \pm 2.24 \text{ U g}^{-1}$ ) was obtained on untreated wheat bran. Here, we report the complete genome sequence of the *B. velezensis* 157, composed of a circular 4,013,317 bp chromosome with 3789 coding genes and a G + C content of 46.41%, one circular 8439 bp plasmid and a G + C content of 40.32%. The genome contained a total of 8 candidate gene clusters (bacillaene, difficidin, macrolactin, butirosin, bacillibactin, bacilysin, fengycin and surfactin), and dedicates over 15.8% of the whole genome to synthesize secondary metabolite biosynthesis. In addition, the genes encoding enzymes involved in degradation of cellulose, xylan, lignin, starch, mannan, galactoside and arabinan were found in the *B. velezensis* 157 genome. Thus, the study of *B. velezensis* 157 broadened that *B. velezensis* can not only be used as biocontrol agents, but also has potentially a wide range of applications in lignocellulosic biomass conversion.

**Keywords** *Bacillus velezensis* 157 · Complete genome sequencing · Secondary metabolites · Lignocellulolytic enzyme activities · *Eucommia ulmoides* · Agro-industrial waste

## Introduction

*Bacillus* spp. are extensively studied biocontrol agents due to extremely strong resistance, antagonistic activities and excellent environmental adaptability (Cawoy et al. 2014; Jin

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et al. 2017). Mainly, *Bacillus subtilis*, *B. amyloliquefaciens*, *B. cereus*, *B. megaterium* and *B. velezensis* act as biocontrol agents. Recently, *B. velezensis* has been re-classified as a synonym of *B. amyloliquefaciens* subsp. *plantarum*, *B. methylogrophicus* and *B. oryzicola* (Dunlap et al. 2015), has been reported increasingly in recent years due to their significant application in agriculture and biotechnology such as *B. velezensis* GH1-13 (Kim et al. 2017b), *B. velezensis* S3-1 (Jin et al. 2017), *B. velezensis* FZB42 (Chen et al. 2007), *B. velezensis* M75 (Kim et al. 2017a), *B. velezensis* LS69 (Liu et al. 2017), *B. velezensis* 9912D (Pan et al. 2017), *B. velezensis* S499 (Molinatto et al. 2016). These kinds of bacteria have been widely used as biocontrol agents because of promoting plant growth through the production of phytohormones and producing a vast array of secondary metabolites that suppress competitive plant pathogenic microbes (Ryu et al. 2004; Lugtenberg and Kamilova 2009). However, few studies were done to explore the potential capability of *B. velezensis* in degrading lignocellulose components and transform lignocelluloses into useful chemicals and fuels. Solid-state fermentation (SSF) has attracted more attention to be a significant technique using agro-industrial wastes and by-products as substrates for microbial growth (Moftah et al. 2012; Salim et al. 2017), and produce industrially useful enzymes in low-cost processes, reduce costs and broaden the industrial application (Lizardi-Jiménez and Hernández-Martínez 2017; Hashemi et al. 2011; Elshishtawy et al. 2015).

In this study, we screened the microorganism producing  $\alpha$ -amylase, cellulase, pectinase and xylanase, and cultivated by the SSF on various agro-industrial waste for enzyme production. Meanwhile, the antimicrobial assays against several zoonotic pathogenic bacteria, aquatic pathogenic bacteria and plant pathogenic fungus were also tested. Therefore, to provide a better understanding of the mechanisms involved in synthesizing secondary metabolite of *Bacillus velezensis* 157 and latent ability in degrading lignocelluloses, we carried out the complete genome sequencing and analyzing of *B. velezensis* 157.

## Materials and methods

### The selection and microorganism

The various endophytic bacteria collected in this study were isolated from bark of *Eucommia ulmoides*, Taian City, China during the 2015 growing season (July). Selective agar plates were used for screening enzymatic activities. The bacteria were maintained on LB agar slants containing (g L<sup>-1</sup>): peptone 10, yeast extract 5, NaCl 10 and agar 15. The following selective media were evaluated to screen bacteria that are capable of producing multi-enzyme complex (MEC) (Salim et al. 2017). Carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC) agar

plates (per liter: CMC 10 g, yeast extract 3 g, K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> 3 g, KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> 1 g, MgSO<sub>4</sub>·7H<sub>2</sub>O 0.5 g, and agar 20 g). Starch agar plate (per liter: soluble starch 10 g, yeast extract 3 g and agar 20 g). Xylan agar plate (per liter: birch-wood xylan 10 g, yeast extract 3 g and agar 20 g). Pectin agar plate (per liter: apple pectin 10 g, yeast extract 3 g and agar 20 g). The various endophytic bacteria preserved from LB agar slants were inoculated and placed in the center of the selective agar plate at 37 °C for 48 h. The crude supernatant of candidate strains was prepared following the conventional method (Meng et al. 2015). After cultivation, starch agar plate was detected by iodine staining solution (g L<sup>-1</sup>) (KI 15 and I<sub>2</sub>15 in distilled water). Carboxymethyl cellulose agar plate, xylan agar plate and pectin agar plate were soaked with Congo red. An endophytic bacteria of significant halo zone to colony ratio appeared on each selective medium was selected as the potential producing bacteria, which indicates instinct of  $\alpha$ -amylase/cellulase/xylanase/pectinase (Lu et al. 2004).

### The identification of selected endophytic bacteria

The biochemical and morphological analysis of strain 157 was performed using traditional approaches according to the Bergey's Manual of Systematic Bacteriology, and molecular identification was obtained via 16S rRNA gene sequence analysis followed by phylogenetic studies (Paudel and Qin 2015), which was generated by neighbor-joining (NJ) method using MEGA 7.0 software (Kumar et al. 2016).

### Antimicrobial assays

The test pathogenic bacteria and fungi were obtained from the China Veterinary Culture Collection Center (CVCC), China Center of Industrial Culture Collection (CICC), American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) and laboratory isolation. The antimicrobial activity of the crude extract against the test pathogenic bacteria was measured using the agar well diffusion method (Zhang et al. 2012). Briefly, the test bacteria was spread on LB agar plates with sterilized Oxford cup and 200  $\mu$ L of the crude extract was added in the midpoint of the hole; equivalent amounts of culture medium were used as controls. The antimicrobial circle diameter was measured after 24-h incubation at 37 °C. Visualization of the colony confrontation assays using *Bacillus velezensis* 157 and plant pathogenic fungi was presented. All the PDA plates were incubated for 5 days after inoculation (Su et al. 2017).

### Genome sequencing and bioinformatic analysis

The whole genome of *Bacillus velezensis* 157 was sequenced using a Pacific Biosciences (PacBio) RSII Single Molecule Real-Time (SMRT) sequencing technology with a 10 Kb

SMRT bell TM template library. The low-quality reads were filtered by the SMRT Analysis 2.3.0 program and the filtered reads were assembled to generate circular contig without gaps (Berlin et al. 2015). The NCBI Prokaryotic Genomes Annotation pipeline (PGAP) was used to annotate the genes of *B. velezensis* 157. Gene clusters related to the biosynthesis of secondary metabolites were conducted based on the analysis with anti-SMASH 3.0 program (Weber et al. 2015). We used COG (Clusters of Orthologous Groups) database to predict gene functions. The Average Nucleotide Identity (ANI) between *B. velezensis* 157 and relative whole genomes from *Bacillus* species were analyzed by Jspecies software (<http://www.imedeia.uib.es/jspecies>). Genome overview was created by Circos software to show the annotation information of *B. velezensis* 157 (Krzywinski et al. 2009). Core/Pan genes of the *B. velezensis* 157 were compared to that of the three closest known evolutionary relatives: *B. velezensis* FZB42 (CP000560.1), *B. velezensis* YAU B9601-Y2 (HE774679.1), and *B. velezensis* UCMB5113 (HG328254.1) by the CD-HIT rapid clustering of similar proteins software with a threshold of 50% pairwise identity and 0.7 length difference cutoffs in amino acid. Then, the Venn figure was drawn to show their relationships among the samples (Li et al. 2001, 2002; Li and Godzik 2006).

### Solid-state fermentation (SSF)

In this work, the SSF was performed using soybean meal, wheat bran, sugarcane bagasse, wheat straw, rice husk, and maize flour as substrates. After dried, grinded and sieved, the particle sizes of substrates obtained were between 200 and 800  $\mu\text{m}$ . The agro-industrial waste was performed in 150 mL Erlenmeyer flasks containing 5 g of dry substrate, which were sterilized at 121 °C for 20 min (0.12 MPa autoclave pressure), appropriate amount of sterile distilled water, prior inoculation to achieve a ratio of 1:0.5 (g of dry substrate: g of water), 0.5 mL of 24-h bacterial culture in LB medium ( $1 \times 10^6$  cells  $\text{mL}^{-1}$ ) was also considered in the moisture content. Fermentation was determined at 37 °C for 72 h. Crude enzyme was performed by mixing 1 g of fermented media with 10 mL distilled water (10:1 w/w) on a rotary shaker (180 rpm, 30 min, 37 °C). This was followed by centrifugation of the suspension at 8000 rpm for 10 min (4 °C). The supernatants were designated as a crude enzyme extract and evaluated for secreted cellulase,  $\alpha$ -amylase, xylanase and pectinase activities (Elshishtawy et al. 2015; Kazeem et al. 2017).

### Enzymatic assays

A modified microplate-based assay using 3,5-dinitro salicylic acid (DNS) method was used to measure the CMCase activity (Miller 1959). For this, 50  $\mu\text{L}$  of crude enzyme

extract was mixed with 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of 1% (w/v) CMC prepared in 0.05 M sodium acetate buffer, pH 5 at 50 °C for 30 min. The reactions were terminated by adding 200  $\mu\text{L}$  of DNS reagent, and all the mixture was boiled for 5 min for color development, cooled and then optical density was measured at 540 nm. One unit (U) of the cellulase activity was defined as the amount of enzyme that released 1  $\mu\text{mol}$  of reducing sugars equivalent to glucose per minute during the reaction using a calibration curve for glucose.

The  $\alpha$ -amylase activity was measured using 1% soluble starch as a substrate according to the method described by Hashemi et al. (2011). Briefly, the reaction of 50  $\mu\text{L}$  crude enzyme extract with 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of substrate (0.02 M phosphate buffer at pH 6.9) at 55 °C for 30 min, and then optical density was measured at 540 nm. One unit of  $\alpha$ -amylase activity was defined as the liberation of reducing sugars equivalent to 1  $\mu\text{mol}$  of D-glucose/min under the assay condition estimated according to the previously described DNS method.

Pectinase activity assays were performed by incubating 50  $\mu\text{L}$  of crude enzyme extract with 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of 1% apple pectin with citrate buffer (0.1 M, pH 5.8) and incubated 30 min at 50 °C. The release of reducing sugars was analyzed using the DNS method using a standard curve of D-galacturonic acid (Biz et al. 2016). One unit (U) of pectinase activity corresponds to the release of 1  $\mu\text{mol}$  of D-galacturonic acid equivalents per minute. Activities are expressed on the basis of the mass of dry substrate (i.e.  $\text{U g}^{-1}$ ).

Substrate used was birch-wood xylan for xylanase. The reaction mixture contained 100  $\mu\text{L}$  1% substrate 0.05 M sodium acetate buffer and 50  $\mu\text{L}$  of crude enzyme extract, pH 5.5 at 50 °C for 30 min. The absorbance was measured at 540 nm. One unit of xylanase activity was defined as the liberation of reducing sugars equivalent to 1  $\mu\text{mol}$  of xylose/min under the assay condition estimated according to the previously described DNS method (Hero et al. 2017).

### Nucleotide sequence accession number

The whole genome sequence of *Bacillus velezensis* 157 has been deposited in NCBI under the GenBank accession number CP022341 (chromosome), CP022342 and CP022343 (two DNA fragments of *B. velezensis* 157 plasmid).

## Results and discussion

### Screening of lignocellulolytic enzymes production by bacteria

In this study, the endophytic bacteria are isolated from the inner bark of *Eucommia ulmoides*, which is the traditional Chinese herb because of its medicinal importance (Hussain et al. 2016), and there were no reports on the isolation

of *Bacillus velezensis* from *E. ulmoides*. On this basis, we examined different natural isolates to produce extracellular cellulase,  $\alpha$ -amylase, xylanase and pectinase using selective agar medium plates. The agar plates contain CMC, starch, pectin, xylan as one of the exclusive nutrients, if the strain can hydrolyze and utilize the nutrients from the agar medium plates, it can grow well and easily visually detected by the appearance of the clear zones surrounding grown microbial colonies. Salim et al. selected a newly isolated *Bacillus* sp. TMF-1 with cellulase, pectinase,  $\alpha$ -amylase and protease by the similar method (Salim et al. 2017). Of them, only strain 157 showed cellulase,  $\alpha$ -amylase, xylanase and pectinase activities with its maximum hydrolysis zone among the natural isolates using selective agar medium plates (Fig S1). Literature survey highlighted that *Bacillus* spp. have the potential of secreting abundant extracellular enzyme. *Bacillus coagulans* CGMCC 9951 isolated from healthy piglet feces showed the capacity to hydrolyze protein, starch and cellulose (Gu et al. 2015). *Bacillus coagulans* CMB3 also showed the ability to produce more extracellular enzyme, including  $\alpha$ -amylase, protease, pectinase, chitinase and lecithinase (Mishra et al. 2009). Thus, the rich extracellular enzyme of strain 157 implied that the isolate may point out to be a prospective source of desired enzymes in industrial applications.

### Molecular identification of bacteria

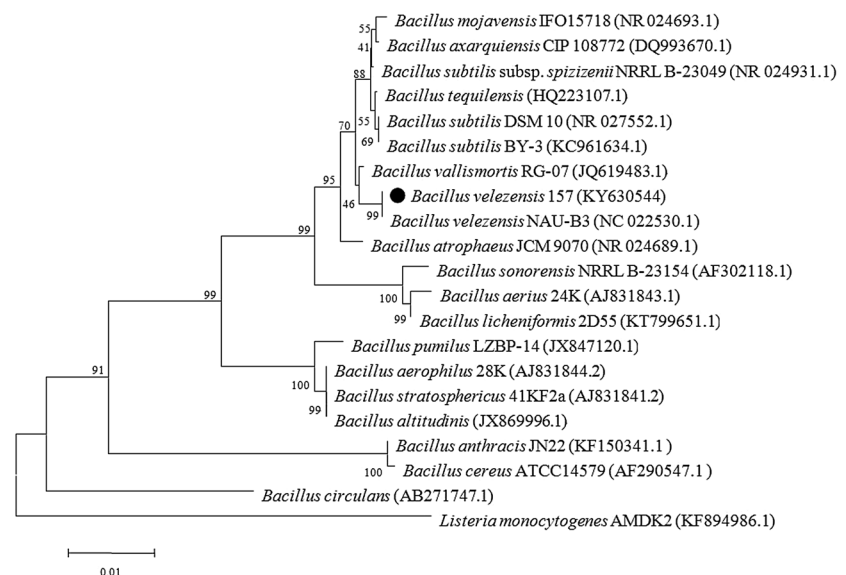
The biochemical and morphological characterization results of strain 157 are shown in (Table S1), suggested that it is probably one of the members of *Bacillus* spp. The genomic DNA of strain 157 was successfully extracted. The PCR primers successfully amplified 16S rDNA fragments. 1% agarose gel showed the clear bands of about 1500 bp, the

16S rRNA gene sequence of strain 157 was submitted to NCBI GenBank under the accession number: KY630544 for constructing phylogenetic tree (Fig. 1) using the neighbor-joining method. This 16S rRNA gene sequence of the strain 157 showed a 99% similarity with *B. velezensis* NAU-B3 (NC\_022530.1). *Bacillus velezensis* NAU-B3 is a plant-associated bacterium, and nine giant gene clusters are dedicated to the nonribosomal synthesis of antimicrobial lipopeptides and polyketides (Wu et al. 2013). Additionally, the characteristic of average nucleotide identity (ANI) based on the relative whole genome of *Bacillus* species sequences available on the NCBI website was calculated using the software of JSpecies. Among all the sequenced and accessible strains, the ANI values between *B. velezensis* NAU-B3 and strain 157 were homology to 99.88%, and shows lower values with *B. amyloliquefaciens* (93%) and *B. subtilis* (76%) (Table S2). Literature surveyed ANI offers more accurately resolution and universally applicable technique at the subspecies level and genome-wide comparison (Chan et al. 2012). Based on these results the strain 157 was named as *B. velezensis* 157.

### Antimicrobial assays

The crude extract of *Bacillus velezensis* 157 showed a broad inhibitory spectrum against several animal pathogenic bacteria, aquatic pathogenic bacteria and fungal plant pathogens (Table 1). No antibacterial activity was observed in the control group. In the Antimicrobial assays, *B. velezensis* 157 exhibited antifungal activity against *Botrytis cinerea* and *Fusarium oxysporum*. Researchers have found Tomato wilt caused by the fungus *F. oxysporum* is an alarming disease, causing yield losses up to 25%, and *Botrytis cinerea* is the most severe disease after tomato harvest, and hence prevention and cure of *Botrytis cinerea* is a key approach for

**Fig. 1** Phylogenetic tree based on 16S rRNA gene sequences showing the relationship between *Bacillus velezensis* 157 and closely related *Bacillus* species. *Listeria monocytogenes* AMDK2 was used as an out-group. Bootstrap values (%) based on 1000 replications are given at nodes



**Table 1** Antimicrobial activity of the culture supernatant of *Bacillus velezensis* 157

Host classification and strains	Broth medium <sup>a</sup>	Inhibition zone (mm) <sup>a</sup>
Human and animals pathogenic bacteria		
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> CVCC519	LB	++
<i>Escherichia coli</i> CVCC233	LB	+++
<i>E. coli</i> CVCC236	LB	+++
<i>E. coli</i> CVCC196	LB	++
<i>E. coli</i> CVCC205	LB	+++
<i>E. coli</i> BNCC125988	LB	+
<i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> ATCC25241	LB	++
<i>S. choleraesuis</i> CVCC3383	LB	+++
<i>S. choleraesuis</i> CVCC3775	LB	+++
<i>S. choleraesuis</i> CVCC79102	LB	+++
<i>S. choleraesuis</i> CVCC503	LB	+++
<i>S. choleraesuis</i> CVCC3780	LB	+++
<i>S. enteritidis</i> CVCC3378	LB	++
<i>Clostridium perfringens</i>	LB	+++
<i>Proteus hauseri</i>	LB	++
Aquatic pathogenic bacteria		
<i>Aeromonas hydrophila</i> ATCC7966	LB	++
<i>A. veronii</i> ATCC35624	LB	++
<i>A. veronii</i> TH0426	LB	++
<i>A. veronii</i> AV115	LB	++
<i>A. veronii</i> AV75	LB	++
<i>A. caviae</i> ATCC 15468	LB	+++
<i>Streptococcus agalactiae</i>	LB	++
Plant pathogenic fungi <sup>b</sup>		
<i>Botrytis cinerea</i>	PDA	+
<i>Fusarium oxysporum</i>	PDA	+

LB Luria–bertani, PDA Potato dextrose agar

<sup>a</sup>The antimicrobial activities were performed using the cell-free supernatant of the *Bacillus velezensis* 157 by Agar well diffusion assays. The diameter of the control was 9 mm, and the plus sign indicates the size of the inhibition zones. (+): the diameter of the inhibition zones is less than 10 mm; (++): the diameter of the inhibition zones is between 10 and 15 mm; (+++): diameter of the inhibition zones is more than 15 mm. Numbers of inhibitory zone diameter show an average of three replications

<sup>b</sup>The confrontation experiments between *Bacillus velezensis* 157 and related fungi

the protection and development of tomato products worldwide (Shi and Sun 2017; Fatima and Anjum 2017). *Bacillus velezensis* 157 had potential for inhibiting the growth of plant pathogenic microorganisms and considered to be one of the most important methods for replacing chemicides. Moreover, *B. velezensis* 157 exhibited antibacterial activity against *Escherichia coli* and *Salmonella* spp, which are pathogenic to humans and lead to severe food-borne disease (Field et al. 2016). *Bacillus velezensis* 157 also has

**Table 2** Genome features of *Bacillus velezensis* 157

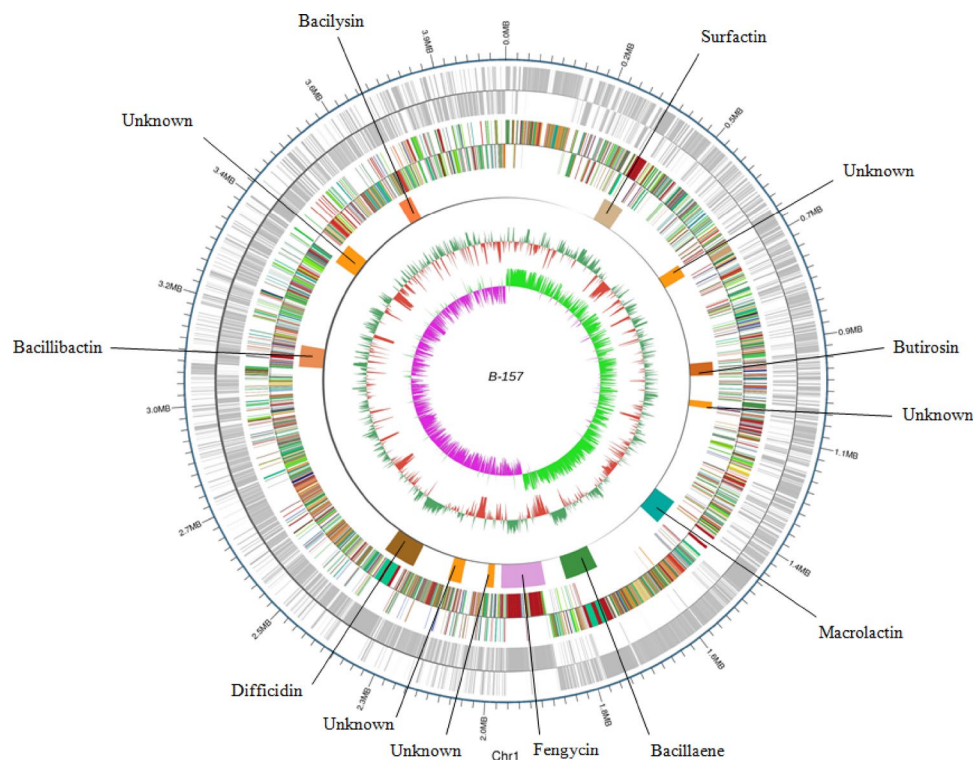
Features	Chromosome	Plasmid
Genome size (bp)	4,013,317	8439
G + C content (%)	46.41	40.32
Protein-coding genes (CDS)	3789	–
rRNA genes	27	–
tRNA genes	86	–

the ability to inhibit against *Aeromonas hydrophila* and *A. veronii*, which is a very promising discovery and of great significance to aquaculture industry. Guo X et al. hypothesized that the antibacterial mechanism of *B. subtilis* GC-21 and GC-22, due to preventing the colonization of pathogenic bacteria after adhering to the intestinal mucosal surface, and producing some substances or metabolites with antimicrobial properties (Guo et al. 2016). Literature surveys that *A. hydrophila* has increasingly been implicated as a virulent and antibiotic-resistant etiologic agent in various human diseases (Grim et al. 2013). *Aeromonas veronii* is a kind of opportunistic pathogen to fish and humans, significantly impending aquaculture production (Sun et al. 2016). Results of this experiment indicate that *B. velezensis* 157 not only has a wide inhibitory spectrum against pathogenic bacteria and fungi, but also brings a more capacious future for the application on livestock and aquatic animal.

### General genomic features of *Bacillus velezensis* 157

The complete genome sequence of *Bacillus velezensis* 157 was composed of a circular 4,013,317 bp chromosome and one circular 8439 bp plasmid. We had also extracted the plasmid of *B. velezensis* 157, and the gel electrophoresis demonstrated that *B. velezensis* 157 indeed was exist plasmid (Fig S2). GC content of the complete genome was 46.41% and that of plasmid was 40.32%, respectively. There are 3789 protein-coding sequences (CDSs) located on the chromosome, 27 rRNA genes, 86 tRNA genes, 11 sRNA genes were found in the genome (Table 2 and Fig. 2). In the genome analysis, 3369 genes were classified into the cluster of orthologous group (COG), the number of genes associated with translation, ribosomal structure and biogenesis, transcription, cell cycle control, cell division, chromosome partitioning, posttranslational modification, protein turnover, chaperones, cell motility, signal transduction mechanisms, carbohydrate transport and metabolism, coenzyme transport and metabolism, lipid transport and metabolism in *B. velezensis* 157 were much higher than that in compared strains (Table S3). The number of core genes in *B. velezensis* 157, FZB42, UCMB5113 and YAU B9601-Y2 was counted as being 3205. The pan-genome of the four strains was calculated

**Fig. 2** The whole genome of *Bacillus velezensis* 157. The circular genome map consists of 7 circles. From the outer circle inward, each circle displays information about the genome of (1) forward CDS, (2) reverse CDS, (3) forward COG function classification, (4) reverse COG function classification, (5) nomenclature and locations of predictive secondary metabolite clusters, (6) G + C content and (7) GC Skew



as being 4708 CDSs. *Bacillus velezensis* 157 possessed 481 unique genes not found in other three *B. velezensis* strains (Fig. S3). The unique protein of Acyl transferase domain, which is an essential component of synthesizing polyketide synthase I (PKS I), may associate with secondary metabolites biosynthesis, transport and catabolism.

The eight gene clusters related to the synthesis of various NRPS and antimicrobial PKS were found in the *B. velezensis* 157 (Table 3 and Table S4). Gene clusters direct the synthesis of the antibacterial polyketides (bacillaene, difficidin, macrolactin and butirosin, covering over 326.5 kb in all), non-ribosomal peptide synthetases (bacillibactin, bacilysin, fengycin and surfactin, covering altogether over 311.4 kb).

**Table 3** Gene clusters involved in synthesis of biocontrol metabolites in *Bacillus velezensis* 157

Cluster	Cluster category <sup>a</sup>	Size (kb)	Position	Secondary metabolite <sup>b</sup>	Strains (genetic similarity <sup>ab</sup> ) (%)
1	Nrps	65.4	317,617–383,024	Surfactin	86
2	Phosphonate	40.8	625,790–666,677	Unknown	
3	Otherks	41.2	944,830–986,074	Butirosin	7
4	Terpene	20.74	1,068,391–1,089,131	Unknown	
5	Transatpks	82.2	1,400,648–1,482,839	Macrolactin	100
6	Transatpks-Nrps	102.7	1,714,900–1,817,583	Bacillaene	100
7	Transatpks-Nrps	137.8	1,883,269–2,021,102	Fengycin	100
8	Terpene	21.8	2,044,355–2,066,238	Unknown	
9	T3pks	41.1	2,146,409–2,187,515	Unknown	
10	Transatpks	100.4	2,302,503–2,402,947	Difficidin	100
11	Bacteriocin-Nrps	66.8	3,053,496–3,120,291	Bacillibactin	100
12	Nrps	65.3	3,398,874–3,464,216	Unknown	
13	Other <sup>c</sup>	41.4	3,666,299–3,707,717	Bacilysin	100

<sup>a</sup>Cluster identified according to anti-SMASH 3.0

<sup>b</sup>Secondary metabolites potentially produced based on the gene clusters

<sup>c</sup>Cluster containing a secondary metabolite-related protein that does not belong to any other category

Uniquely, we discovered that *B. velezensis* 157 indicates over 15.8% of the whole genome to synthesize antibiotics and siderophores by pathways not involving ribosomes, the *B. velezensis* FZB42 and *B. velezensis* LS69 only devote over 8.5% of its genome secondary metabolite production, followed by *B. amyloliquefaciens* DSM7 and other members of the *Bacillus subtilis* group contains 4–5% in synthesizing bioactive compounds (Liu et al. 2017). The operons in *B. velezensis* 157 encoding the biosynthetic gene cluster for the metabolites macrolactin (BGC0000181\_c1), bacillaene (BGC0001089\_c1), fengycin (BGC0001095\_c1), difficidin (BGC0000176\_c1), bacilysin (BGC0001184\_c1) were found to be 100% homologous with *B. velezensis* FZB42, the bacil-libactin (BGC0000309\_c1) exhibit highly 100% identities on the amino acid level to that of *B. subtilis* 168, suggesting that strain 157 has strong antagonistic activities towards bacterial and fungal pathogens. However, a functional srfABCD gene cluster was attributed to the operon encoding cyclic lipopeptides surfactin (BGC000043\_c1) showed 86% homologous to *B. velezensis* FZB42. Surfactin is a potential biosurfactant and shows antimicrobial and antiviral activities by altering membrane integrity (Peypoux et al. 1999). Interestingly, the synthesis of butirosin (BGC0000693\_c1) shows only 7% similarity with the gene cluster reported in *B. circulans* SANK 72073, butirosin produced by *B. circulans* is among the clinically important 2-deoxystreptamine (DOS)-containing aminoglycoside antibiotics, the butirosin involved in *B. velezensis* 157 might be new in structure and resource of novel bioactive compound (Kudo et al. 2005a, b). These results also indicated that why *B. velezensis* 157 exhibited antagonistic activity against a broad spectrum of pathogenic bacteria and fungi in antimicrobial assays, and these gene clusters related to the synthesis of secondary metabolism with antimicrobial properties may be the main reason for inhibitory mechanism.

In addition, the genes related to the degradation of lignocellulose were detected in the genome of *B. velezensis* 157 (Table 4). Regarding cellulose degradation: endoglucanase,  $\beta$ -glucanase,  $\alpha$ -glucosidase,  $\alpha$ -amylase and pectate lyase were found in the complete genome of *B. velezensis* 157. Regarding hemicellulose degradation: 1,4- $\beta$ -xylosidase, arabinoxylan arabinofuranohydrolase, 1,4-beta-xylanase, glucuronoxylanase, arabinanendo-1,5- $\alpha$ -L-arabinosidase,  $\alpha$ -N-arabinofuranoside,  $\beta$ -mannosidase, endo-1,4- $\beta$ -galactosidase, 6-phospho- $\beta$ -galactosidase, xylose isomerase. The gene encoding deferrocyclase involved in lignin degradation was also detected in the genome of *B. velezensis* 157. As shown in Table 4, the related genes of degradation of lignocellulose were highly observed in all strains; the gene encoding  $\alpha$ -glucosidase (ASK59912.1) was unique in *B. velezensis* 157. However, glucohydrolase and laccase genes were found in the genome of *B. amyloliquefaciens* DSM7<sup>T</sup>, *B. velezensis*

FZB42 and *Bacillus* sp. 257, but were not detected in *B. velezensis* 157 (Rückert et al. 2011; Gong et al. 2017). The existence of these genes implies that strain 157 has the potential for utilizing lignocelluloses and possibly a new use for production of the lignocellulolytic enzyme.

### Lignocellulolytic enzymes production on solid-state fermentation using different agro-industrial wastes

As shown in Table 5, *Bacillus velezensis* 157 appeared to use all of the agro-industrial waste after 72 h of cultivation and  $\alpha$ -amylase, cellulase, xylanase and pectinase were all detected. The most promising substrate seemed to be soybean meal, followed by wheat straw > wheat bran > Rice husk > Maize flour. Conversely, lower cellulolytic activity was performed when *B. velezensis* 157 was cultivated on maize straw and sugarcane bagasse. Biological fermentation can dispose the agro-waste, obtain the desired enzymes and recycle the excess of agro-industrial waste (Lizardi-Jiménez and Hernández-Martínez 2017). Similar studies have been reported that Salim et al. (2017) assessed newly isolated *Bacillus* sp. TMF-1 was cultivated on various types of agricultural by-products and obtained industrially valuable enzymes such as proteases,  $\alpha$ -amylase, cellulase, pectinase. Hashemi et al. (2011) investigated the production of Ca-independent  $\alpha$ -amylase by *Bacillus* sp. KR-8104 in SSF.

Among the agro-industrial waste, soybean meal has around 48% protein, 35–40% carbohydrates, 7–10% water, 5–6% minerals and less than 1% fat (3–4% of acid hydrolyzed fat), of them the carbohydrates in soybean meal consist of approximately 10% free sugars (5% sucrose, 4% stachyose and 1% raffinose) and between 20 and 30% non-starch polysaccharides, in which approximately 8% are cellulose and the remaining are 17% pectic polysaccharides (Choct et al. 2010). It was obvious that pectin is a high proportion in soybean meal, so it was significant to induce pectinase production and the highest yield of pectinase was achieved about  $19.15 \pm 2.66 \text{ U g}^{-1}$  by *B. velezensis* 157, meanwhile the highest yield of cellulase and  $\alpha$ -amylase activity reached  $46.69 \pm 1.19$  and  $2097.18 \pm 15.28 \text{ U g}^{-1}$ , respectively. We hypothesized that the induction mechanism of cellulase in *B. velezensis* was not the same as that of fungal cellulase; simple sugar or polysaccharide may also play a crucial role on cellulase induction (Manfredi et al. 2016). The highest yield of xylanase ( $22.35 \pm 2.24 \text{ U g}^{-1}$ ) was noted in the SSF on wheat bran. It is worth noting that wheat bran is rich in cellulose (20%) and hemicellulose (50%) (Salim et al. 2017). These results suggested that *B. velezensis* 157 can use various agro-industrial wastes to produce four enzymes through SSF. *Bacillus velezensis* could be a new candidate strains for applications in various unexploited biomass.

**Table 4** Comparison of genes encoding lignocellulose-degrading enzymes in *Bacillus velezensis* 157 and other *Bacillus* strains

<i>Bacillus velezensis</i> 157	DSM7 <sup>T</sup>	FZB42	275
Predicted function	Accession no.		
Cellulose-related			
Endoglucanase	ASK58591.1	×	O
β-glucanase	ASK60337.1	O	O
6-phospho-α-glucosidase	ASK57640.1	O	O
6-phospho-β-glucosidase	ASK60295.1	O	O
6-phospho-β-glucosidase	ASK58708.1	×	×
α-glucosidase (alpha-galactosidase)	ASK59490.1	O	O
α-glucosidase (alpha-galactosidase)	ASK59569.1	O	×
α-glucosidase (alpha-galactosidase)	ASK59912.1	×	×
α-glucosidase (alpha-galactosidase)	ASK57158.1	O	×
Aryl-phospho-β-D-glucosidase	ASK57207.1	O	O
α-amylase	ASK57175.1	×	O
Pectate lyase	ASK60345.1	O	O
Pectate lyase	ASK57571.1	O	O
Hemicellulose-related			
Glycoside hydrolase 43 family protein (1,4-β-xylosidase)	ASK58518.1	×	O
Arabinoxylan arabinofuranohydrolase	ASK60598.1	O	O
1,4-beta-xylanase	ASK60111.1	×	O
Glucuronoxylanase	ASK58595.1	O	O
Arabinan endo-1,5-α-L-arabinosidase	ASK59359.1	O	O
Arabinan endo-1,5-α-L-arabinosidase	ASK60350.1	O	×
α-N-arabinofuranoside	ASK59336.1	O	O
α-N-arabinofuranoside	ASK59351.1	O	O
β-mannosidase	ASK60312.1	O	O
Endo-1,4-β-galactosidase	ASK57983.1	O	O
6-phospho-β-galactosidase (lacG)	ASK57989.1	O	O
Xylose isomerase	ASK58520.1	×	O
Lignin-related			
Deferrochelataase	ASK60272.1	O	O

O detected, × not detected

**Table 5** Lignocellulolytic enzymes production on solid state fermentation using different agro-industrial wastes by *Bacillus velezensis* 157 (U g<sup>-1</sup> substrate) (after 72 h at 37 °C, 1:0.5, 0.5 mL inoculum *B. velezensis* 157)

Agro-waste	Cellulase	α-amylase	Xylase	Pectinase
Maize straw	9.62 ± 0.33	253.42 ± 0.981	5.92 ± 0.35	8.49 ± 0.15
Wheat straw	43.92 ± 5.44	1430.11 ± 20.24	13.77 ± 1.15	14.15 ± 1.14
Wheat bran	40.68 ± 0.51	1348.73 ± 30.41	22.35 ± 2.24	13.61 ± 3.74
Soybean meal	46.69 ± 1.19	2097.18 ± 15.28	13.55 ± 0.89	19.15 ± 2.66
Rice husk	39.03 ± 0.34	1080.06 ± 11.89	14.43 ± 1.31	12.73 ± 1.58
Maize flour	38.91 ± 0.28	178.71 ± 8.44	13.62 ± 2.52	12.92 ± 3.21
Sugarcane bagasse	7.37 ± 0.23	35.54 ± 12.13	13.62 ± 3.11	7.86 ± 0.95

Values are means of (n = 3), ± SD (vertical bars)

## Conclusion

In conclusion, newly isolated *Bacillus velezensis* 157, the strain with a broad inhibitory spectrum against pathogenic

bacteria and fungi, has the huge cover rate in synthesizing secondary metabolite production on the genome. Meanwhile, it has the cellulolytic, xylanolytic, pectinic and amylatic enzyme activities and also has genes encoding various lignocellulolytic enzymes. *B. velezensis* 157



has the potential to utilize various agro-industrial wastes obtaining valuable enzymes. Soybean meal appeared to be the most efficient substrate for the single fermentation of *B. velezensis* 157. The whole genome information of *B. velezensis* 157 has opened up a better understanding to provide useful genomic information of *B. velezensis*, to understand its biocontrol mechanisms and degradation of lignocelluloses, and to expand the application of agricultural and biotechnological fields.

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## Compliance with ethical standards

**Conflict of interest** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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