

Investigation of Bacteria Associated with White Nose Syndrome on Bat Wings

Background:

- White nose syndrome is a fungal infection that has decimated bat populations in the Eastern U.S. in the last decade.
- Delaware Tech faculty and students are investigating the bacteria isolated from wings of bats infected with the fungus that causes white nose syndrome.
- Several strains of *Pseudomonas fluorescens* were isolated from the wings and a species of *Sphingobacterium*, a genus for which few studies have been reported.

Advance:

- Pacific Bioscience technology was used to sequence the genome of the *Sphingobacterium* isolate, the second *Sphingobacterium* species for which a complete sequence has been deposited to GenBank.
- Students participated in the manual annotation of the genome, annotating and cloning putative transcriptional regulators and their potential binding sequence.
- Investigations of the bacteria found associated with white nose syndrome will increase the knowledge of fungal-bacterial co-infections, leading to better understanding of the mortality patterns in bats with white nose syndrome as well as synergistic effects seen in co-infections in humans.



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Complete Genome Sequence of *Sphingobacterium* sp. Strain ML3W, Isolated from Wings of *Myotis lucifugus* Infected with White Nose Syndrome

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