

# Molecular Epidemiological Characteristics of Carbapenem Resistant *Aeromonas* from Hospital Wastewater

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**Background:** Hospital wastewater (HWW) promotes the spread of carbapenem resistance genes (CRGs). *Aeromonas* carry a large number of CRGs in HWW, they may play a role as a suitable reservoir for CRGs, while resistomes in HWW are still poorly characterized regarding carbapenem resistant *Aeromonas*. Thus, the aim of the study was to evaluate the molecular epidemiological characteristics of carbapenem resistant *Aeromonas* in HWW.

**Methods:** A total of 33 carbapenem resistant *Aeromonas* were isolated from HWW. Antimicrobial susceptibility testing and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) were used to assess the antimicrobial resistance profiles. Molecular typing was performed using enterobacterial repetitive intergenic consensus PCR (ERIC-PCR) and multilocus sequence typing (MLST). The horizontal transmission mode of *bla*<sub>KPC</sub> was explored through conjugation and transformation experiments. The stability of *bla*<sub>KPC</sub>-IncP-6 plasmids was assessed through plasmid stability and in vitro competition test. The PCR mapping method was used to investigate the structural diversity of *bla*<sub>KPC</sub>.

**Results:** The detection rates of *bla*<sub>KPC</sub> and *cphA* in *Aeromonas* were 97.0% and 39.4% respectively. *Aeromonas caviae* were grouped into 13 clusters by ERIC-PCR and 12 STs by MLST. *Aeromonas veronii* were grouped into 11 clusters by ERIC-PCR and 4 STs by MLST. 56.3% *bla*<sub>KPC</sub> were located on mobilizable IncP-6 plasmids. *bla*<sub>KPC</sub>-IncP-6 plasmid showed high stability and low cost fitness.

**Conclusion:** Carbapenem resistant *Aeromonas* from HWW mainly carried *bla*<sub>KPC</sub>, which exhibited great structural diversity. *Aeromonas* might serve as reservoirs for *bla*<sub>KPC</sub> and *bla*<sub>KPC</sub> might spread mainly through transformation in HWW.

**Keywords:** hospital wastewater, carbapenem resistance, *Aeromonas*, IncP-6, *bla*<sub>KPC</sub>

## Introduction

Carbapenems were generally considered as last resort for treating infections from multi-resistant Gram-negative pathogenic bacteria.<sup>1</sup> But the widespread prevalence of carbapenem resistant bacteria (CRBs) has seriously limited the effectiveness of carbapenems. Carrying carbapenem resistance genes (CRGs) is an important mechanism of carbapenem resistance. CRGs are generally found on mobile plasmids, exhibiting strong dissemination capabilities.<sup>2</sup> Accordingly, effective control of CRG dissemination is critical to slow the spread of resistance.

Hospital wastewater (HWW) is considered significant reservoirs of CRGs. HWW connects human activities with the ecological environment, promoting the spread of clinically important CRGs such as *bla*<sub>NDM</sub>, *bla*<sub>KPC</sub>, and *bla*<sub>VIM</sub> from clinical bacteria to environmental bacteria.<sup>3</sup> The slow flow rate of HWW and high-density bacterial communities promote the horizontal transfer of resistance genes within and between bacterial species. Meanwhile, a large amount of antimicrobial residues promotes the proliferation of antimicrobial resistant bacteria.<sup>3</sup> In addition to providing selective advantages, antimicrobial residues may induce the SOS-response and hence upregulate expression of conjugation

associated genes and T4SS genes to enhance conjugative transfer.<sup>4</sup> Furthermore, antimicrobial residues could also promote gene transformation and transduction by increasing the fraction of competent cells and inducing prophage activity.<sup>4</sup> Hospital wastewater treatment plants could not eliminate antimicrobial resistant genes (ARGs) in wastewater and could even promote conjugations and transformations of ARGs.<sup>5–7</sup> Therefore, compared with other wastewater conditions, HWW may play a more integral role in the dissemination of CRGs.

*Aeromonas* is a widespread organism in aquatic environment and carry large numbers of CRGs.<sup>8</sup> Previous studies showed that *cphA* is prevalent in carbapenem resistant *Aeromonas*. Notably, more and more CRGs have been detected in *Aeromonas*, such as *bla*<sub>KPC</sub> or *bla*<sub>NDM</sub>.<sup>9,10</sup> Especially, plasmid-associated *bla*<sub>KPC-2</sub> is becoming the most prevalent CRG in *Aeromonas* from wastewater. Given that *cphA* is located on the chromosome, the spread of plasmid-associated *bla*<sub>KPC-2</sub> is even more concerning.<sup>11,12</sup> Bacteria of the *Aeromonas* genus only has a 4–5 Mbp genome, which is smaller than that of other Gram-negative bacteria. The core genome of *Aeromonas* comprises only 16% of the entire genome, with the remaining 84% consisting of variable represented genes, including plasmids, transposons, genomic islands or integron gene cassettes in order to compensate for its relatively small genome size. Thus, *Aeromonas* has a significant capacity to acquire various mobile genetic elements.<sup>13,14</sup> Considering the strong ability of *Aeromonas* to take-up exogenous DNA, it might play a significant role in the transmission of CRGs.

To date, the wastewater resistomes have been poorly characterized regarding carbapenem resistant *Aeromonas*. A previous study mainly focused on prevalence and antimicrobial resistance characteristics of carbapenem resistant *Aeromonas* in HWW.<sup>15</sup> The transmission characteristics of CRGs from carbapenem resistant *Aeromonas* remain relatively unexplored. Therefore, we deciphered the molecular epidemiological characteristics of carbapenem resistant *Aeromonas* and the potential transmission mechanism of *bla*<sub>KPC</sub> in *Aeromonas*, helping to gain a more in-depth insight into the contribution of *Aeromonas* to CRGs dissemination and enhance the public consciousness about resistance-related risks.

## Materials and Method

### *Aeromonas* Isolates

The HWW samples were collected from the raw sewage influent of on-site HWW treatment plant in Fujian medical university union hospital (Fujian, China). A total of three HWW samples were taken from November 3 to November 25, 2020. Each HWW sample was independent and was cultured individually. The HWW samples were diluted and then plated on LB agar (Hopebio, China) containing Imipenem (IPM) at 2 µg/mL to select imipenem-non-susceptible Gram-negative bacteria at 35 °C. All imipenem-non-susceptible Gram-negative bacteria were cultured separately and identified through MALDI-TOF MS (Autobio, China). All isolates, identified as *Aeromonas*, were then reconfirmed by house-keeping gene sequencing (*gyrB*).

### Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

Antimicrobial susceptibility testing was performed using the VITEK 2 Compact system (Vitek-AST-GN16) (bioMérieux, France) and the disk diffusion method (K-B method) (Oxoid, UK) according to the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute File.<sup>16</sup> The antimicrobials included Piperacillin/Tazobactam (TZP), Cefoxitin (FOX), Ceftriaxone (CRO), Cefepime (FEP), Aztreonam (ATM), Ertapenem (ETP), IPM, Amikacin (AN), Gentamicin (CN), Ciprofloxacin (CIP), Levofloxacin (LVX) and Trimethoprim/Sulfamethoxazole (SXT). *E.coli* ATCC 25922 was used as a quality control.

### Detection of Carbapenemase Genes

All isolates were subjected to a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) for confirmation of carbapenemase genes, including *bla*<sub>KPC</sub>, *bla*<sub>NDM</sub>, *bla*<sub>VIM</sub>, *bla*<sub>IMP</sub>, *bla*<sub>OXA-48</sub>, *cphA*, *bla*<sub>SME</sub>, *bla*<sub>GIM</sub>, *bla*<sub>IMI</sub> and *bla*<sub>GES</sub>. The sequences and product lengths of primers are summarized in [Table S1](#). The positive products were confirmed by sequencing (Sangon Biotech, China).

## Enterobacterial Repetitive Intergenic Consensus PCR (ERIC-PCR)

The sequences of primers and PCR procedures were described previously.<sup>17</sup> The results of ERIC-PCR were analyzed using Quantity One software (version 4.6.2). The phylogenetic tree was determined using the unweighted pair-group method with arithmetic means (UPGMA) clustering method and Dice similarity.

## Multilocus Sequence Typing (MLST)

Six housekeeping genes (*gyrB*, *groL*, *gltA*, *metG*, *ppsA*, *recA*) were amplified using PCR. The sequences of primers and the PCR procedures were described previously.<sup>18</sup> The products were sent to Sangon Biotech for DNA sequencing, and the results were compared with known alleles in the MLST database. The new STs were deposited in the *Aeromonas* PubMLST database (<http://pubmlst.org/aeromonas>). The phylogenetic trees were inferred using the UPGMA clustering method with MEGA11 software.

## Conjugation

Conjugation experiments were performed to test the transferability of *bla*<sub>KPC</sub> using filter mating. Rifampin-resistant *E. coli* EC600 was used as the recipient. Donors and recipients were cultured to log-phase in LB broth (Hopebio, China), respectively. Donors and recipients were mixed in an initial ratio of 1:4 and then incubated on a 0.22 µm filter, which was placed on a Columbia blood agar plate, and left overnight at 35 °C. The next day, the mating mixture was washed from the filter and spread onto LB agar containing Rifampin at 500 µg/mL and IPM at 1 µg/mL. The transconjugants harboring *bla*<sub>KPC</sub> were identified by PCR.

## Transformation and Plasmid Replicon Types Analysis

Plasmid DNA was isolated using the alkaline lysis extraction procedure and introduced to competent *E. coli* DH5α (Weidibio, China) through chemical transformation. The transformants were selected on LB agar supplemented with IPM at 1 µg/mL. The transformants harboring *bla*<sub>KPC</sub> were identified by PCR. Plasmids were classified according to their incompatibility group using the PCR-based replicon typing scheme (PBRT)<sup>19</sup> and the sequences of IncP-6 primers are listed in [Table S2](#).

## Plasmid Stability Assay and Fitness Assessment

The stability of plasmids was assessed as previously described with minor modifications.<sup>20</sup> Briefly, *bla*<sub>KPC</sub>-carrying *E. coli* DH5α was inoculated into LB broth. Subcultures were diluted daily, and each dilution was plated on LB agar every 3 days. The plates were then incubated overnight at 35 °C. A total of 50 colonies were randomly collected from the LB agar and the presence of *bla*<sub>KPC</sub> was identified using PCR.

The fitness costs of plasmids were evaluated through in vitro growth competition experiment. Plasmid-carrying *E. coli* DH5α (IPM-R) and plasmid-free *E. coli* DH5α (IPM-S) were cultured in an initial ratio of 1:1. The subcultures were then transferred to fresh LB broth. After 1 day, cultures were inoculated overnight on LB agar. Then colonies were collected from the LB agar and the presence of *bla*<sub>KPC</sub> was identified by PCR. The fitness costs were calculated using the following equation:<sup>21</sup>

$$\text{Fit} = 1 + \ln \left[ \left( \frac{\frac{R}{S}}{\frac{R_0}{S_0}} \right)^{1/17} \right]$$

where Fit represents the fitness cost of the *bla*<sub>KPC</sub>-carrying plasmid in the host *E. coli* DH5α; R denotes number of the *bla*<sub>KPC</sub>-carrying *E. coli* DH5α; S represents the number of *bla*<sub>KPC</sub>-free *E. coli* DH5α; R<sub>0</sub> indicates the initial number of *bla*<sub>KPC</sub>-carrying *E. coli* DH5α in the competition experiments, and S<sub>0</sub> represents the initial number of *bla*<sub>KPC</sub>-free *E. coli* DH5α in the competition experiments.

## *bla*<sub>KPC</sub> Genetic Region Analysis

The sequences and lengths of the primer products are summarized in [Table S3](#). These primers were designed based on the sequence of the template plasmid p10265-KPC.<sup>22</sup> Plasmid DNA was extracted using the GeneJET Kit (Thermo

Scientific, US). PCR products were purified using the FastPure Gel DNA Extraction Mini Kit (Vazyme, China). Then, the purified DNA samples were digested using different enzymes. Fragment I, II and III were digested by HindIII (NEB, England). Fragment IV and V were digested by BamHI (NEB, England). Fragment VI was digested by HinfI (Takara, Japan). The grouping was based on the electrophoresis results of the six fragments' enzymatic digestion. The PCR products were sent to Sangon Biotech for Sanger sequencing, and the fragments were assembled using the CAP3 program in SnapGene software (version 5.2). One isolate from each type was sequenced and annotated using the RAST (Rapid Annotation using Subsystems Technology) annotation website to determine the *bla*<sub>KPC</sub> region.

## Statistical Analysis

GraphPad Prism software (version 8) was used for statistical analysis. Fisher's exact test was performed to analyze statistical significance. Only  $p < 0.05$  was considered statistically significant.

## Results

### Prevalence of Carbapenem-Resistant *Aeromonas*

16 *Aeromonas caviae* and 17 *Aeromonas veronii* isolates from HWW were collected in this study. The percentage of carbapenem resistant *Aeromonas* was 26.83%. The percentage of other carbapenem resistant organisms detected have been listed in [Table S4](#).

### Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

16 *Aeromonas caviae* and 17 *Aeromonas veronii* isolates from HWW were collected in this study. *Aeromonas caviae* demonstrated high resistance to FOX (87.5%), CRO (100.0%), FEP (100.0%), ATM (100.0%), ETP (100.0%) and IPM (100.0%). The resistance to TZP (37.5%), AN (25.0%) and LVX (12.5%) was less than 40.0% in *Aeromonas caviae*. Meanwhile, *Aeromonas veronii* exhibited high resistance to CRO (100.0%), FEP (94.1%), ATM (88.2%), ETP (100.0%), IPM (94.1%), while showing low resistance to TZP (35.3%), AN (35.3%), CIP (29.4%) and SXT (35.3%). The Results are listed in [Table 1](#).

### Carbapenemase Genes Profiles

All 33 *Aeromonas* isolates in our study contained carbapenemase genes which included *bla*<sub>KPC</sub> and *cphA* ([Table 2](#)). 16 *Aeromonas caviae* isolates carried *bla*<sub>KPC-2</sub>. Among the 17 *Aeromonas veronii* isolates, 1 isolate carried *cphA*, 4 isolates carried *bla*<sub>KPC-2</sub>, 4 isolates carried both *cphA* and *bla*<sub>KPC-24</sub>, 8 isolates carried *cphA* and *bla*<sub>KPC-2</sub> simultaneously.

**Table 1** Antimicrobial Susceptibility Analysis of *Aeromonas caviae* and *Aeromonas veronii*

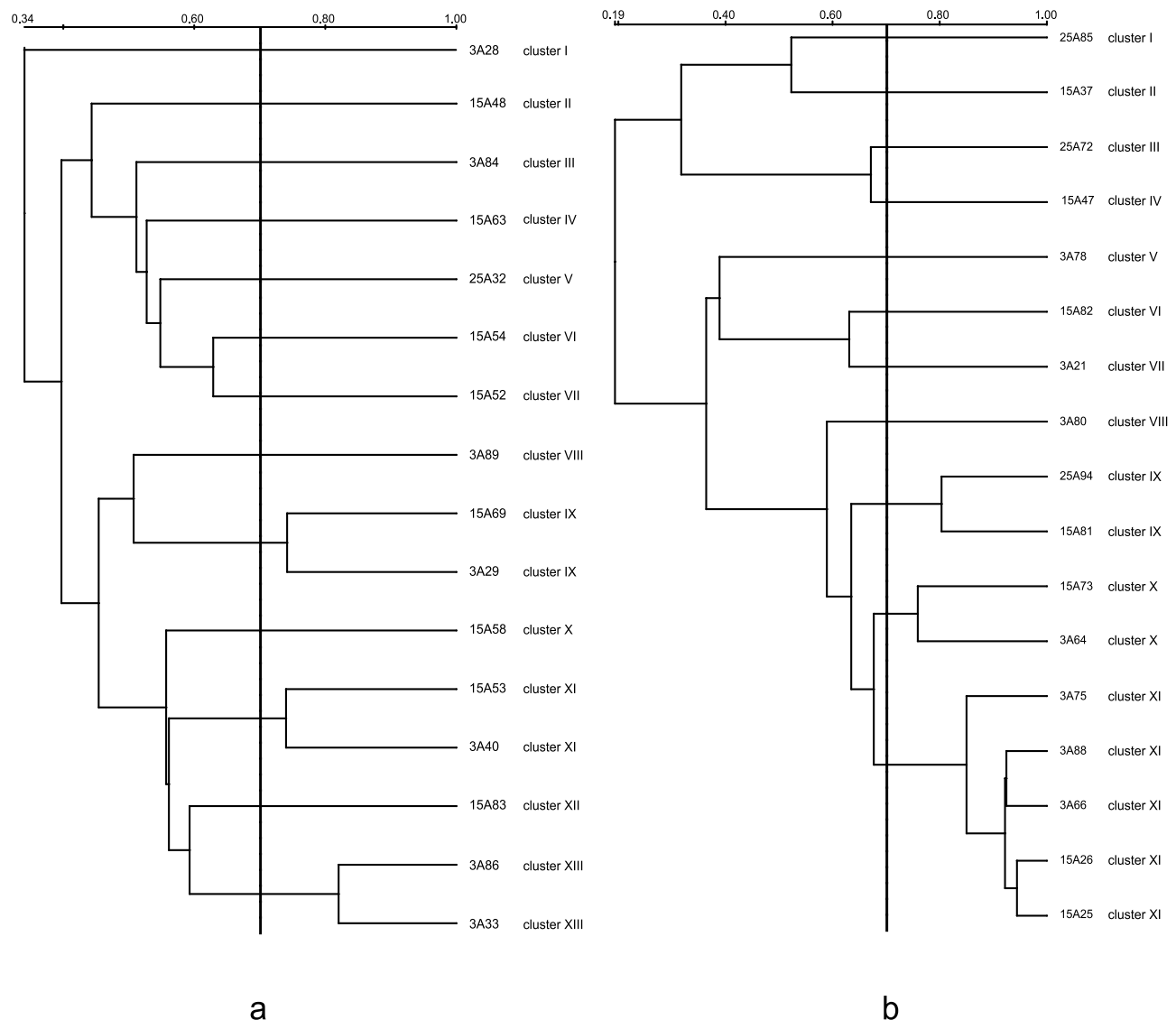
Drugs	<i>Aeromonas caviae</i> (n=16)			<i>Aeromonas veronii</i> (n=17)			p-value
	Susceptible	Intermediate	Resistant	Susceptible	Intermediate	Resistant	
TZP	-	62.5%	37.5%	5.9%	58.8%	35.3%	>0.05
FOX	12.5%	-	87.5%	5.9%	29.4%	64.7%	>0.05
CRO	-	-	100.0%	-	-	100.0%	-
FEP	-	-	100.0%	5.9%	-	94.1%	>0.05
ATM	-	-	100.0%	11.8%	-	88.2%	>0.05
ETP	-	-	100.0%	-	-	100.0%	-
IPM	-	-	100.0%	5.9%	-	94.1%	>0.05
AN	68.7%	6.3%	25.0%	41.2%	23.5%	35.3%	>0.05
CN	56.2%	-	43.8%	23.5%	17.6%	58.8%	>0.05
CIP	12.5%	31.3%	56.3%	47.1%	23.5%	29.4%	>0.05
LVX	56.2%	31.3%	12.5%	88.2%	11.8%	-	>0.05
SXT	43.7%	-	56.3%	64.7%	-	35.3%	>0.05

**Table 2** The Frequency of Carbapenemase Genes Among *Aeromonas caviae* and *Aeromonas veronii*

Genes	Total population; n(%)	<i>Aeromonas caviae</i> ; n(%)	<i>Aeromonas veronii</i> n(%)	p
<i>bla<sub>KPC</sub></i>	32 (97.0)	16 (100.0)	16 (94.1)	>0.05
<i>cphA</i>	13 (39.4)	–	13 (76.5)	<0.05

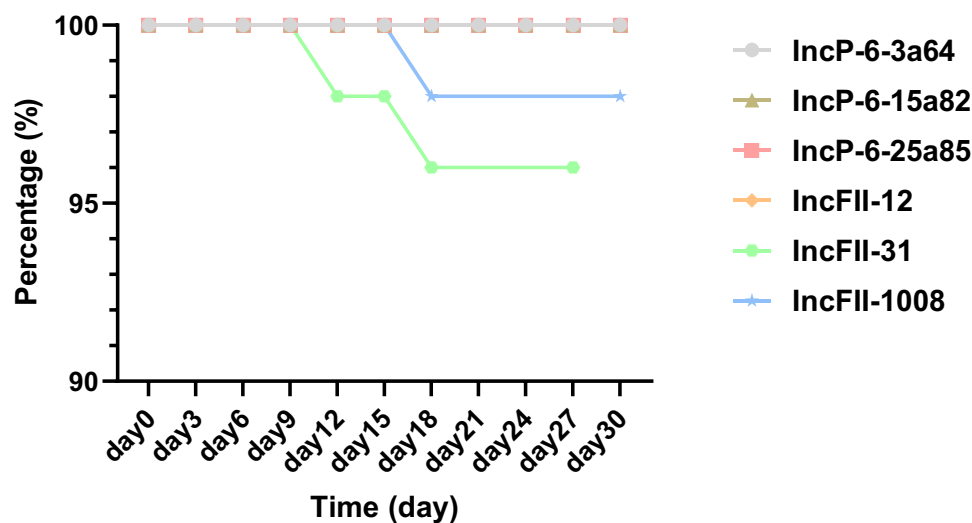
## ERIC-PCR

The fingerprints of *Aeromonas* isolates consisted of various amplification bands, ranging in size from 100 to 5000 bp. The similarity coefficient of *Aeromonas caviae* ranged from 0.34 to 0.82 and that of *Aeromonas veronii* ranged from 0.19 to 0.94 (Figure 1). When the similarity coefficient was 0.70, *Aeromonas caviae* were divided into 13 clusters and *Aeromonas veronii* were divided into 11 clusters. The results of ERIC-PCR in this study divided *Aeromonas* into various clusters, confirming the high genetic diversity in *Aeromonas*.

**Figure 1** ERIC-PCR analysis of *Aeromonas caviae* (a) and *Aeromonas veronii* (b).







**Figure 3** Results of plasmid stability for *bla*<sub>KPC</sub>-IncP-6 and *bla*<sub>KPC</sub>-IncFII in *E.coli* DH5α.

## *bla*<sub>KPC</sub> Genetic Region Analysis

In template plasmid p10265-KPC, from the genetic content we found that it had undergone two main evolutionary events from  $\Delta$ ISKpn6-*bla*<sub>KPC-2</sub>-ISKpn27: (i) the insertion of  $\Delta$ *bla*<sub>TEM-1</sub> between ISKpn27 and Tn3, and (ii) the insertion of IS*Apu1*-ORF-IS*Apu2* into the Tn3 *tnpA* gene, disrupting the fragment into two separate parts.<sup>22</sup> The genetic region of *bla*<sub>KPC</sub> might undergoing the events of gene acquisition and lost in our study. Figure 4 showed these types of *bla*<sub>KPC</sub> genetic regions.

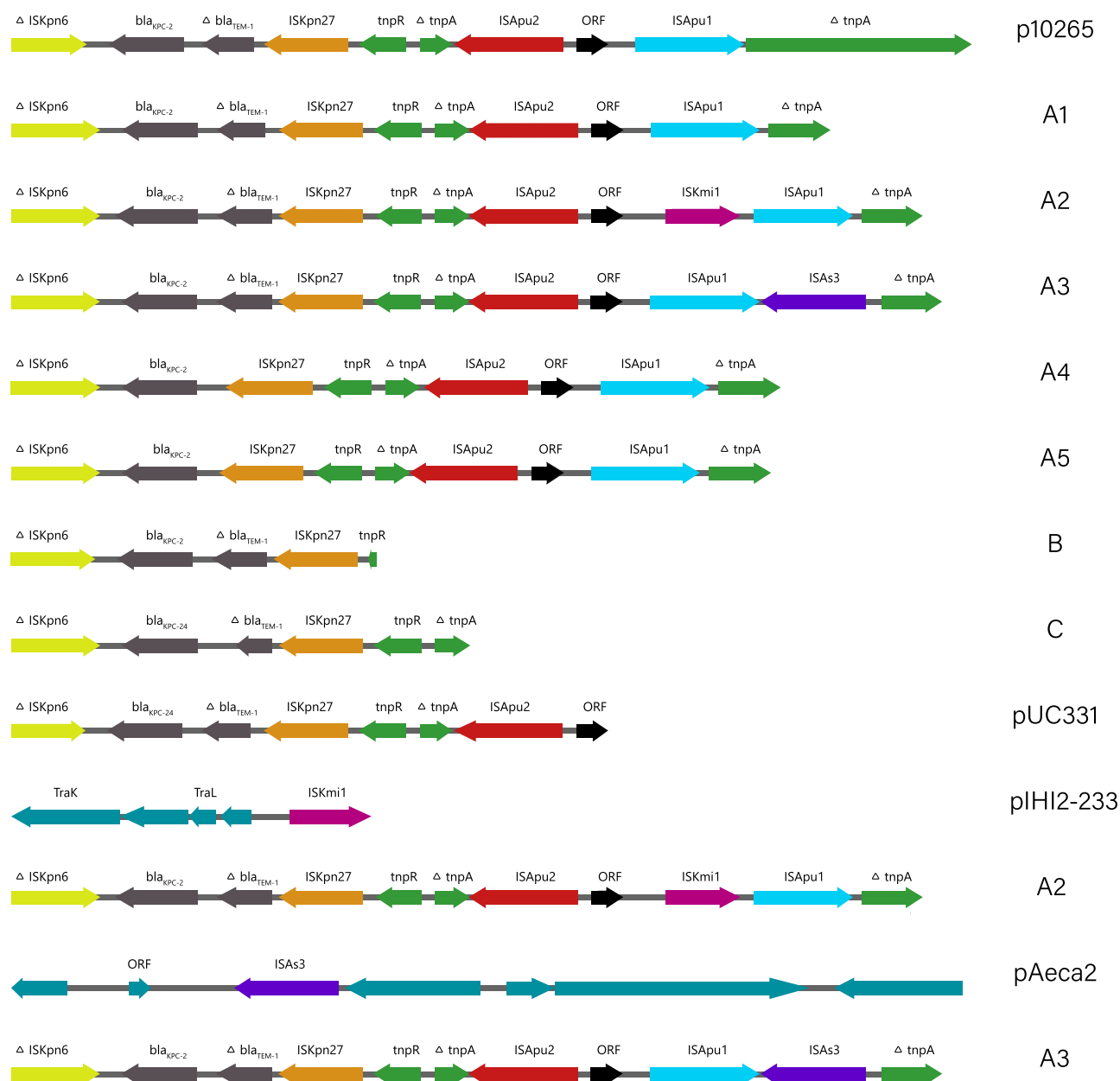
Type A1 has the same genetic region with the reference sequence p10265-KPC, as  $\Delta$ ISKpn6-*bla*<sub>KPC-2</sub>- $\Delta$ *bla*<sub>TEM-1</sub>-ISKpn27-*tnpR*- $\Delta$ *tnpA*-IS*Apu2*-ORF-IS*Apu1*- $\Delta$ *tnpA*. Among type A2, there was a transposase element IS*Kmi1*, which was inserted between the ORF and IS*Apu1*. There was a transposase element IS*As3* inserted between IS*Apu1* and  $\Delta$ *tnpA* in type A3. The loss of  $\Delta$ *bla*<sub>TEM-1</sub> was found in type A4 and A5. Deletion of downstream fragments of *tnpR* occurred in type B. Type C received *bla*<sub>KPC-24</sub> instead of *bla*<sub>KPC-2</sub> and experienced loss of the downstream fragments of  $\Delta$ *tnpA*.

## Discussion

*Aeromonas* is a widespread organism in aquatic environment and carry large numbers of CRGs, it might play a significant role in the transmission of CRGs. Previous studies showed that *cphA* and *bla*<sub>KPC</sub> are prevalent in carbapenem resistant *Aeromonas*.<sup>15,23</sup> Notably, the most prevalent carbapenemase gene in *Aeromonas* from wastewater was the plasmid-associated *bla*<sub>KPC</sub>.<sup>15</sup> In this study, 97.0% *Aeromonas* isolates carried *bla*<sub>KPC</sub> indicating the potential transmission risk of *bla*<sub>KPC</sub>. The high prevalence of *cphA* and *bla*<sub>KPC</sub> suggests that carbapenem resistant *Aeromonas* may play a role in the transmission of carbapenem resistance. Although *Aeromonas* were not the predominant species, the high prevalence of CRGs and strong capacity to acquire various mobile genetic elements demonstrate the contribution of carbapenem resistant *Aeromonas* to CRGs' dissemination. Given that *cphA* is located on bacterial chromosomes, plasmid-associated *bla*<sub>KPC-2</sub> might exhibit stronger dissemination capabilities.<sup>24</sup> The high prevalence and transmission risk of *bla*<sub>KPC</sub> indicate that *Aeromonas* might serve as a potential reservoir for *bla*<sub>KPC</sub> transmission.

**Table 3** Different Types of *bla*<sub>KPC</sub>-Carrying Plasmids and Their Fitness Cost Results

Plasmid	Inc group	Host	Relative Adaptive Fitness
p3a64	IncP-6	<i>E.coli</i> DH5α	1.024
p15a82	IncP-6	<i>E.coli</i> DH5α	1.018
p25a85	IncP-6	<i>E.coli</i> DH5α	0.981
p12	IncFII	<i>E.coli</i> DH5α	0.962
p31	IncFII	<i>E.coli</i> DH5α	1.016
p1008	IncFII	<i>E.coli</i> DH5α	1.039



**Figure 4** *bla*<sub>KPC</sub> regions from IncP-6 plasmids and comparison with the related plasmids.

In this study, we found that *bla*<sub>KPC</sub>-carrying plasmids cannot be transferred through conjugation in *Aeromonas*, but can be transferred through transformation. All of the replicon types of mobilizable *bla*<sub>KPC</sub>-carrying plasmids were IncP-6. The failed conjugation might be attributed to the lack of necessary genetic elements for conjugation in IncP-6 plasmids (such as the *traA* and *traB* operons).<sup>25</sup> Meanwhile, *Aeromonas* is equipped with the type VI secretion system which might be implicated in transformation.<sup>13</sup> Previous studies found that *bla*<sub>KPC</sub> cannot be transferred through conjugation in *Aeromonas* with or without the presence of self-transmissible plasmid.<sup>25,26</sup> Therefore, transformation might be an important mechanism for the transmission of *bla*<sub>KPC</sub> in *Aeromonas*.

To further investigate the transmission risk of *bla*<sub>KPC</sub>, we analyzed the stability of *bla*<sub>KPC</sub>-IncP-6 plasmids by plasmid stability and in vitro competition test. The *bla*<sub>KPC</sub>-IncP-6 plasmids had a strong stability and low fitness cost in this study. The reason for the high stability of *bla*<sub>KPC</sub>-IncP-6 plasmids might be due to them carrying some genetic elements (such as the *ParA/B/C* operon), which can maintain their existence in the host.<sup>20</sup> A previous study found that *bla*<sub>KPC</sub>-IncP-6 plasmids were broad host range plasmids and present in diverse environmental bacterial species of opportunistic, indicating that it might be a suitable vector of



*bla*<sub>KPC</sub> in HWW.<sup>9</sup> The plasmid persistence depends on plasmid stability and their effect on the host fitness.<sup>27</sup> The high stability of IncP-6 plasmids is beneficial to the persistence of plasmids in host and the low fitness cost of IncP-6 plasmids could be an important advantage of carbapenem-resistant bacteria propagation. Therefore, the high stability of IncP-6 plasmids might promote the transmission of CRGs.

The wide spread of CRGs has posed a major public health threat. Previous research has suggested some solutions to control the spread of carbapenem resistance in clinic, such as antimicrobial restriction systems.<sup>28</sup> However, HWW, an important source of CRGs, had received increasing attention. HWW connects human activities with the ecological environment, promoting the spread of clinically important CRGs from clinical bacteria to environmental bacteria.<sup>3</sup> Compared to other wastewater environments, HWW may have a stronger promoting effect on ARGs' dispersion. Therefore, more emphasis should be placed on the contribution of HWW on the CRGs' dissemination and an efficient method of controlling the CRGs' dissemination is also urgently needed to relieve the current crisis of antimicrobial resistance.

There is a limitation to our study: whole genome sequencing was not applied in our study. Therefore, we have no idea about the genetic environment and molecular evolutionary relationships of carbapenem resistant *Aeromonas* in HWW, which might limit the exploration of contribution of *Aeromonas* in transmission of *bla*<sub>KPC</sub>. In our further study, the phylogenomic analysis of carbapenem resistant *Aeromonas* will be further explored. Despite these limitations, this study deciphered the molecular epidemiological characteristics of carbapenem resistant *Aeromonas* and the potential transmission mechanism of *bla*<sub>KPC</sub> in *Aeromonas*, helping to gain a more in-depth insight into the contribution of *Aeromonas* to CRGs' dissemination and enhance public awareness about resistance-related risks.

## Conclusions

Carbapenem resistant *Aeromonas* in HWW showed high genetic diversity. *Aeromonas* mainly carried *bla*<sub>KPC</sub>, which exhibited structural diversity. Transformation might be an important mechanism for the transmission of *bla*<sub>KPC</sub> in *Aeromonas*. *Aeromonas* might serve as reservoirs for *bla*<sub>KPC</sub> and promote its spread in HWW.

## Data Sharing Statement

The raw data supporting the conclusions of this article will be made available by the authors, without undue reservation.

## Author Contributions

All authors contributed to data analysis, drafting or revising the article, have agreed on the journal to which the article will be submitted, gave final approval of the version to be published, and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

## Funding

This work was supported by Fujian Research and Training Grants for Young and Middle-aged Leaders in Healthcare.

## Disclosure

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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