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Aminoglycoside Modifying Enzymes

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Abstract

Aminoglycosides have been an essential component of the armamentarium in the treatment of life-threatening infections. Unfortunately, their efficacy has been reduced by the surge and dissemination of resistance. In some cases the levels of resistance reached the point that rendered them virtually useless. Among many known mechanisms of resistance to aminoglycosides, enzymatic modification is the most prevalent in the clinical setting. Aminoglycoside modifying enzymes catalyze the modification at different –OH or –NH₂ groups of the 2-deoxystreptamine nucleus or the sugar moieties and can be nucleotidyltransferases, phosphotransferases, or acetyltransferases. The number of aminoglycoside modifying enzymes identified to date as well as the genetic environments where the coding genes are located is impressive and there is virtually no bacteria that is unable to support enzymatic resistance to aminoglycosides. Aside from the development of new aminoglycosides refractory to as many as possible modifying enzymes there are currently two main strategies being pursued to overcome the action of aminoglycoside modifying enzymes. Their successful development would extend the useful life of existing antibiotics that have proven effective in the treatment of infections. These strategies consist of the development of inhibitors of the enzymatic action or of the expression of the modifying enzymes.

Keywords

antibiotic resistance; aminoglycoside; aminoglycoside modifying enzyme; acetyltransferase; nucleotidyltransferase; phosphotransferase; kinase; antisense; RNase P; RNase H; bacterial infection

1. A brief overview of aminoglycoside antibiotics

1.1. General aspects

Aminoglycoside antibiotics are a complex family of compounds characterized for having an aminocyclitol nucleus (streptomine, 2-deoxystreptomine, or streptidine) linked to amino sugars through glycosidic bonds. In addition, other compounds such as spectinomycin, which is an aminocyclitol not linked to amino sugars, or compounds that include the aminocyclitol fortamine are also included in this family (Bryskier, 2005; Veysier and Bryskier, 2005). Aminoglycosides are primarily used in the treatment of infections caused by gram-negative aerobic bacilli, staphylococci, and other gram-positives (Yao and

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Moellering, 2007). However, when used against gram-positives, aminoglycosides are recommended in combination with other antibiotics such as β -lactams or vancomycin with which they exert a synergistic effect probably due to an enhanced uptake (Eliopoulos, 1989; Scaglione et al., 1995; Yao and Moellering, 2007). Due to the nature of the mechanism of uptake of aminoglycosides, which requires respiration, anaerobic bacteria are intrinsically resistant (see below) (Bryan et al., 1979). As it would be expected from a large family of non-identical compounds, different aminoglycosides vary in their activity spectrum. Streptomycin, discovered in 1943, was the first efficient drug against tuberculosis and in 1944 a woman with this disease was cured after treatment with the antibiotic. Currently, streptomycin is still used in combination therapy to treat *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (Menzies et al., 2009) and other aminoglycosides such as amikacin or kanamycin are used as second line drug in the treatment of resistant *M. tuberculosis* infections (Brossier et al., 2010). Besides *Enterobacteriaceae* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, examples of life-threatening infections that can be treated with aminoglycosides are plague, tularemia, brucellosis, endocarditis caused by enterococci and infections caused by streptococci and enterococci (Yao and Moellering, 2007). Newer non-traditional applications of aminoglycosides include treatment of genetic disorders such as cystic fibrosis, in which about 10% of patients carry a nonsense mutation as opposed to the most common 3-bp deletion that results in the loss of a phenylalanine in the cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (Rich et al., 1990), and Duchenne muscular dystrophy, in which 10 - 20% of patients carry a nonsense mutation in the dystrophin gene (Kellermayer, 2006). The property of aminoglycosides to decrease the fidelity of the eukaryotic elongation machinery makes them potential candidates to treat nonsense mutation related genetic disorders such as those mentioned above or others that can benefit from inducing translational readthrough (Hermann, 2007; Kellermayer, 2006; Zingman et al., 2007). Aminoglycosides, mainly gentamicin, have also been used in the treatment of Ménière's disease by intratympanic injection (Dabertrand et al., 2010; Nakashima et al., 2000). Aminoglycoside-based drugs are also inhibitors of reproduction of the HIV virus, showing promise on the treatment of AIDS (reviewed in Houghton et al., 2010)

The most common route of administration of aminoglycosides for systemic infections is parenteral, intramuscular injection or intravenously in cases of severe infections. Oral administration is not possible for these infections due to very low levels of absorption. However, oral administration can be used for decontamination purposes such as to kill bowel flora before intestinal surgery (Vakulenko and Mobashery, 2003; Veyssier and Bryskier, 2005; Yao and Moellering, 2007). Other routes of delivery are sometimes used to increase the concentration of the drug at the site of infection or to limit nephrotoxicity or ototoxicity (Vakulenko and Mobashery, 2003; Veyssier and Bryskier, 2005; Yao and Moellering, 2007). Aminoglycosides exist in a variety of formulations, some experimental, including encapsulation in liposomes or nanoparticles, or aerosolized (Dudley et al., 2008; Kingsley et al., 2006; Pinto-Alphandary et al., 2000). A study has shown that when amikacin-encapsulated liposomes were modified they changed the organ distribution of the antibiotic (Bucke et al., 1998). Aminoglycoside antibiotics are not metabolized, they are excreted as active compounds and they show biphasic elimination with half-lives in the body of 2 – 3 hours (as long as the renal function is normal) and 37 – 100 hours (Veyssier and Bryskier, 2005; Wenk et al., 1979). They are mainly eliminated by glomerular filtration.

Binding to serum proteins, although variable among different aminoglycosides, is low. While no serum binding was demonstrable for gentamicin, tobramycin, or kanamycin, streptomycin was found to be 35% bound in a comparative study (Gordon et al., 1972). Amikacin serum protein binding in patients with spinal cord injury and in able-bodied controls was ~18% (Brunnemann and Segal, 1991). The fraction bound to serum proteins is

important because it is only the unbound fraction of a drug that produces a pharmacological effect (Benet and Hoener, 2002; Heinze and Holzgrabe, 2006).

The utilization of aminoglycosides is not free of adverse effects; they have been linked to drug-induced nephrotoxicity and ototoxicity, a problem that limits the doses that can be used. Nephrotoxicity is generally reversible and the most common clinical presentation is nonoliguric acute kidney injury. Other manifestations include a decrease in the glomerular filtration rate, enzymuria, aminoaciduria, glycosuria, hypomagnesemia, hypocalcemia, and hypokalemia (Martinez-Salgado et al., 2007; Oliveira et al., 2009). The ototoxicity effects of aminoglycosides include permanent bilaterally severe, high-frequency sensorineural hearing loss and temporary vestibular hypofunction (Guthrie, 2008). The mechanism by which aminoglycosides are ototoxic seems to be related to their ability to sequester and chelate metals forming complexes that are redox active and generate reactive oxygen species, which in turn induce cell damage (Guthrie, 2008). Free radical scavengers as well as iron chelators were shown to attenuate ototoxic effects of aminoglycosides (Nakashima et al., 2000).

1.2. Bacterial uptake

Internalization of aminoglycosides is an important process for their biological activity. Aminoglycosides penetrate the bacterial cell following a three-steps process; a first energy-independent step is followed by two energy-dependent steps (Taber et al., 1987; Tolmasky, 2007a; Vakulenko and Mobashery, 2003; Veyssier and Bryskier, 2005). Two components are needed for accumulation of aminoglycoside molecules inside the cell: ribosomes and the membrane bound respiratory chain. When aminoglycoside molecules are in contact with bacterial cells, the polycationic antibiotic molecules bind to cell's surface anionic compounds such as lipopolysaccharide, phospholipids, and outer membrane proteins in gram-negatives, and teichoic acids and phospholipids in gram-positives. As a result of the binding to anionic sites in the outer membrane, divalent cations that cross-bridge adjacent lipopolysaccharide molecules are displaced resulting in an increase in permeability that leads to the so called "self-promoted uptake" penetration of aminoglycoside molecules to the periplasmic space (Vanhoof et al., 1995). The following process is blocked by inhibitors of electron transport and oxidative phosphorylation (Muir et al., 1984) and is known as "energy-dependent phase I". Although alternatives have been proposed (Nichols and Young, 1985) it is generally accepted that this phase is characterized by the uptake into the cytoplasm of a small number of aminoglycoside molecules in an energy-dependent fashion, and since it needs a functional electron transport system anaerobes tend not to be susceptible to these antibiotics (Bryan and van der Elzen, 1977). The small number of molecules that reach the cytoplasm during energy-dependent phase I induce errors in protein synthesis and the mistranslated membrane proteins cause damage to the integrity of the cytoplasmic membrane when they are inserted triggering the following step known as "energy-dependent phase II". This mechanism is supported by the need for protein synthesis for triggering the energy-dependent phase II (Hurwitz et al., 1981). The aberrant proteins in the damaged membrane facilitate transport of more molecules of antibiotic that increase the level of interference with normal protein synthesis leading to yet more damage in the membrane resulting in an autocatalytic accelerated rate of uptake that ultimately results in death of the cell (Davis, 1988; Nichols, 1989; Taber et al., 1987). The presence of capsule or exopolysaccharide layers seems not to affect diffusion of the aminoglycosides (Nichols et al., 1988).

1.3. Molecular mechanisms of action

Studies on the effect of aminoglycosides on protein synthesis resulted not only in an understanding of the mode of action of these antibiotics but also in contributions to the understanding of the molecular mechanisms of translation fidelity (Davies, 2006; Davis,

1987; Houghton et al.; Magnet and Blanchard, 2005; Majumder et al., 2007; Vakulenko and Mobashery, 2003). It is clear now that pairing of the codon/anticodon nucleotides cannot account for the levels of fidelity observed in selection of the correct aminoacyl-tRNA (Ogle et al., 2001; Ogle et al., 2003). The ribosome plays an active role in stabilization of the cognate tRNA/mRNA association and rejection of near-cognate tRNAs. One of the earliest observations that led to the idea that the ribosome is an active player in the faithful decoding mechanism by modulating tRNA/mRNA interactions was the production of an enzyme that was otherwise absent due to a premature stop codon in specific *Escherichia coli* auxotrophic mutants upon addition of streptomycin (Spotts and Stanier, 1961). These experiments not only helped understanding mechanisms of translation fidelity during protein synthesis but also contributed to the clarification of the misreading-inducing properties of aminoglycosides. It is now well established that the A site is the decoding center of the ribosome, located on the 16S RNA (which together with about 21 proteins composes the 30S subunit of the ribosome). Regions of the 16S RNA establish contact with the cognate codon/anticodon pair and modify their structure resulting in what is known as the closed conformation of the 30S RNA subunit as opposed to the open structure of the empty A site (reviewed in Ogle et al., 2003; Ogle and Ramakrishnan, 2005; Zaher and Green, 2009). Conversely, binding of a near cognate tRNA does not induce the closed state.

The intimate mechanisms by which aminoglycosides interfere with translational fidelity are becoming ever more clear with the elucidation of crystal structures of complexes between different aminoglycosides and the A site as well as the effects caused by these interactions. Structures of a number of aminoglycosides bound to oligonucleotides containing the decoding A site or the entire subunit have recently been determined by NMR or X-ray crystallography (reviewed in Jana and Deb, 2006; Ogle et al., 2003; Ogle and Ramakrishnan, 2005; Vicens and Westhof, 2003; Zaher and Green, 2009). These studies showed that not all classes of aminoglycosides bind to identical sites of the 16S rRNA but the common effect of their binding is a change of conformation of the A site to one that mimics the closed state induced by interaction between cognate tRNA and mRNA eliminating the proofreading capabilities of the ribosome and thereby promoting mistranslation. With the exception of spectinomycin and kasugamycin, aminoglycosides are bactericidal and their lethality is thought to be due to the secondary effects of inducing mistranslation (Bakker, 1992; Busse et al., 1992; Davis, 1987, 1989; Magnet and Blanchard, 2005; Vakulenko and Mobashery, 2003).

Aminoglycosides such as neomycin and paromomycin have also been shown to inhibit 30S ribosomal subunit assembly although this also could be a secondary effect to protein mistranslation (Mehta and Champney, 2003). Other effects of aminoglycosides include their ability to induce RNA cleavage (Belousoff et al., 2009) or interfere with essential functions such as RNase P, which has been shown to be inhibited by neomycin B due to interference of the antibiotic molecule with the binding of divalent metal ions to the RNA moiety of RNase P (Mikkelsen et al., 1999). These properties could be exploited to develop new aminoglycosides directed to targets other than the ribosome.

Experiments exposing *E. coli* cells to sublethal concentrations of amikacin showed that one of the most susceptible cellular mechanisms is formation of the Z ring, which leads to anomalies in cell division. At these low concentrations of the antibiotic the chromosomes continued replication and were properly located (Possoz et al., 2007).

2. Bacterial resistance to aminoglycoside antibiotics

2.1. Mechanisms of resistance

Aminoglycoside resistance occurs through several mechanisms that can coexist simultaneously in the same cell (Alekshun and Levy, 2007; Houghton et al.; Magnet and Blanchard, 2005; Taber et al., 1987; Tolmasky, 2007a). Described mechanisms include modification of the target by mutation of the 16S rRNA or ribosomal proteins (Galimand et al., 2005; O'Connor et al., 1991); methylation of 16S rRNA, a mechanism found in most aminoglycoside-producing organisms and in clinical strains (Doi and Arakawa, 2007; Galimand et al., 2005); reduced permeability by modification of outer membrane's permeability or diminished inner membrane transport (Hancock, 1981; MacLeod et al., 2000; Over et al., 2001); export outside the cell by active efflux pumps (Aires et al., 1999; Magnet et al., 2001; Rosenberg et al., 2000), one of which has recently been shown to be involved in adaptive resistance (Hocquet et al., 2003); active swarming, a probably non-specific mechanism recently shown in *P. aeruginosa* cells, which exhibited adaptive antibiotic resistance against several antibiotics (Overhage et al., 2008); sequestration of the drug by tight binding to an acetyltransferase of very low activity (Magnet et al., 2003); and enzymatic inactivation of the antibiotic molecule, the most prevalent in the clinical setting and the subject of this review.

3. Aminoglycoside modifying enzymes

Aminoglycoside modifying enzymes catalyze the modification at $-OH$ or $-NH_2$ groups of the 2-deoxystreptamine nucleus or the sugar moieties and can be acetyltransferases (AACs), nucleotidyltransferases (ANTs), or phosphotransferases (APHs) (Fig. 1). The combination of mutagenesis, which leads to continuous generation of new enzyme variants that can utilize an ever growing number of antibiotics as substrates, with the coding genes' ability to transfer at the molecular level as part of integrons, gene cassettes, transposons, or integrative conjugative elements and at the cellular level through conjugation, as part of mobilizable or conjugative plasmids, natural transformation or transduction results in the ability of this resistance mechanism to reach virtually all bacterial types (Tolmasky, 2007b).

The number of aminoglycoside modifying enzymes identified to date as well as the hosts and genetic environments is impressive, therefore the citations and examples described here should be considered representative rather than comprehensive. Furthermore, putative genes coding for aminoglycoside modifying enzymes are being found in complete genome sequences. These genes, for which there is no further information other than the annotation, are not discussed in this review. Summaries including relevant data on aminoglycoside modifying enzymes are shown in Fig. 1 and Tables 1 - 3.

3.1. Aminoglycoside modifying enzymes: nomenclature

There are two main nomenclatures currently in use to identify aminoglycoside modifying enzymes. One of them consists of a three-letter identifier of the activity followed by the site of modification between parenthesis (class), a roman number particular to the resistant profile they confer to the host cells (subclass), and a low case letter that is an individual identifier (Shaw et al., 1993). The parenthesis and the subclass are usually separated by a hyphen but lately some authors have removed it (Oteo et al., 2006). For example, AAC(6')-Ia represents an *N*-acetyltransferase that catalyzes acetylation at the 6' position conferring a resistance profile identical to the other AAC(6')-I enzymes (AAC(6')-Ib – AAC(6')-Iaf). In the other nomenclature system the genes are designated *aac*, *aad* and *aph* followed by a capital letter that identifies the site of modification (Novick et al., 1976). Thus, *aacA*, *aacB*, and *aacC* identify aminoglycoside 6'-*N*- acetyltransferase, aminoglycoside 2'-*N*-acetyltransferase, and aminoglycoside 3'-*N*-acetyltransferase respectively. A number is then

added to provide a unique identifier to different genes. Each of the nomenclatures has its own advantages and disadvantages and different authors prefer one to the other but, as it has been suggested before (Tolmasky, 2007a; Vanhoof et al., 1998), it would be convenient to reach consensus and use only one of them to avoid confusion and facilitate following the advances in the field. The confusion is sometimes compounded by different additions or modifications in naming new genes or variants (see below). We suggest that returning to a simpler nomenclature with the support of an internet repository site could facilitate the naming of the genes, avoid duplications, and facilitate further changes when new enzymes with new, and may be unexpected, characteristics are discovered.

3.2. Aminoglycoside modifying enzymes: aminoglycoside N-acetyltransferases (AACs)

AACs belong to the ubiquitous GCN5-related *N*-acetyltransferase (GNAT) superfamily of proteins, which include about 10,000 proteins (Vetting et al., 2005). GNAT enzymes catalyze the acetylation of $-NH_2$ groups in the acceptor molecule using acetyl coenzyme A as donor substrate, in the case of AACs the acceptor is an aminoglycoside antibiotic. The AACs catalyze acetylation at the 1 [AAC(1)], 3 [AAC(3)], 2' [AAC(2')], or 6' [AAC(6')] positions (Fig. 1 and Table 1). The three dimensional structures of several acetyltransferases have been resolved (see Table 1), mechanistic and structural aspects of these and other representatives of these enzymes have been thoroughly studied and reviewed (Azucena and Mobashery, 2001; Houghton et al., 2010; Tolmasky, 2007a; Vetting et al., 2005; Wright and Berghuis, 2007).

3.2.1. AAC(1)—To date AAC(1) enzymes have been found in *E. coli*, *Campylobacter* spp., and an actinomycete (Gomez-Luis et al., 1999; Lovering et al., 1987; Sunada et al., 1999). The AAC(1) isolated from *E. coli* catalyzes acetylation of apramycin, butirosin, lividomycin and paromomycin at the 1 position, and catalyzes di-acetylation of ribostamycin and neomycin. The AAC(1) isolated from an actinomycete (strain #8) differed in substrate profile from that one from *E. coli* as apramycin was not acetylated by this enzyme. Furthermore paromomycin was preferentially acetylated at position 1, but 1,2'-di-*N*-acetylparomomycin and 1,6''-di-*N*-acetylparomomycin were also found as products of the enzymatic reaction (Sunada et al., 1999). These studies also determined that these modifications were not accompanied by a significant reduction of the antibiotic activity. The substrate profile of the AAC(1) isolated from *Campylobacter* spp. was similar to that of the *E. coli* enzyme. This was the only instance in which an AAC(1) was found in clinical isolates. The authors suggested that the gene is located in the chromosome, but these results await confirmation. Although all three enzymes have been named AAC(1), the difference in substrate profile of at least one of them would justify to name them with a subclass number.

3.2.2. AAC(3)—There are nine recognized subclasses of AAC(3) enzymes described to date, all of them in gram-negatives. The subclass AAC(3)-V has been eliminated after confirmation that the only enzyme in this group is identical to AAC(3)-II (Shaw et al., 1993). The subclass AAC(3)-I includes five enzymes that confer resistance to gentamicin, sisomicin, and fortimicin (astromicin) and are present in a large number of *Enterobacteriaceae* and other gram-negative clinical isolates. The X-ray structure of AAC(3)-Ia from *Serratia marcescens* (Javier Teran et al., 1991) complexed to CoA has been determined at 2.3 Å resolution (Wolf et al., 1998), as it is the case with several acetyltransferases this enzyme seems to exist as a dimer under physiological conditions.

All five genes have been found as part of gene cassettes in integrons. The latest gene in this subclass to be reported is *aac(3)-Ie*, which was found in integrons in *Proteus vulgaris*, *P.*

aeruginosa, and within a *Salmonella enterica* subsp. *enterica* genomic island (Gionechetti et al., 2008; Wilson and Hall, 2010).

The subclass AAC(3)-II, which is characterized by resistance to gentamicin, netilmicin, tobramycin, sisomicin, 2'-*N*-ethylnetilmicin, 6'-*N*-ethylnetilmicin and dibekacin (Shaw et al., 1993), includes three enzymes: AAC(3)-IIa and AAC(3)-IIb, which were previously published as AAC(3)-Va and AAC(3)-Vb (see letter and reply van de Klundert and Vliegthart, 1993), and AAC(3)-IIc. While AAC(3)-IIa has been found in a large variety of genera, AAC(3)-IIb and AAC(3)-IIc have been found in *E. coli*, *Alcaligenes faecalis* and *S. marcescens* or *E. coli* and *P. aeruginosa* respectively (Dubois et al., 2006; Dubois et al., 2008; Oteo et al., 2006; Shaw et al., 1993). A recent survey of *Enterobacteriaceae* clinical isolates from a Tunisian Hospital showed the presence of undetermined AAC(3)-II enzymes, although the authors suggest the possibility of AAC(3)-IIb, in all genera tested (Dahmen et al., 2010).

There are three enzymes belonging to the subclass AAC(3)-III, all isolated from *P. aeruginosa* isolates. When cloned, the *aac(3)-IIIa* gene was expressed in *P. aeruginosa* but not in *E. coli* (Vliegthart et al., 1991b). This does not seem to be due to an inactive promoter in *E. coli*. The authors proposed that most probably the mRNA is not completely synthesized or the initiation of translation of the gene is obstructed (Vliegthart et al., 1991b). There were other early reports of AAC(3)-III enzymes in other genera, e.g., *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, but they seem to be misnamed (for clarification see Vliegthart et al., 1991b).

The only representative of AAC(3)-IV has been identified in clinical strains of *E. coli* (originally thought to be *Salmonella*) (Braun et al., 1984), *Campylobacter jejuni*, and in environmental *Pseudomonas stutzeri* (Heuer et al., 2002).

Although only AAC(3)-VIa is recognized in the literature within subclass AAC(3)-VI, comparison of the original sequence from *Enterobacter cloacae*, with the more recently isolated genes from *E. coli*, and *S. enterica* show a one amino acid difference (Call et al., 2010; Rather et al., 1993a).

Subclasses AAC(3)-VII, AAC(3)-VIII, AAC(3)-IX, and AAC(3)-X are represented in strains of actinomycetes (Ishikawa et al., 2000; Lopez-Cabrera et al., 1989; Salauze et al., 1991). This latter enzyme was of interest because besides catalyzing acetylation of kanamycin and dibekacin at the 3-amino group it also mediates acetylation the 3"-amino group in arbekacin and amikacin, making this the first AAC detected to have also AAC(3") activity. Interestingly, while 3"-*N*-acetylamikacin lost most or all antibiotic activity, 3"-*N*-acetylarbekacin was still active (Hotta et al., 1998).

3.2.3. AAC(2')—These enzymes have been found in gram-negatives and *Mycobacterium*, they mediate modification of several aminoglycosides including gentamicin, tobramycin, dibekacin, kanamycin and netimicin. Only one subclass exists, which includes AAC(2')-Ia (*Providencia stuartii*), AAC(2')-Ib (*Mycobacterium fortuitum* and *Acinetobacter baumannii*), AAC(2')-Ic (*M. tuberculosis* and *Mycobacterium bovis*), AAC(2')-Id (*Mycobacterium smegmatis*), and a putative AAC(2')-Ie identified in the *Mycobacterium leprae* genome (Adams et al., 2008; Ainsa et al., 1997; Hegde et al. 2001; Rather et al., 1993b). A putative AAC(2') enzyme has been proposed to be part of multidrug resistance in *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia* but it has not been named further (Crossman et al., 2008). Our Blast analysis of the amino acid sequence of this protein against those in GenBank did not show 100% homology with any of the AAC(2') know enzymes.

3.2.4. AAC(6')—AAC(6') enzymes are by far the most common, they are present in gram-negatives as well as gram-positives, the genes have been found in plasmids and chromosomes, and are often part of mobile genetic elements, some of them with unusual structures (Centron and Roy, 2002; Soler Bistue et al., 2008; Tolmasky, 2007a; Tolmasky, 2000). Accordingly, there is a very large volume of information available about them. There are two main subclasses of AAC(6') enzymes that specify resistance to several aminoglycosides and differ in their activity against amikacin and gentamicin C1. While AAC(6')-I shows high activity against amikacin and gentamicin C1a and C2 but very low towards gentamicin C1, AAC(6')-II enzymes actively mediate acetylation of all three forms of gentamicin but not amikacin (Rather et al., 1992; Shaw et al., 1993; Tolmasky, 2007a; Tolmasky et al., 1986; Woloj et al., 1986). A novel enzyme that includes fluoroquinolones as substrates, could be considered a third class because of the change in pattern of substrates but it has been named AAC(6')-Ib-cr, most probably because it is an evolutionary product of AAC(6')-Ib by modification of two amino acids, Trp102Arg and Asp179Tyr (Robicsek et al., 2006). Unfortunately, due to the high variability and number of enzymes belonging to this class, the fast pace of research on these enzymes, and the fact that a large number of enzymes have different degrees of similarity in sequence and phenotype, there is a good deal of confusion and lack of consistency in nomenclature and classification of many members. In at least one instance two simultaneously discovered enzymes were named identically (Vanhoof et al., 1998). Enzymes with AAC(6')-II resistance profiles but with higher identity to AAC(6')-I enzymes at the amino acid level were named AAC(6')-I (Casin et al., 2003; Lambert et al., 1994b). Different enzymes have been named identically, for example an acetyltransferase encoded by plasmid pBWH301 was named AAC(6')-II (accession number U13880) (Bunny et al., 1995), and the same name was used to name an acetyltransferase from *C. freundii* Cf155 (accession number Z54241) (Hannecart-Pokorni et al., 1997). This latter enzyme was subsequently renamed AAC(6')-Im (Vanhoof et al., 1998). A search in PubMed shows the title of this paper as "AAC(6')-Im [corrected]". However, this enzyme was also called AAC(6')-Ip by Centron et al (Centron and Roy, 1998). Another enzyme identified later in *E. coli* and *Enterococcus faecium* was named AAC(6')-Im (Chow et al., 2001).

The AAC(6')-I subclass is so highly populated that a double low case letter was necessary to identify them, at the moment the latest published enzyme named as such is the AAC(6')-Iaf (Kitao et al., 2009). An AAC(6')-Iai can be found in GenBank but not AAC(6')-Iag or AAC(6')-Iah. Variants of AAC(6')-Ib have been identified with subscripts e.g., AAC(6')-Ib₃, AAC(6')-Ib₄, AAC(6')-Ib₆, and AAC(6')-Ib₇ and differ at the N-terminus but have similar behavior (Casin et al., 1998). Conversely variant AAC(6')-Ib₁₁, found in a class 1 integron in *S. Typhimurium*, exhibits a two amino acids difference with AAC(6')-Ib at positions 118 and 119 that results in an extended resistance spectrum that would merit the definition of a new subclass (Casin et al., 2003). Another variation to the nomenclature used only once is the addition of a prime symbol. The *Pseudomonas fluorescens* BM2687 AAC(6')-Ib' is encoded by a gene that has a Ser instead of a Leu residue at position 90, a substitution previously recognized as responsible for changing the resistance profile from subclass I to II (Lambert et al., 1994b; Rather et al., 1992). Besides the addition of a prime symbol, the name of this enzyme is also unusual, although not unique, in that in spite of having a AAC(6')-II phenotype is called as if belonging to subclass AAC(6')-I. AAC(6')-Ib' also exist as a fusion protein with a nucleotidyltransferase identified as ANT(3'')-Ii/AAC(6')-IId in a *S. marcescens* integron that includes a group II intron (Centron and Roy, 2002). Considering the total identity between AAC(6')-IId portion of the *S. marcescens* enzyme and AAC(6')-Ib', the name of this latter enzyme should be changed to AAC(6')-IId. Other modifications to the nomenclature include removal of the roman number that identifies the subclass and the addition of a number, e.g. AAC(6')-29a, AAC(6')-29b, AAC(6')-31, AAC(6')-32, or AAC(6')-33 (Gutierrez et al., 2007; Mendes et al., 2007; Poirel et al., 2001; Viedma et al.,

2009); or the substitution of the low case letter for a number as in the *S. enterica* AAC(6')-I30 enzyme (Mulvey et al., 2004). Other recent variations to the nomenclature consist on the addition of whole words or acronyms such as AAC(6')-Ib-Suzhou (Huang et al., 2008) or AAC(6')-Isa (Hamano et al., 2004). The monumental number of identified genes together with the *de facto* lack of a unified and agreed nomenclature for AAC(6') enzymes make it extremely difficult to get a clear nomenclature landscape about these enzymes. The AAC(6')-Id protein has been mentioned several times in the literature, but the accession number provided (X12618) does not currently correspond to an acetyltransferase and for that reason it has not been included in Table 1.

AAC(6') enzymes can exist as fusion proteins occupying the N or C terminal region of the composite protein (Zhang et al., 2009). These fused *aac(6')* genes are usually found within integrons and they can be the result of integrase-mediated recombination events (Centron and Roy, 2002). Interestingly, proteins containing AAC(6')-I activities have been found fused to APH, ANT, a different AAC, and another AAC(6')-I activities. AAC(6')-Ie is located to the amino terminal end of a bifunctional *Enterococcus faecalis* and *Staphylococcus aureus* enzyme with AAC(6') and APH(2'') activities (Boehr et al., 2004; Ferretti et al., 1986). The *aac(6')-aph(2'')* gene is usually present in Tn4001-like transposons (Culebras and Martinez, 1999). As described above, the AAC(6')-IId is the carboxy terminal region of the protein fusion that also includes an ANT(3'')-I activity. Fusions of two AAC(6')-I activities, AAC(6')-30/AAC(6')-Ib', or two AAC belonging to different subclasses, AAC(3)-Ib and AAC(6')-Ib' were found in *P. aeruginosa* integrons (Dubois et al., 2002; Mendes et al., 2004).

Three phylogenetic subgroups have been recognized among AAC(6')-I and AAC(6')-II enzymes (Hannecart-Pokorni et al., 1997; Shaw et al., 1993; Shmara et al., 2001) but an alternative theory has been published that proposes that the three groups are less related than thought before and the 6' acetylating activity has evolved independently at least three times (Salipante and Hall, 2003).

An immunochromatographic method based on the utilization of monoclonal antibodies against the AAC(6')-Iae has recently been reported (Kitao et al., 2010). This enzyme was selected for these studies because *aac(6')-Iae* is prevalent in Japan and appears linked to the metallo-!-lactamase gene *bla_{IMP}* and *ant(3'')-Ia* in the integron In113, making the assay a useful tool to detect multiple drug resistance in *P. aeruginosa* in this country (Kitao et al., 2010). However, 37% of the negative isolates from Japan still showed a multiple drug resistance phenotype and 76% of these negative isolates include *aac(6')-Ib* and the metallo-!-lactamase gene *bla_{IMP-1}*. At present, the authors of this study are developing an immunochromatography assay targeting AAC(6')-Ib and metallo-!-lactamase IMP to complement that one targeting AAC(6')-Iae for a more complete diagnostics tool (Kitao et al., 2010).

AAC(6')-Ib is probably the most clinically relevant acetyltransferase and is responsible for the resistance to amikacin and other aminoglycosides found in several gram-negatives belonging to the genus *Acinetobacter* and to the *Enterobacteriaceae*, *Pseudomonadaceae*, and *Vibrionaceae* (reviewed in Tolmasky, 2007a; Vakulenko and Mobashery, 2003). It is present in over 70% of AAC(6')-I-producing gram-negative clinical isolates (Vakulenko and Mobashery, 2003) and, as mentioned above, some of its variants show an extended spectrum including resistance to gentamicin [AAC(6')-Ib₁₁] (Casin et al., 2003) or reduced susceptibility to quinolones [AAC(6')-Ib-cr] (Robicsek et al., 2006). Since it was first identified, this latter enzyme has been detected in a large number of geographical regions in numerous genetic environments (Strahilevitz et al., 2009). It is usually found as a gene cassette in different integrons and associated to quinolone resistance genes such as *qnrA1*,

qnrB2, *qnrB4*, *qnrB6*, *qnrB10*, *qnrS1*, *qnrS2*, and *qepA* or β -lactamase genes such as *bla*_{CTX-M-1}, *bla*_{CTX-M-14}, *bla*_{CTX-M-15}, *bla*_{CTX-M-24}, *bla*_{DHA-1}, *bla*_{SHV-12}, and *bla*_{KPC-2} (Strahilevitz et al., 2009).

The prevalence of AAC(6')-Ib together with its numerous variants attracted the interest of several research groups that studied them from different points of view. The *aac(6')-Ib* gene is mostly found as a gene cassette within class 1 integrons or as a defective gene cassette within an unusual structure resembling the variable portion of the integrons but lacking the 5' and 3' conserved regions as in *Tn1331* and its derivatives *Tn1331.2*, *Tn1332* or the KQ element (Chamorro et al., 1990; Dery et al., 1997; Poirel et al., 2006; Rice et al., 2008; Sarno et al., 2002; Soler Bistue et al., 2008; Tolmasky et al., 1988; Tolmasky and Crosa, 1987). The structures of *Tn1331* and the modifications occurred for the generation of *Tn1331.2*, *Tn1332*, and the KQ element are shown in Fig. 2. Interestingly, the *aac(6')-Ib* environment found in these genetic elements has a number of particular characteristics. While in integrons the gene located at the 5' end of the variable region is preceded by an *attI* recombination site located adjacent to the *intI* gene (Partridge et al., 2000), in these elements there is no *attI* upstream of the *aac(6')-Ib* gene. Instead, an 8 bp sequence known as *attI1** is found near the beginning of the structural gene at the location where a gene fusion between a *bla*_{TEM} gene and a precursor of *aac(6')-Ib* is believed to have occurred, incorporating the first six amino acids of the TEM β -lactamase at the N-terminus of this version of AAC(6')-Ib (Fig. 2A) (Ramirez et al., 2008; Tolmasky, 1990). These features define an imperfect gene cassette with *attI1** at the 5' end within the *aac(6')-Ib* structural gene (Fig. 2A). *IntI1* integrase-mediated excision of this imperfect gene cassette could not be detected in cells harboring a recombinant clone with *intI1* under the control of the P_{tac} promoter (Ramirez et al., 2008). Products of evolution of the *Tn1331* transposon by insertion of DNA fragments or duplications have been found and are shown in Fig. 2B. This version of the *aac(6')-Ib* gene was also found in the chromosome of a *P. mirabilis* isolate as part of a mosaic structure containing several resistance genes (Zong et al., 2009). In this case the upstream region of the gene is derived from *Tn1331* but it shows a different organization, it is preceded by the region located downstream of *bla*_{OXA-9} in *Tn1331*. The authors of this report proposed that homologous recombination events between the duplicated regions of *Tn1331* could have led to formation of a circular molecule that could have then been integrated into the chromosome (Fig. 2C) (Zong et al., 2009).

The translation of the *aac(6')-Ib₇* gene cassette has been studied in some detail. This is one of about 20% of gene cassettes that lack a discernible translation initiation region. Instead, a short open reading frame is located immediately upstream of the structural gene that significantly enhances translation through translational coupling (Hanau-Bercot et al., 2002; Jacquier et al., 2009).

A large number of variants of AAC(6')-Ib have been found that differ at the N-terminal end, a phenomenon that may be a consequence of the high mobility of the gene. The fact that most of all of these variants are active shows a high flexibility in the structural requirements at this portion of the protein. This property has been proposed to be a contributing factor to the successful distribution and predominance among aminoglycoside resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (Casin et al., 1998).

The AAC(6')-Ib protein has been the subject of numerous mutagenesis as well as structural and mechanistic studies (Casin et al., 2003; Chavideh et al., 1999; Kim et al., 2007; Maurice et al., 2008; Panaite and Tolmasky, 1998; Pourreza et al., 2005; Rather et al., 1992; Shmara et al., 2001; Vetting et al., 2004; Vetting et al., 2008). Significant progress in understanding AAC(6')-Ib and its variants has been achieved recently after the elucidation of the crystal structures of AAC(6')-Ib and the extended spectrum AAC(6')-Ib₁₁ in conjunction with the

construction of a molecular model of AAC(6′)-Ib-cr (Vetting et al., 2008). These studies showed that unlike AAC(6′)-Ii and AAC(6′)-Iy, which are dimers (Draker et al., 2003; Vetting et al., 2004; Wybenga-Groot et al., 1999), AAC(6′)-Ib and AAC(6′)-Ib-cr exist as a monomer while AAC(6′)-Ib₁₁ shows monomer/dimer equilibrium (Maurice et al., 2008). Structural features behind the ability of AAC(6′)-Ib to catalyze acetylation of semisynthetic aminoglycosides, as well as the ordered kinetic mechanism could be explained (Maurice et al., 2008). Furthermore, a flexible flap was identified in AAC(6′)-Ib₁₁ that might explain its ability to utilize as substrate both amikacin and gentamicin (Maurice et al., 2008). The modeling of AAC(6′)-Ib-cr, which has the substitutions D179Y and W102R with respect to AAC(6′)-Ib, permitted to determine that the Asp179Tyr substitution produces the greatest structural effect that results in an enhanced binding to the antibiotic molecule and the W102R acts by stabilizing the positioning of the Y179 (Robicsek et al., 2006; Strahilevitz et al., 2009). This attractive model explains the effects of each individual substitution. While D179Y is enough to confer a partial resistance phenotype, the effect of W102R is hardly detectable. Another model that emphasizes plasticity in the active site has also been suggested (Maurice et al., 2008). Quick methods for identification and genotyping of *aac(6′)-Ib-cr* have recently been published (Bell et al., 2010; Hidalgo-Grass and Strahilevitz, 2010).

Detailed subcellular localization studies of the AAC(6′)-Ib encoded by *Tn1331* using physical separation methods together with gene fusions to *phoA* in which the signal peptide coding sequence has been removed, and fluorescence microscopy in which the gene was fused to the cyan fluorescent protein demonstrated that the enzyme is evenly distributed within the cytoplasmic compartment of *E. coli* (Dery et al., 2003). Care should be taken when determining the subcellular location of aminoglycoside modifying enzymes. In the past there were contradictory reports indicating that they are located in the periplasmic space or the cytosol (Franklin and Clarke, 2001; Perlin and Lerner, 1981; Tolmasky, 2007a; Vakulenko and Mobashery, 2003; Vliegenthart et al., 1991a). These contradictory findings could be due to the fact that in osmotically shocked *E. coli*, proteins are released through a molecular sieve formed by the damaged cell envelope (Vazquez-Laslop et al., 2001). As a consequence, cytoplasmic proteins small in native size tend to be released after osmotic shock treatment while larger proteins or protein complexes remain inside the cells (Vazquez-Laslop et al., 2001). We confirmed this by extracting the periplasmic proteins by spheroplast formation under different conditions and found that while the controls behaved as expected under all conditions, when we used mild conditions the AAC(6′)-Ib signal was present in the cytosolic extract but when we used harsher conditions a considerable fraction of the total AAC(6′)-Ib was found in the periplasmic extract (Dery et al., 2003; Tolmasky, 2007a).

Two shorter proteins of this class, AAC(6′)-29a and AAC(6′)-29b, have been identified from a multidrug-resistant clinical isolate of *P. aeruginosa* (Magnet et al., 2003; Poirel et al., 2001). The 131-amino acids AAC(6′)-29b protein was studied in more detail and it was found that it does not mediate resistance by enzymatic modification but rather by tightly binding aminoglycoside molecules, a result that led to the conclusion that the mechanism of aminoglycoside resistance mediated by this protein is by sequestering the drug as a result of tight binding to the molecule (Magnet et al., 2003).

3.3. Aminoglycoside modifying enzymes: aminoglycoside O-nucleotidyltransferases (ANTs)

ANTs mediate inactivation of aminoglycosides by catalyzing the transfer of an AMP group from the donor substrate ATP to and hydroxyl group in the aminoglycoside molecule. There are five classes of ANTs that catalyze adenylation at the 6 [ANT(6)], 9 [ANT(9)], 4′

[ANT(4'), 2'' [ANT(2'')], and 3'' [ANT(3'')] positions, of which only ANT(4') includes two subclasses, I and II (Fig. 1 and Table 2).

3.3.1. ANT(6)—Genes coding for enzymes with related amino acid sequences have been named *ant(6)-Ia*, *ant6*, *ant(6)*, and *aadE*. They all exhibit the same substrate profile (resistance to streptomycin) and therefore belong into the same subclass, but they are not identical. These genes are highly widespread among gram-positive bacteria (Tolmasky, 2007a; Vakulenko and Mobashery, 2003). Two genes called *aadE* with 87% identity at the amino acid level were found in the *E. faecalis* plasmid pRE25 and in *C. jejuni* (Schwarz et al., 2001). Genes coding for ANT enzymes are found in plasmids, transposons, and chromosomes. The *ant(6)* gene is often found in a cluster *ant(6)-sat4-aph(3')-III* that specifies resistance to aminoglycosides and streptothricin (Cerda et al., 2007). This cluster is part of Tn5405 and other related transposons, which are distributed among *Staphylococci* and *Enterococci* (Werner et al., 2003) and are located in plasmids and chromosomes. Another gene originally found in *Bacillus subtilis* was named *aadK* (Noguchi et al., 1993) and was subsequently found in other species of *Bacillus* (Vakulenko and Mobashery, 2003). The protein encoded by this gene shows 58% identity and 74% similarity with one encoded by an *aadE* gene (Vakulenko and Mobashery, 2003). A novel *ant(6)* gene, named *ant(6)-Ib*, was recently identified in *Campylobacter fetus* subsp. *fetus* within a transferable pathogenicity island (Abril et al., 2010). This gene is identical to that called *aad(6)* in a contig of an unfinished *Clostridium* genome (accession number NZ_ABDU01000081).

3.3.2. ANT(9)—Two enzymes with the ANT(9) characteristics have been described, ANT(9)-Ia and ANT(9)-Ib, both mediating resistance to spectinomycin. The genes coding for these enzymes were called as *ant(9)-Ia* and *ant(9)-Ib*, but unfortunately they have both also been called *spc* or *aad(9)* facilitating confusion. The amino acid sequences of ANT(9)-Ia and ANT(9)-Ib share 39% identity. ANT(9)-Ia was first described in *S. aureus* and then also in *Enterococcus avium*, *E. faecium*, and *E. faecalis*. In all four bacteria the gene was part of Tn554 (Mahbub Alam et al., 2005; Murphy, 1985). Our BLAST analysis showed a protein with 100% identity to ANT(9)-Ia present as part of a novel transposon, Tn6072 (Chen et al., 2010). However, although the gene is correctly named as *spc* it is described as a streptomycin 3'-adenyltransferase. ANT(9)-Ib was found in a plasmid from *E. faecalis* (LeBlanc et al., 1991).

3.3.3. ANT(4')—ANT(4')-Ia is found in plasmids of gram-positives such as *Staphylococci*, *Enterococci*, and *Bacillus* spp., and the gene has been also named *aadD*, *aadD2*, and *ant(4', 4'')-I* (Bozdogan et al., 2003; Kobayashi et al., 2001; Muller et al., 1986; Perez-Vazquez et al., 2009). This latter name is due to the fact that this enzyme was found to modify 4' and 4'' groups, which makes it capable of conferring resistance to dibekacin, an aminoglycoside that lacks a 4' target (Santanam and Kayser, 1978). Both subclasses, I and II, confer resistance to tobramycin, amikacin, isepamicin, but subclass I also codifies resistance to dibekacin. ANT(4')-Ia is the only ANT enzyme for which the three dimensional structure has been resolved (Pedersen et al., 1995). An ANT(4') was also the subject of NMR studies to clarify aspects of the process of the recognition of the substrate (Revuelta et al. 2008). Two ANT(4')-II enzymes have been described in gram-negative bacilli. These enzymes do not modify dibekacin, and therefore they must be unable to use the position 4'' as target. ANT(4')-IIa was identified in plasmids of *Pseudomonas* and *Enterobacteriaceae* (Jacoby et al., 1990), and ANT(4')-IIb was identified more recently in a *P. aeruginosa* transposon (Coyne et al., 2010).

3.3.4. ANT(2'')—This class consists only of ANT(2'')-Ia (Cameron et al., 1986), an enzyme that is widely distributed as a gene cassette in class 1 and 2 integrons (Ramirez et al., 2005;

Vakulenko and Mobashery, 2003) and mediates resistance to gentamicin, tobramycin, dibekacin, sisomicin, and kanamycin. Therefore it is commonly encoded by plasmids and transposons. This enzyme, encoded by a gene more commonly called *aadB*, is present in enterobacteria and non-fermentative gram-negative bacilli.

3.3.5. ANT(3'')—These are the most commonly found ANT enzymes, they specify resistance to spectinomycin and streptomycin, and the coding genes are most commonly named *aadA* (Hollingshead and Vapnek, 1985). At least 22 highly related gene versions are found in GenBank, that are identified as *aadA1* through *aadA24*, but some numbers are missing. The alternative nomenclature for the protein coded for by *aadA1* is ANT(3'')-Ia. Another name used to identify ANT(3'')-Ia is AAD(3'')(9). The *aadA* genes exist as gene cassettes and are part of a large number of integrons, plasmids and transposons. They can be part of unusual gene cassettes and exist as gene fusions as described in the following paragraphs.

In *Tn1331*, the *aadA1* [*ant(3'')-Ia*] gene is present within two unusual gene cassette structures (see Fig. 2A). At the 3' end of the gene, instead of the usual *attC* site, there is a copy of *attI1**, which may have been formed by an illegitimate recombination event between the *attC* site located 3' of *aadA1* of an integron and the *attI1* locus located 5' of *bla_{OXA-9}* of another integron in which the *bla_{OXA-9}* gene cassette is adjacent to the 5'-conserved sequence (Sarno et al., 2002). The resulting structure defines a gene cassette consisting of *aadA1-attI1** but that lacks the usual *attC* site, and another gene cassette that includes two genes *aadA1-attI1**-*bla_{OXA-9}-attC* (see Fig. 2A) (Ramirez et al., 2008; Sarno et al., 2002; Tolmasky, 1990; Tolmasky and Crosa, 1993). While the *aadA1-attI1** gene cassette is excised by the *IntI1* integrase at a very low frequency the gene cassette that includes both genes is fully functional (Ramirez et al., 2008).

The *aadA* genes are also found fused to other resistance enzymes, e.g., in a *P. aeruginosa* class 1 integron *aadA15* is fused 3' of *bla_{OXA-10}* (Yan et al., 2006) and *aadA6* is fused to *aadA10* in another *P. aeruginosa* class 1 integron (Fielt et al., 2006). The *aadA1* and *aadA4* genes were also found disrupted by insertion of IS26 (Adrian et al., 2000; Han et al., 2008).

The *ant(3'')-Ia* gene is part of numerous transposons, some of them exhaustively studied such as: a) *Tn21* and other related transposons of what is known as the *Tn21* subfamily. These transposons are widely disseminated probably as a result of the association of an integron and a gene conferring resistance to a toxic metal within the same mobile element (Liebert et al., 1999); b) *Tn1331*, already described above; and c) *Tn7*, which includes in its structure a class 2 integron (Hansson et al., 2002).

3.4 Aminoglycoside modifying enzymes: aminoglycoside O-phosphotransferases (APHs)

APHs catalyze the transfer of a phosphate group to the aminoglycoside molecule (Wright and Thompson, 1999). The classes and subclasses are: APH(4)-I, APH(6)-I, APH(9)-I, APH(3'')-I through VII, APH(2'')-I through IV, APH(3'')-I, APH(7'')-I (Fig. 1 and Table 3).

3.4.1. APH(4)—There are two enzymes within the only subclass defined in this group: APH(4)-Ia (Kaster et al., 1983) and APH(4)-Ib (Zalacain et al., 1986), whose genes have also been named *hph* and *hyg*, respectively. These enzymes mediate resistance to hygromycin and are not clinically relevant. These genes have been used in the construction of cloning vehicles for both prokaryotes and eukaryotes (Abhyankar et al., 2009; Gritz and Davies, 1983).

3.4.2. APH(6)—There are 4 enzymes in the only described subclass of APH(6)s, which confer resistance to streptomycin. The *aph(6)-Ia*, also known as *aphD* and *strA*, was

originally found in the chromosome of *Streptomyces griseus* (Distler et al., 1987). The *aph(6)-Ib* was also named *sph* and was found in *Streptomyces glaucescens* (Vogtli and Hutter, 1987). The gene coding for APH(6)-Ic is one of three resistance genes present in Tn5, a composite transposon found in gram-negatives (Steiniger-White et al., 2004). Although this transposon is not widely distributed, it has been extensively studied and modified as tool for molecular genetics (Steiniger-White et al., 2004). The *aph(6)-Id* gene, also denominated *strB* and *orfI*, was first found in the plasmid RSF1010, a 8,684 bp broad host range multicopy plasmid RSF1010 that can replicate in most gram-negative bacteria and also in gram-positive actinomycetes, and is also known as R300B and R1162 (Meyer, 2009). This plasmid was also the first source identified for another APH, *aph(3'')-Ib* (see below), which is contiguous to *aph(6)-Id*. These genes are part of a fragment that includes the genes *repA*, *repC*, *sul2*, *aph(3'')-Ib*, and *aph(6)-Id* that has been found, complete or in part, within plasmids, integrative conjugative elements, and chromosomal genomic islands (Daly et al., 2005; Gordon et al., 2008). As a consequence of the dissemination of this DNA fragment, the *aph(6)-Id* and *aph(3'')-Ib* genes are found in both gram-positives and gram-negatives.

3.4.3. APH(9)—The *aph(9)-Ia* gene was first found in *Legionella pneumophila* (Suter et al., 1997). BLAST analysis of this nucleotide sequence also showed that there is a gene with 87% homology within the genome of *L. pneumophila* strain Lens that is identified as *aph* (Cazalet et al., 2004). The APH(9)-Ia has been the subject of detailed analysis. The enzyme was overproduced and purified, and it was determined that it does not bind to any tested aminoglycoside other than spectinomycin (Thompson et al., 1998). The *K_m* and *k_{cat}* values were also determined and the reaction product was purified and characterized by mass spectrometry and ¹H, ¹³C, and ³¹P NMR (Thompson et al., 1998). Further studies led to determination of the crystal structures of APH(9)-Ia in its apo form, its binary complex with the nucleotide, AMP, and its ternary complex bound with ADP and spectinomycin (Fong et al., 2010). These structures showed that APH(9)-Ia presents similar folding to APH(3') and APH(2'') enzymes but differs significantly in its substrate binding area and in undergoing a conformation change upon ligand binding (Fong et al., 2010).

The phosphotransferase APH(9)-Ib isolated from *Streptomyces flavopersicus* (*Str. netropsis*) has also been called SpcN and it has no significant homology to that of *L. pneumophila*. A BLAST analysis of this *aph(9)-Ib* gene nucleotide sequence showed 78-79% identity with genes from 3 *Streptomyces spectabilis* strains (Lyutskanova et al., 1997). Despite of the differences these genes are also called *spcN* in GenBank.

3.4.4. APH(3')—The APH(3')-I subclass shows a resistance profile including kanamycin, neomycin, paromomycin, ribostamycin, lividomycin, is composed of three enzymes that are widely distributed mainly among gram-negatives within wide host range plasmids and transposons (Vakulenko and Mobashery, 2003). The *aph(3')-Ia* gene, also known as *aphA-1*, is part of the well known Tn903 transposon (Bernardi and Bernardi, 1991) and it is commonly used as marker gene in cloning vehicles. The *aph(3')-Ib* gene is part of the wide host range conjugative RP4 plasmid (Pansegrau et al., 1987). This gene was originally named *aphA*. The *aph(3')-Ic* gene, also called *aphA7* and *aphA1-Iab*, is part of plasmids and transposons and its wide distribution includes *Corynebacterium* spp. (Tauch et al., 2000; Vakulenko and Mobashery, 2003). This gene has also been included in cloning vehicles.

The APH(3')-II subclass includes three isozymes that specify resistance to kanamycin, neomycin, butirosin, paromomycin, and ribostamycin. The APH(3')-IIa, also known as *aphA-2* is one of the three resistance genes encoded by Tn5 (Steiniger-White et al., 2004) (see above) and it is used as resistance marker in cloning vectors for both prokaryotes and eukaryotes (Wright and Thompson, 1999). The enzyme coded by this gene has been

characterized in detail and its crystal structure in complex with kanamycin has been resolved (Nurizzo et al., 2003; Siregar et al., 1994). The *aph(3')-IIIb* gene was identified in the *P. aeruginosa* chromosome (Winsor et al., 2005) and the third member of this subclass, *aph(3')-IIIc*, was recently defined in *S. maltophilia* but an accession number is not available (Okazaki and Avison, 2007).

The APH(3')-IIIa is highly disseminated within gram-positives, confers resistance to kanamycin, neomycin, lividomycin, paromomycin, livostamycin, butirosin, amikacin, and isepamicin, and the epidemiological data has been extensively reviewed by Vakulenko and Mobashery (Vakulenko and Mobashery, 2003). Its crystal structure in complex with ADP has been resolved and it shows a close resemblance to kinases from eukaryotes (Hon et al., 1997). An interesting property of this enzyme is that it is competitively inhibited by tobramycin, which one would expect not to be substrate because it lacks a free 3'-hydroxyl group (McKay et al., 1994). However, other aminoglycosides that also lack a free 3'-hydroxyl group like the case of lividomycin can be phosphorylated at the position 5'' (Thompson et al., 1996). This enzyme has also the capability to di-phosphorylate aminoglycosides such as butirosin and neomycin B that have free 3'- and 5''-hydroxyl groups (Hon et al., 1997; Wright and Thompson, 1999). A recent study showed that APH(3')-IIIa uses only ATP as donor substrate (Shakya and Wright, 2010).

The APH(3')-IVa coding gene is present in the chromosome of *Bacillus circulans* (Herbert et al., 1983) and those coding for APH(3')-Va through c are found in the chromosome of actinomycetes (Wright and Thompson, 1999). The resistance profile for this subclass includes neomycin, paromomycin, and ribostamycin. The *aph(3')-VIa*, also known as *aphA-6*, was described in *A. baumannii* (Martin et al., 1988), and *aph(3')-VIb* was described in *K. pneumoniae* and *S. marcescens* but an accession number for this gene is not available (Gaynes et al., 1988). The resistance profile specified by this subclass includes kanamycin, neomycin, paromomycin, ribostamycin, butirosin, amikacin, and isepamicin. The *aph(3')-VIIa*, also known as *aphA-7*, was described in *C. jejuni* and confers resistance to kanamycin and neomycin (Tenover et al., 1989).

3.4.5. APH(2'')—The APH(2'') plays an important role in resistance to gentamicin in gram-positives. There were originally five APH(2'')-I enzymes described in the literature. However, Toth et al. (Toth et al., 2009) recently performed a detailed analysis of the resistance profiles, regiospecificity, and donor substrate preferences of these enzymes and concluded that on the basis of the aminoglycoside recipient substrate profiles presented by APH(2'')-Ib, APH(2'')-Ic, and APH(2'')-Id they should be reclassified as belonging to subclass II. A novel consideration in renaming these enzymes is the inclusion of the donor substrate as a criterion. Contrary to what it was believed at the time of that work, only APH(2!)-Ib among the four APH(2!) enzymes included in Toth et al. study showed a clear preference for ATP as donor of the phosphate group. APH(2!)-Ia and APH(2!)-Ic utilize GTP as the most efficient donor substrate, and APH(2!)-Id shows similar catalytic efficiencies with ATP or GTP (Toth et al., 2009). A contradictory result was obtained with a derivative of APH(2'')-Ib that includes a His₆-tag at the N-terminus, this protein showed a slight selectivity for GTP over ATP but was still able to utilize both NTPs as donor substrates (Shakya and Wright, 2010). Therefore, at least in the case of phosphotransferases of the 2'' class, the subclass nomenclature now considers the recipient as well as the donor substrate profile. In consequence, these authors proposed to change the names of APH(2!)-Ib, -Ic, and -Id to APH(2!)-IIa, -IIIa, and IVa, respectively. The three dimensional structures of these enzymes have been resolved (Smith et al., 2010; Toth et al., 2010a; Toth et al., 2010b). The APH(2'')-Ie has not been included in this analysis and for now it has not been renamed.

The APH(2'')-Ia exists as a fusion to AAC(6')-Ie, which is located at the N-terminal portion (Ferretti et al., 1986). Cloning both regions as separate genes resulted in active proteins (Ferretti et al., 1986) suggesting that the natural gene arose by gene fusion. However, it is of interest that although the domains do not functionally interact, they are structurally linked in a manner that is important for their stability and conformation and disruption of these interactions results in a negative impact for both activities (Boehr et al., 2004).

The *aph(2'')-Ie* gene was found downstream of a *tnpA* gene in an *Enterococcus casseliflavus* plasmid (Chen et al., 2006).

3.4.6. APH(3'')—The only subclass of APH(3'') enzymes mediates resistance to streptomycin. The APH(3'')-Ia and Ic coding genes were isolated from the chromosomes of *S. griseus* and *M. fortuitum*, respectively (Ramon-Garcia et al., 2006; Trower and Clark, 1990). The *aph(3'')-Ia* gene is also known as *aphE* and *aphD2*. The APH(3'')-Ib coding gene was originally found within the plasmid RSF1010 (Scholz et al., 1989) and then in a large number of plasmids, transposons, integrative conjugative elements, and at least one chromosome (chromosome 1 of *V. cholerae* MJ-1236, accession number CP001485). The gene can also be found named as *strA* (Scholz et al., 1989).

3.4.7. APH(7'')—The APH(7'')-Ia, which mediates resistance to hygromycin, was isolated from *S. hygrosopicus* and the gene has been cloned and engineered to be used in molecular genetic analysis of *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* (Berthold et al., 2002).

4. Strategies to overcome the effect of aminoglycoside modifying enzymes

The development of new aminoglycosides, which is being pursued using numerous different approaches, is an obvious path to overcome the action of aminoglycoside modifying enzymes. Strategies and perspectives for the generation of novel aminoglycosides or aminoglycoside derivatives such as dimers or conjugates to small molecules have been recently reviewed (see Green et al., 2010; Houghton et al., 2010; Tolmasky, 2007a; Welch et al., 2005). ACHN-490, a novel aminoglycoside named neoglycoside proved to be a promising alternative for treating multiple drug resistance *K. pneumoniae* including those producing KPC β -lactamase (Endimiani et al. 2009). Other approaches such as the utilization of enzymatic inhibitors or strategies to interfere with gene expression could, if successful, reduce or eliminate the need of discarding aminoglycosides due to the broad dissemination of modifying enzymes. All these strategies together have the potential of increasing the armamentarium against the growing threat of multiresistant infections. A summary of the efforts to develop strategies to inhibit the action or biosynthesis of aminoglycoside modifying enzymes follows.

4.1 Inhibitors of aminoglycoside modifying enzymes

Compounds consisting of both substrates covalently linked, known as bisubstrates, are potential tools to inhibit enzymatic reactions that involve the initial formation of a ternary complex through ordered or random binding of the substrates. An aminoglycoside-CoA bisubstrate was first shown to inhibit the activity of AAC(3)-I *in vitro* but not *in vivo*, probably due to the inability of the compound to penetrate the cell wall (Williams and Northrop, 1979). Further research led to synthesis of other bisubstrates of smaller size by using truncated aminoglycosides or CoA. One of the compounds, showed a synergistic effect with kanamycin on the growth of *E. faecium* harboring AAC(6')-Ii, an enzyme that catalyzes acetylation through an ordered mechanism (Draker et al., 2003; Gao et al., 2005; Gao et al., 2006). Subsequent kinetic and structural studies using AAC(6')-Iy, which binds the substrates on a random manner, as a target found that the bisubstrates analyzed bind to this enzyme with much lower affinity (Magalhaes et al., 2008). Aminoglycoside-CoA

bisubstrates containing sulfonamide, sulfoxide, or sulfone groups were recently synthesized. Only the sulfone- and sulfoxide-containing bisubstrates showed inhibition of AAC(6)-Ii at nanomolar concentrations (Gao et al., 2008).

In another study, cationic antimicrobial peptides were tested as inhibitors of APH(3!)-IIIa, AAC(6!)-Ii, and AAC(6!)-APH(2!). The results showed that the bovine peptide indolicidin and analogs have an inhibitory effect against both aminoglycoside phosphotransferases and aminoglycoside acetyltransferases, albeit by different mechanisms (Boehr et al., 2003). These peptides were the first example of broad-spectrum inhibitors of aminoglycoside resistance enzymes. However, although the research shows enormous potential for therapeutic purposes none of the peptides showed inhibitory effect *in vivo* (Boehr et al., 2003).

Two non-carbohydrate diamine derivatives with inhibitory activity were isolated from a library of compounds. One of these compounds, N-cyclohexyl-N-(3-dimethylamino-propyl)propane-1,3-diamine, was active against ANT(2''), and the other, N-[2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-ethyl]-N'-(3-dimethylamino-propyl)propane-1,3-diamine was active against APH(3') and ANT(2'') (Welch et al., 2005).

In the case of APHs it has been shown that it is possible to take advantage of the structural relation found between these enzymes and eukaryotic protein kinases. Burk et al. recently reviewed possible strategies to inhibit aminoglycoside phosphotransferases (Burk and Berghuis, 2002). Known inhibitors of eukaryotic protein kinases were tested to determine if they had also activity against two aminoglycoside phosphotransferases, APH(3!)-IIIa and the fusion protein AAC(6!)-APH(2''). The results showed that several of the tested compounds were inhibitors of these enzymes. Compounds belonging to the isoquinolinesulfonamide group were the most active in these experiments (Daigle et al., 1997). Compounds that act as inhibitors can target the antibiotic binding region, the ATP-binding site, or the bridged nature of the active site, which binds both the aminoglycoside and the donor nucleotide. Compounds that target the aminoglycoside binding site would have the potential of showing a broader spectrum by being able to bind the pocket of more than one kind of aminoglycoside modifying enzyme.

Liu et al. synthesized bisubstrate compounds consisting of adenosine tethered covalently to neamine using methylene groups as linkers. Compounds including linkers of 5 – 8 carbons in length acted as competitive inhibitors of APH(3')-Ia and APH(3')-IIIa (Liu et al., 2000).

A compound that exhibited a modest level of inhibition of AAC(6')-Ib has been constructed using non-aminoglycoside-like fragments (Lombes et al., 2008). This could be a first step towards generating a strong inhibitor of this clinically important enzyme.

An interesting approach to beat the activity of modifying enzymes without inhibiting their activity is that proposed by Haddad et al. in which an aminoglycoside is chemically unstable after phosphorylation and spontaneously sheds the phosphate self-regenerating the antibiotic (Haddad et al., 1999). The authors prepared an analog of kanamycin A, whose hydrated variant undergoes spontaneous, non-enzymatic elimination of the phosphate donated by ATP via APH(3') catalysis (Haddad et al., 1999).

4.2 Inhibition of expression of aminoglycoside modifying enzymes

Inhibition of gene expression by antisense oligonucleotides or oligonucleotide analogs can be achieved by a variety of strategies. A number of them have been explored in bacteria with therapeutic purposes, mainly to target essential genes and inhibit growth. A detailed description of these attempts can be found in recent reviews (Hebert et al., 2008; Lundblad

and Altman, 2010; Rasmussen et al., 2007; Woodford and Wareham, 2009). In a few instances the targets of antisense inhibition of gene expression were genes specifying antibiotic resistance rather than essential or virulence genes. Antisense oligonucleotides targeting regulatory regions of the multiple antibiotic resistance operon (*marORAB*) in *E. coli* increased susceptibility to multiple antibiotics and nuclease-resistant phosphorothioate oligonucleotides enhanced the killing effect of norfloxacin after introduction into competent cells by chemical transformation or electroporation (White et al., 1997). Whether inhibition of resistance occurred by the action of RNase H or steric hindrance has not been determined.

A recombinant clone containing an engineered gene consisting of a *vanH* promoter driving expression of a *vanA* antisense inhibited vancomycin resistance in *E. faecalis* by a dual mechanism. The phosphorylated VanR, a transcriptional activator, is sequestered by the native *vanH* promoter present in the recombinant plasmid reducing expression of the *vanHAX* genes. In addition expression of a *vanA* RNA antisense placed under the control the recombinant plasmid's *vanH* promoter prevents translation of any *vanA* mRNA that is transcribed by forming a duplex followed by degradation (Torres Viera et al., 2001).

Phosphorothioate deoxyribozymes have been used to target genes coding for *mecR1* or *blaR1* in methicillin resistant *S. aureus* and restore susceptibility to methicillin or oxacillin, respectively, after they were delivered inside the cells by electroporation (Hou et al., 2007a; Hou et al., 2007b). Subsequently liposome-encapsulated antisense compounds targeting the *mecA* gene were delivered into untreated *S. aureus*. The compounds induced a reduction of the MICs of commonly used antibiotics for methicillin resistant *S. aureus* clinical isolates and improved the survival rate when administered together with oxacillin to infected mice (Meng et al., 2009).

To inhibit resistance to aminoglycosides mediated by the *aac(6')-Ib* gene present in Tn1331 a series of oligodeoxynucleotides targeting mRNA regions identified by RNase H mapping in combination with computer generated secondary structures were synthesized and tested. At least three oligodeoxynucleotides were identified that induced *in vitro* degradation of mRNA, inhibit *in vitro* synthesis of the enzyme, and upon delivery by electroporation significantly reduced the number of cells surviving after exposure to amikacin (Sarno et al., 2003). Although it has not been determined, the most probable mechanism of inhibition *in vivo* is through mRNA degradation by RNase H. However, steric hindrance is a possibility that cannot be discarded at this time. Another approach to reduce or silence expression of *aac(6')-Ib* consisted of the design of external guide sequences, short antisense RNA molecules that elicit RNase P-mediated degradation of the mRNA, encoded by recombinant plasmids (Guerrier-Takada et al., 1997). This approach had been already used to reverse resistance to ampicillin and chloramphenicol (Guerrier-Takada et al., 1997). Recombinant clones coding for the selected sequences under an inducible promoter were introduced into *E. coli* harboring *aac(6')-Ib*, and the transformant strains were tested to determine their resistance to amikacin. Two external guide sequences that showed strong binding to the mRNA *in vitro* induced inhibition of expression of the resistance phenotype in cells harboring the *aac(6')-Ib* gene (Soler Bistue et al., 2007). Although these results were an indication that the use of external guide sequences could be a viable strategy to preserve the efficacy of aminoglycosides, as it is the case with other antisense approaches there are several problems that must be addressed. A crucial one is to find nuclease resistant oligonucleotide analogs that still induce inhibition of gene expression, in this case the analog must behave as RNA with respect to eliciting RNase P degradation of the target mRNA while being impervious to RNases. A survey of a variety of oligoribonucleotide analogs including phosphorothioate oligodeoxynucleotides, 2'-O-methyl oligoribonucleotides, phosphorodiamidate morpholino oligomers, or locked nucleic acids (LNA)/DNA co-oligomers showed that selected LNA/DNA co-oligomers elicited RNase P-mediated

cleavage of mRNA *in vitro*. Analyses of isosequential LNA/DNA co-oligomers with different numbers and locations of LNA substitutions suggested that different configurations must be tested to identify an oligomer that promotes high enough levels of RNase P cleavage, it is specific, and it is resistant to the action of nucleases. As a result of these assays a configuration of LNA/DNA residues with the desired properties was found for the particular case of inhibition of expression of *aac(6')-Ib*. Administration of 50 nM of an LNA/DNA co-oligomer to the hyperpermeable *E. coli* AS19 harboring *aac(6')-Ib* inhibited growth in the presence of amikacin suggesting that the oligoribonucleotide analog induced RNase P-mediated inhibition of expression of the gene (Soler Bistue et al., 2009).

5. Concluding remarks

Inactivation by enzymatic modification is the most prevalent mechanism of resistance to aminoglycoside antibiotics in the clinical setting. The rise and dissemination of aminoglycoside modifying enzymes has reduced the efficacy of these antibiotics and in some cases rendered them virtually unusable. There are three kinds of aminoglycoside modifying enzymes, nucleotidyltransferases, phosphotransferases, or acetyltransferases, which catalyze the modification at different –OH or –NH₂ groups in the antibiotic molecule. The large number and ability of the genes coding for these enzymes to evolve, as well as the numerous mobile elements where they are located, results in a high adaptability by these enzymes to utilize new antibiotics as substrates and to efficiently disseminate among bacteria. As a consequence virtually all bacteria of medical interest can support enzymatic resistance to aminoglycosides. Two nomenclature schemes have been proposed in the past, but the dizzying rate of discovery of new genes together with the appearance of enzymes with new characteristics superseded the criteria defined. We suggest that members of the community should engage in a debate to come up with a consensus new nomenclature. We suggest that returning to a simpler nomenclature with the support of an internet repository site could facilitate the naming of the genes, avoid duplications, and facilitate further changes when new enzymes with new, and may be unexpected, characteristics are discovered. The fight to keep aminoglycosides as useful tools in the armamentarium against bacterial infectious diseases includes the development of new aminoglycosides that must be refractory to as many as possible modifying enzymes, the development of inhibitors of aminoglycoside modifying enzymes, and inhibitors of their expression by the action of antisense oligonucleotide analogs.

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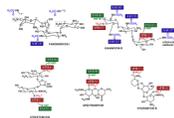


Fig. 1. Representative aminoglycosides and modification sites by AAC, ANT, and APH enzymes. An example of each kind of modification is shown on one of the substrates. The square and oval on positions 2' and 6'' in paromomycin I indicate that although this molecule is preferentially acetylated at the position 1, 1,2'-di-*N*-acetylparomomycin and 1,6''-di-*N*-acetylparomomycin are also found as products of the enzymatic reaction (Sunada et al., 1999). AAC(3)-X can catalyze acetylation at the 3''-amino group in arbekacin and amikacin (Hotta et al. 1998).

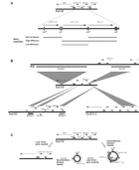


Fig. 2.

A. Genetic map of the Tn1331 transposon with the region including genes *aac(6')-Ib*, *aadA1* and *bla_{OXA-9}* amplified. Circles and ovals represent *attC* and *attII** loci respectively. For clarity the points of potential crossover reactions are not indicated but they can be found in Ramirez et al. (Ramirez et al., 2008). Regions with a gene cassette structure are indicated below the genetic map by bars of different patterns. Their functionality as determined in recombination assays in the presence of IntI1 expressed from a recombinant clone harboring *intI1* under the control of the P_{tac} promoter is shown. Directly repeated regions are shown as gray boxes on the sequences. B. Genetic maps of Tn1331, Tn1331.2, Tn1332, and the KQ element. Shaded areas show the fragments inserted within the Tn1331 sequence that generated the other three genetic elements. C. Model for generation of a circular molecule containing *aac(6')-Ib* (Zong et al., 2009). The white box indicates the DNA region that is found upstream of the gene in *P. mirabilis* JIE273. GC, gene cassette. Circular molecules are not drawn to scale.

Table 1

Aminoglycoside N-acetyltransferases

AAc's	Gene names	Genetic location	Accession number	Host	References
AAC(1)				<i>E. coli</i> , <i>Actinomycete</i> , <i>Campylobacter</i> spp.	(Gomez-Luis et al., 1999; Lovering et al., 1987; Sunada et al., 1999)
AAC(3)-Ia C	<i>aac(3)-Ia</i> , <i>aacC1</i>	Plasmid, transposon, integron	X15852, AF550679	<i>S. marcescens</i> , <i>E. coli</i> , <i>Acinetobacter</i> <i>baumannii</i> , <i>Klebsiella</i> <i>pneumoniae</i> , <i>Klebsiella</i> <i>oxytoca</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> , <i>Proteus mirabilis</i>	(Javier Teran et al., 1991; Wohlleben et al., 1989)
AAC(3)-Ib	<i>aac(3)-Ib</i>	Integron	L06157	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	(Schwocho et al., 1995)
AAC(3)-Ic	<i>aac(3)-Ic</i>	Integron	AJ511268	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	(Riccio et al., 2003)
AAC(3)-Id	<i>aac(3)-Id</i>	Genomic island, integron	AY458224	<i>S. enterica</i> , <i>P. mirabilis</i> , <i>Vibrio fluvialis</i>	(Doublet et al., 2004)
AAC(3)-Ie	<i>aac(3)-Ie</i> , <i>aacCA5</i>	Integron	AY463797, DQ520937, AY463797	<i>S. enterica</i> , <i>P. mirabilis</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i>	(Gionechetti et al., 2008; Levings et al., 2005)
AAC(3)-IIa	<i>aac(3)-IIa</i> , <i>aacC3</i> , <i>aacC5</i> , <i>aacC2</i> , <i>aac(3)-Va</i>	Plasmid	X13543	<i>K. pneumoniae</i> , <i>E.</i> <i>cloacae</i> , <i>Actinobacillus</i> <i>pleuropneumoniae</i> , <i>S.</i> <i>typhimurium</i> , <i>Citrobacter</i> <i>freundii</i>	(Allmatsberger et al., 1985)
AAC(3)-IIb	<i>aac(3)-IIb</i> , <i>aac(3)-Vb</i>		M97172	<i>E. coli</i> , <i>A. faecalis</i> , <i>S.</i> <i>marcescens</i>	(Rather et al., 1992) (Dahmen et al., 2010)
AAC(3)-IIc	<i>aac(3)-IIc</i> , <i>aacC2</i>	Plasmid	X54723	<i>E. coli</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i>	(Dubois et al., 2008)
AAC(3)-IIIa	<i>aac(3)-IIIa</i> , <i>aacC3</i>	Chromosome	X55652	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	(Vliegthart et al., 1991a)
AAC(3)-IIIb	<i>aac(3)-IIIb</i>		L06160	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	
AAC(3)-IIIc	<i>aac(3)-IIIc</i> , <i>ant(2'')-Ib</i>		L06161	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	
AAC(3)-IVa	<i>aac(3)-IVa</i>	Plasmid	X01385, AY216678, AJ493432	<i>E. coli</i> , <i>C. jejuni</i> , <i>P.</i> <i>stutzeri</i>	(Brau et al., 1984; Heuer et al., 2002)
AAC(3)-VIa	<i>aac(3)-VIa</i>	Plasmid	M88012, NC_009140 NC_009838	<i>E. cloacae</i> , <i>S. enterica</i> , <i>E. coli</i>	(Rather et al., 1993a) (Call et al., 2010)

AACs	Gene names	Genetic location	Accession number	Host	References
AAC(3)-VIIa	<i>aac(3)-VIIa</i> , <i>aacC7</i>	Chromosome	M22999	<i>Streptomyces rimosus</i>	(Lopez-Cabrera et al., 1989)
AAC(3)-VIIIa	<i>aac(3)-VIIIa</i> , <i>aacC8</i>	Chromosome	M55426	<i>Streptomyces fradiae</i>	(Salauze et al., 1991)
AAC(3)-IXa	<i>aac(3)-IXa</i> , <i>aacC9</i>	Chromosome	M55427	<i>Micromonospora chalcona</i>	(Salauze et al., 1991)
AAC(3)-X	<i>aac(3)-Xa</i>	Chromosome	AB028210	<i>Streptomyces griseus</i>	(Ishikawa et al., 2000)
AAC(2)-Ia	<i>aac(2)-Ia</i>	Chromosome	L06156	<i>P. stuartii</i>	(Rafter et al., 1993b)
AAC(2)-Ib	<i>aac(2)-Ib</i>	Chromosome	CP001172	<i>M. fortuitum</i> , <i>A. baumannii</i>	(Adams et al., 2008; Ainsa et al., 1997)
AAC(2)-Ic C	<i>aac(2)-Ic</i>	Chromosome	CP001658, NC_002945	<i>M. tuberculosis</i> , <i>M. bovis</i>	(Ainsa et al., 1997)
AAC(2)-Id	<i>aac(2)-Id</i>	Chromosome	NC_008596	<i>M. smegmatis</i>	(Ainsa et al., 1997)
AAC(2)-Ie	<i>aac(2)-Ie</i>	Chromosome		<i>M. leprae</i>	(Ainsa et al., 1997)
Putative AAC(2')		Chromosome	AM743169	<i>S. maltophilia</i>	(Crossman et al., 2008)
AAC(6)-Ia	<i>aac(6)-Ia</i> , <i>aacA1</i>	Plasmid, transposon, integron	M18967, AF047479, M86913	<i>Citrobacter diversus</i> , <i>E. coli</i> , <i>K. pneumoniae</i> , <i>Shigella sonnei</i>	(Tenover et al., 1988), (Parent and Roy, 1992)
AAC(6)-Ib C	<i>aac(6)-Ib</i> , <i>aac(6)-4</i> <i>aacA4</i>	Plasmid, transposon, integron	M21682, M23634, AF479774	<i>K. pneumoniae</i> , <i>P. mirabilis</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>S. enterica</i> , <i>K. oxytoca</i> , <i>S. maltophilia</i> , <i>E. cloacae</i>	(Nobuta et al., 1988; Tran van Nhieu and Collatz, 1987)
AAC(6)-Ib'	<i>aac(6)-Ib'</i> , <i>aac(6)-Ib%</i>	Integron	L25617, AJ584652, L25666	<i>P. fluorescens</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i>	(Lambert et al., 1994b; Mendes et al., 2004); (Casin et al., 1998)
AAC(6)-Ic	<i>aac(6)-Ic</i>	Chromosome	M94066	<i>S. marcescens</i>	(Shaw et al., 1992)
AAC(6)-Ie	<i>aac(6)-Ie</i> , <i>aac(6)-bifunctional</i>	Transposon	M18086	<i>S. aureus</i> , <i>Macrococcus caseolyticus</i> , <i>E. faecalis</i> , <i>Enterococcus faecium</i>	(Rouch et al., 1987)
AAC(6)-If	<i>aac(6)-If</i>	Plasmid	X55353	<i>E. cloacae</i>	(Teran et al., 1991)
AAC(6)-Ig	<i>aac(6)-Ig</i>	Chromosome	L09246	<i>Acinetobacter haemolyticus</i>	(Lambert et al., 1993)
AAC(6)-Ih	<i>aac(6)-Ih</i>	Plasmid	L29044	<i>A. baumannii</i>	(Lambert et al., 1994a)
AAC(6)-Ii C	<i>aac(6)-Ii</i>	Chromosome	L12710	<i>Enterococcus</i> spp.	(Costa et al., 1993; Draker et al., 2003; Wybenga-Groot et al., 1999)
AAC(6)-Ij	<i>aac(6)-Ij</i>	Chromosome	L29045	<i>Acinetobacter genomsp. 13</i>	(Lambert et al., 1994a)

AACs	Gene names	Genetic location	Accession number	Host	References
AAC(6')-Ik	<i>aac(6')-Ik</i>	Chromosome	L29510	<i>Acinetobacter</i> sp.	(Rudant et al., 1994)
AAC(6')-Ip	<i>aac(6')-Il, aac(6')-Im, aac(6')-Ip</i>	Integron	Z54241	<i>C. freundii</i>	(Hannecart-Pokorni et al., 1997)
AAC(6')-Iq	<i>aac(6')-Iq</i>	Plasmid, integron	AF047556	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	(Centron and Roy, 1998)
AAC(6')-Im	<i>aac(6')-Im</i>	Plasmid	AF337947	<i>E. coli, E. faecium</i>	(Chow et al., 2001)
AAC(6')-Ii	<i>aac(6')-Ii, aacA7</i>	Plasmid, integron	U13880	<i>Enterobacter aerogenes</i>	(Bunny et al., 1995)
AAC(6')-Ir	<i>aac(6')-Ir</i>	Chromosome	AF031326	<i>Acinetobacter genomosp. 14</i>	(Rudant et al., 1999)
AAC(6')-Is	<i>aac(6')-Is</i>	Chromosome	AF031327	<i>Acinetobacter genomosp. 15</i>	(Rudant et al., 1999)
AAC(6')-Ia	<i>aac(6')-Ia</i>	Plasmid	AB116646	<i>Streptomyces albulus</i>	(Hamano et al., 2004)
AAC(6')-It	<i>aac(6')-It</i>	Chromosome	AF031328	<i>A. genomsp. 16</i>	(Rudant et al., 1999)
AAC(6')-Iu	<i>aac(6')-Iu</i>	Chromosome	AF031329	<i>A. genomsp. 17</i>	(Rudant et al., 1999)
AAC(6')-Iv	<i>aac(6')-Iv</i>	Chromosome	AF031330	<i>Acinetobacter</i> sp.	(Rudant et al., 1999)
AAC(6')-Iw	<i>aac(6')-Iw</i>	Chromosome	AF031331	<i>Acinetobacter</i> sp.	(Rudant et al., 1999)
AAC(6')-Ix	<i>aac(6')-Ix</i>	Chromosome	AF031332	<i>Acinetobacter</i> sp.	(Rudant et al., 1999)
AAC(6')-Iy C	<i>aac(6')-Iy</i>	Chromosome	AF144881	<i>S. enteritidis, S. enterica</i>	(Magnet et al., 1999)
AAC(6')-Iz	<i>aac(6')-Iz</i>	Chromosome	AF140221	<i>S. maltophilia</i>	(Lambert et al., 1999)
AAC(6')-Iaa	<i>aac(6')-Iaa</i>	Chromosome	NC_003197	<i>S. typhimurium</i>	(Salipante and Hall, 2003)
AAC(6')-Iad	<i>aac(6')-Iad</i>	Plasmid	AB119105	<i>Acinetobacter genomosp. 3</i>	(Doi et al., 2004)
AAC(6')-Iae	<i>aac(6')-Iae</i>	Integron	AB104852	<i>P. aeruginosa, S. enterica</i>	(Sekiguchi et al., 2005)
AAC(6')-Iaf	<i>aac(6')-Iaf</i>	Plasmid, integron	AB462903	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	(Kitao et al., 2009)
AAC(6')-Iai	<i>aac(6')-Iai</i>	Plasmid, integron	EU886977	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	
AAC(6')-Ib ₃	<i>aac(6')-Ib₃, aac(6')-Ib₅</i>	integron	X60321	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	(Mabilat et al., 1992); (Casin et al., 1998)
AAC(6')-Ib ₄	<i>aac(6')-Ib₄</i>		S49888	<i>Serratia</i> spp.	(Toriya et al., 1992)
AAC(6')-Ib ₇	<i>aac(6')-Ib₇</i>	Plasmid	Y11946	<i>E. cloacae, C. freundii</i>	(Casin et al., 1998)
AAC(6')-Ib ₈	<i>aac(6')-Ib₈</i>	Plasmid	Y11947	<i>E. cloacae</i>	(Casin et al., 1998)
AAC(6')-Ib ₉	<i>aac(6')-Ib₉</i>	Integron	AF043381	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	(Mugnier et al., 1998a)

AACs	Gene names	Genetic location	Accession number	Host	References
AAC(6')-Ib ₁₀	<i>aac(6')-Ib₁₀</i>	Integron		<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	(Mugnier et al., 1998b)
AAC(6')-Ib ₁₁ C	<i>aac(6')-Ib₁₁</i>	Integron	AY136758	<i>S. enterica</i>	(Casin et al., 2003)
AAC(6')-29a	<i>aac(6')-29a</i>	Integron	AF263519	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	(Poirel et al., 2001)
AAC(6')-29b	<i>aac(6')-29b</i>	Integron	AF263520	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	(Poirel et al., 2001)
AAC(6')-31	<i>aac(6')-31</i>	Integron	AM28348, AM283490	<i>Pseudomonas putida</i> , A. <i>baumannii</i> , K. <i>pneumoniae</i>	(Mendes et al., 2007)
AAC(6')-32	<i>aac(6')-32</i>	Plasmid, integron	EF614235	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	(Gutierrez et al., 2007)
AAC(6')-33	<i>aac(6')-33</i>	Integron	GQ337064	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	(Viedma et al., 2009)
AAC(6')-130	<i>aac(6')-130</i>	Integron	AY289608	<i>S. enterica</i>	(Mulvey et al., 2004)
AAC(6')-Ird	<i>aac(6')-Ird</i>	Chromosome	AJ584700	<i>Enterococcus durans</i>	(Del Campo et al., 2005)
AAC(6')-Irh	<i>aac(6')-Irh</i>	Chromosome	AJ584701	<i>Enterococcus hirae</i>	(Del Campo et al., 2005)
AAC(6')-Ib-Suzhou	<i>aac(6')-Ib-Suzhou</i>		EF37562, EU085533	<i>E. cloacae</i> , K. <i>pneumoniae</i>	(Huang et al., 2008)
AAC(6')-Ib-Hangzhou	<i>aac(6')-Ib-Hangzhou</i>		FJ503047	<i>A. baumannii</i>	
AAC(6')-SK	<i>aac(6')-sk</i>	Chromosome	AB164230	<i>Streptomyces kanamyceticus</i>	(Matsubashi et al., 1985)
AAC(6')-IIa	<i>aac(6')-IIa</i>	Plasmid, integron	M29695	<i>P. aeruginosa</i> , S. <i>enterica</i>	(Shaw et al., 1989)
AAC(6')-IIb	<i>aac(6')-IIb</i>	Integron	L06163	<i>P. fluorescens</i>	
AAC(6')-IIc	<i>aac(6')-IIc</i>	Plasmid, integron	NC_012555	<i>E. cloacae</i>	(Chen et al., 2009)
AAC(6')-Ib-cr	<i>aac(6')-Ib-cr</i>	Plasmid, transposon, integron	DQ303918	<i>Enterobacteriaceae</i>	(Robicsek et al., 2006)
AAC(6')-Ie-APH(2'')-Ia	<i>aac(6')-aph(2'')</i>	Plasmid, transposon	M18086, M13771	<i>S. aureus</i> , <i>E. faecalis</i> , <i>E. faecium</i> , <i>Staphylococcus warneri</i>	(Rouch et al., 1987)
ANT(3'')-Ii-AAC(6')-IId	<i>ant(3'')-Ii-aac(6')-IId</i> , <i>ant(3'')-Ih-aac(6')-IId</i>	Integron	AF453998	<i>S. marcescens</i>	(Centron and Roy, 2002)
AAC(6')-30/AAC(6')-Ib'	<i>aac(6')-30/aac(6')-Ib'</i>	Integron	AJ584652	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	(Mendes et al., 2004)
AAC(3)-Ib/AAC(6')-Ib''	<i>aac(3)-Ib/aac(6')-Ib''</i>	Integron	AF355189	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	(Dubois et al., 2002)

Only representative hosts, references and accession numbers are shown.

C, three dimensional structure has been resolved. AAC(3)-Ia pdb id: 1BO4 (Wolf et al., 1998). AAC(2')-Ic pdb id: 1M44, 1M4D (in complex with CoA and tobramycin), 1M4G (in complex with CoA and ribostamycin), 1M4I (in complex with CoA and kanamycin A) (Vetting et al., 2002). AAC(6')-Ib pdb id: 1V0C (in complex with kanamycin C and AcetylCoA), 2BUE (in complex with ribostamycin and

CoA), 2VQY (in complex with parmomycin and AcetylCoA (Veiting et al., 2008); 2PRB (in complex with CoA), 2QIR (in complex with CoA and kanamycin) (Maurice et al., 2008). AAC(6)-Ib11 .pdb id: 2PR8 (Maurice et al., 2008). AAC(6)-Ii .pdb id: 2A4N (in complex with CoA) (Burk et al., 2005), 1N71 (in complex with CoA) (Burk et al., 2003), 1B87 (in complex with AcetylCoA) (Wybenga-Groot et al., 1999). AAC(6)-Iy .pdb id: 2YBQ (in complex with bisubstrate analog CoA-S-monomethyl-acetylneamine) (Magalhaes et al., 2008), 1S3Z (in complex with CoA and ribostamycin), 1S5K (in complex with CoA and N-terminal His(6)-tag, crystal form 1), 1S60 (in complex with CoA and N-terminal His(6)-tag, crystal form 2) (Veiting et al., 2004).

Table 2

Aminoglycoside O-nucleotidyltransferases

ANTs	gene names	Genetic location	Accession number	Host	References
ANT(6)-Ia	<i>ant(6)-Ia, ant6, aadE</i>	Plasmid, chromosome	NC_006663, NC_012924, GQ900487	<i>Staphylococcus epidermidis, E. faecium, Streptococcus suis, S. aureus</i>	(Gill et al., 2005; Holden et al., 2009)
	<i>ant6</i>	Plasmid	AB247327	<i>E. faecalis</i>	(Noguchi et al., 1993; Ohmiya et al., 1989)
	<i>aadE</i>	Chromosome	NC_013853	<i>Streptococcus mitis</i>	
	<i>aadK</i>	Chromosome	M26879	<i>B. subtilis, Bacillus</i> spp.	
	<i>aadE</i>	Plasmid	AJ489618	<i>C. jejuni</i>	
	<i>aad(6)</i>	Plasmid	NC_008445, AY712687	<i>E. faecalis, Streptococcus oralis</i>	(Cerdá et al., 2007; Schwarz et al., 2001)
ANT(6)-Ib	<i>ant(6)-Ib</i>	Transferable pathogenicity island	FN594949, NZ_ABDU0100081	<i>C. fetus subsp. fetus, B. subtilis</i>	(Abril et al., 2010)
ANT(9)-Ia	<i>ant(9)-Ia, aad(9), spe</i>	Plasmid, transposon	X02588, GU235985	<i>S. aureus, Enterococcus</i> spp., <i>Sathylococcus sciuri</i>	(Murphy, 1985)
ANT(9)-Ib	<i>ant(9)-Ib, aad(9), spe</i>	Plasmid	M69221	<i>E. faecalis</i>	(LeBlanc et al., 1991)
ANT(4')-Ia C	<i>ant(4')-Ia, aadD2, aadD, ant(4',4'')-I</i>	Plasmid	U35229, M19465	<i>S. epidermidis, S. aureus, Enterococcus</i> spp., <i>Bacillus</i> spp.	(McKenzie et al., 1986; Santanam and Kayser, 1978)
ANT(4')-IIa	<i>ant(4')-IIa</i>	Plasmid	M98270	<i>P. aeruginosa, Enterobacteriaceae</i>	(Jacoby et al., 1990)
ANT(4')-IIb	<i>ant(4')-IIb</i>	Transposon	AY114142	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	(Sabcheva et al., 2003)
ANT(2'')-Ia	<i>ant(2'')-Ia, aadB</i>	Plasmid, integron	X04555	<i>P. aeruginosa, K. pneumoniae, Morganella morganii, E. coli, S. typhimurium, C. freundii, A. baumannii</i>	(Cameron et al., 1986)
ANT(3'')-Ia	<i>ant(3'')-Ia, aadA, aadA1, aad(3'')(9)</i>	Plasmid, transposon, integron	X02340	<i>Enterobacteriaceae, A. baumannii, P. aeruginosa, Vibrio cholerae</i>	(Hollingshead and Yapnek, 1985; Tolmasky, 1990)
	<i>aadA2</i>	Plasmid, integron	NC_010870	<i>K. pneumoniae, Salmonella</i> spp., <i>Corynebacterium glutamicum, C. freundii, Aeromonas</i> spp.	(Chen et al., 2007)

ANTs	gene names	Genetic location	Accession number	Host	References
	<i>aadA3</i>	Plasmid, transposon, integron	AF047479	<i>E. coli</i>	(Parent and Roy, 1992)
	<i>aadA4</i>	Plasmid, chromosome	NC_002928, NC_010558	<i>Bordetella parapertussis</i> , <i>E. coli</i>	(Parkhill et al., 2003; Perichon et al., 2008)
	<i>aadA5</i>	Plasmid, transposon, integron	AF137361	<i>E. coli</i> , <i>K. pneumoniae</i> , <i>Kluyvera georgiana</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>E. cloacae</i>	(Sandvang, 1999)
	<i>aadA6</i>	Integron	AM087411	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	(Fielt et al., 2006)
	<i>aadA7</i>	Integron	AB114632	<i>V. fluvialis</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>E. coli</i> , <i>V. cholerae</i> , <i>S. enterica</i>	(Ahmed et al., 2004)
	<i>aadA8</i>	Plasmid, integron	AY139603	<i>V. cholerae</i> , <i>K. pneumoniae</i> , <i>Bacillus endophyticus</i>	(Tennstedt et al., 2003)
	<i>aadA9</i>	Plasmid	NC_003227	<i>C. glutamicum</i>	(Tauch et al., 2002)
	<i>aadA10</i>	Plasmid, integron	AM087405	<i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>E. coli</i>	(Fielt et al., 2006; Partridge et al., 2002)
	<i>aadA11</i>	Integron	AJ567827, AY758206	<i>E. coli</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i>	(Llanes et al., 2006)
	<i>aadA12</i>	Integron	FJ381668	<i>E. coli</i> , <i>Yersinia enterocolitica</i> , <i>S. enterica</i>	(Ajiboye et al., 2009)
	<i>aadA13</i>	Plasmid, integron	NC_010643	<i>Pseudomonas rettgeri</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>Y. enterocolitica</i> , <i>E. coli</i>	(Revilla et al., 2008)
	<i>aadA14</i>	Plasmid	AJ884726	<i>Pasteurella multocida</i>	(Kehrenberg et al., 2005)
	<i>aadA15</i>	Integron	DQ393783	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	(Yan et al., 2006)
	<i>aadA16</i>	Plasmid, integron	EU675686	<i>E. coli</i> , <i>V. cholerae</i> , <i>K. pneumoniae</i>	(Wei et al., 2009)
	<i>aadA17</i>	Integron	FJ460181	<i>Aeromonas media</i>	(Faldynova et al., 2003)
	<i>aadA21</i>	Integron	AY171244	<i>Salmonella</i> spp.	(Herrero et al., 2008)
	<i>aadA22</i>	Plasmid, integron	AM261837	<i>S. enterica</i> , <i>E. coli</i>	(Michael et al., 2005)
	<i>aadA23</i>	Integron	AJ809407	<i>S. enterica</i>	(Egorova et al., 2007)
	<i>aadA24</i>	Integron	DQ677333	<i>Salmonella</i> spp.	(Fielt et al., 2006)
	<i>aadA6/aadA10</i>	Integron	AM087405	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	

Only representative hosts, references and accession numbers are shown.

C, three dimensional structure has been resolved. ANT(4)-Ia pdb id: 1KNY (Pedersen et al., 1995).

Table 3

Aminoglycoside O-phosphotransferases

APHs	gene names	Genetic location	Accession number	Host	References
APH(4)-Ia	<i>aph(4)-Ia, hph</i>	Plasmid	V01499	<i>E. coli</i>	(Kaster et al., 1983)
APH(4)-Ib	<i>aph(4)-Ib, hyg</i>	Chromosome	X03615	<i>Streptomyces hygrosopicus</i>	(Zalacain et al., 1986)
APH(6)-Ia	<i>aph(6)-Ia, aphD, strA</i>	Chromosome	Y00459	<i>S. griseus</i>	(Distler et al., 1987)
APH(6)-Ib	<i>aph(6)-Ib, sph</i>	Chromosome	X05648	<i>S. glaucescens</i>	(Vogtli and Hutter, 1987)
APH(6)-Ic	<i>aph(6)-Ic, str</i>	Transposon	X01702	<i>S. enterica, P. aeruginosa, E. coli</i>	(Mazodier et al., 1985; Steiniger-White et al., 2004)
APH(6)-Id	<i>aph(6)-Id, strB, orfI</i>	Plasmid, integrative conjugative element, chromosomal genomic islands	M28829	<i>K. pneumoniae, Salmonella</i> spp., <i>E. coli, Shigella flexneri, Providencia alcalifaciens, Pseudomonas</i> spp., <i>V. cholerae, Edwardsiella tarda, Pasteurella multocida, Aeromonas bestiarum</i>	(Daly et al., 2005; Gordon et al., 2008; Meyer, 2009; Scholz et al., 1989)
APH(9)-Ia C	<i>aph(9)-Ia</i>	Chromosome	U94857, CR628337	<i>L. pneumophila</i>	(Suter et al., 1997)
APH(9)-Ib	<i>aph(9)-Ib, spcN</i>	Chromosome	U70376	<i>S. flavopersicus</i>	(Lyutskanova et al., 1997)
APH(3')-Ia	<i>aph(3')-Ia, aphA-1</i>	Transposon	V00359	<i>E. coli, S. enterica</i>	(Oka et al., 1981)
APH(3')-Ib	<i>aph(3')-Ib, aphA-like</i>	Plasmid	M20305	<i>E. coli</i>	(Paussegrau et al., 1987)
APH(3')-Ic	<i>aph(3')-Ic, aphA1-IAB, aphA7</i>	Plasmid, transposon, genomic island	M37910	<i>K. pneumoniae, A. baumannii, S. marcescens, Corynebacterium</i> spp., <i>Photobacterium</i> spp., <i>Citrobacter</i> spp.	(Lee et al., 1990; Tauch et al., 2000)
APH(3')-IIa C	<i>aph(3')-IIa, aphA-2</i>	Transposon	V00618	<i>E. coli</i>	(Beck et al., 1982)
APH(3')-IIb	<i>aph(3')-IIb</i>	Chromosome	NC_002516	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	(Stover et al., 2000)
APH(3')-IIc	<i>aph(3')-IIc</i>	Chromosome		<i>S. maltophilia</i>	(Okazaki and Avison, 2007)
APH(3')-IIIa C	<i>aph(3')-IIIa</i>	Plasmid	V01547	<i>S. aureus, Enterococcus</i> spp.	(Trieu-Cuot and Courvalin, 1983)
APH(3')-IVa	<i>aph(3')-IVa, aphA4</i>	Chromosome	X01986	<i>B. circulans</i>	(Herbert et al., 1983)
APH(3')-Va	<i>aph(3')-Va, aphA-5a</i>	Chromosome	K00432	<i>Streptomyces fradiae</i>	(Thompson and Gray, 1983)

APHs	gene names	Genetic location	Accession number	Host	References
APH(3')-Vb	<i>aph(3')-Vb</i> , <i>aphA-5b</i> , <i>rph</i>	Chromosome	M22126	<i>Streptomyces ribostifidicus</i>	(Hoshiko et al., 1988)
APH(3')-Vc	<i>aph(3')-Vc</i> , <i>aphA-5c</i>	Chromosome	S81599	<i>M. chalicea</i>	(Salauze et al., 1991)
APH(3')-VIa	<i>aph(3')-VIa</i> , <i>aphA-6</i>	Plasmid	X07753	<i>A. baumannii</i>	(Martin et al., 1988)
APH(3')-VIb	<i>aph(3')-VIb</i>	Plasmid		<i>K. pneumoniae</i> , <i>S. marcescens</i>	(Gaynes et al., 1988)
APH(3')-VIIa	<i>aph(3')-VIIa</i> , <i>aphA-7</i>	Plasmid	M29953	<i>C. jejuni</i>	(Tenover et al., 1989)
APH(2')-Ia	<i>aph(2')-Ia</i> , <i>aph(2'')-bifunctional</i>	Plasmid	AP003367	<i>S. aureus</i> , <i>Clostridium difficile</i> , <i>Streptococcus mitis</i> , <i>E. faecium</i>	(Ferretti et al., 1986)
APH(2')-IIa C	<i>aph(2'')-IIa</i> , <i>aph(2')-Ib</i>	Chromosome	AF207840, AF337947	<i>E. faecium</i> , <i>E. coli</i>	(Kao et al., 2000)
APH(2')-IIIa C	<i>aph(2'')-IIIa</i> , <i>aph(2')-Ic</i>	Plasmid	U51479	<i>Enterococcus gallinarum</i>	(Chow et al., 1997)
APH(2')-IVa C	<i>aph(2'')-IVa</i> , <i>aph(2'')-Id</i>	Chromosome	AF016483	<i>E. casseliflavus</i>	(Tsai et al., 1998)
APH(2')-Ie	<i>aph(2'')-Ie</i>	Plasmid, transposon	AY939911	<i>E. faecium</i> , <i>E. casseliflavus</i>	(Chen et al., 2006)
APH(3')-Ia	<i>aph(3'')-Ia</i> , <i>aphE</i> , <i>aphD2</i>	Chromosome	X53527	<i>S. griseus</i>	(Trower and Clark, 1990)
APH(3')-Ib	<i>aph(3'')-Ib</i> , <i>strA</i> , <i>orfH</i>	Plasmid, transposon, integrative conjugative elements, chromosome	M28829	<i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> , <i>Pseudomonas</i> spp.	(Scholz et al., 1989)
APH(3')-Ic	<i>aph(3'')-Ic</i>	Chromosome	DQ336355	<i>M. fortuitum</i>	(Ramon-Garcia et al., 2006)
APH(7'')-Ia	<i>aph(7'')-Ia</i> , <i>aph7'</i>	Chromosome		<i>S. hygroscopicus</i>	(Berthold et al., 2002)

Only representative hosts, references and accession numbers are shown.

C, three dimensional structure has been resolved. APH(9)-Ia pdb id: 3100 (in complex with ADP and Spectinomycin), 310Q (in complex with AMP), 311A (Fong et al., 2010), APH(3')-IIa pdb id: IND4 (Nurizzo et al., 2003). APH(3')-IIIa pdb id: 1J7L (in complex with ADP), 1J7U (in complex with APPNP) (Burk et al., 2001), 1L8T (in complex with ADP and kanamycin A) (Fong and Berghuis, 2002) 3H8P (in complex with AMPNP and butirosin A) (Fong and Berghuis, 2009), 2BKK (in complex with the inhibitor AR_3A) (Kohl et al., 2005). APH(2'')-IIa pdb id: 3HAV (in complex with ATP and streptomycin), 3HAM (in complex with gentamicin) (Young et al., 2009).