

Genomic evolution of the globally disseminated multidrug-resistant Klebsiella pneumoniae clonal group 147

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2	Genomic evolution of the globally disseminated multidrug-resistant
3	Klebsiella pneumoniae clonal group 147
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21	
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23	deposited at the European Nucleotide Archive (accession number PRJEB41234).

24 ABSTRACT

25 The rapid emergence of multidrug-resistant *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (Kp) is largely 26 driven by the spread of specific clonal groups (CG). Of these, CG147 includes 7-gene MLST 27 sequence types ST147, ST273 and ST392. CG147 has caused nosocomial outbreaks across 28 the world, but its global population dynamics remain unknown. Here, we report a pandrug-29 resistant ST147 clinical isolate from India (strain DJ) and define the evolution and global emergence of CG147. Antimicrobial susceptibility testing (EUCAST guidelines) and genome 30 31 sequencing (Illumina and Oxford Nanopore Technologies, Unicycler assembly) were 32 performed on strain DJ. Additionally, we collated 217 publicly available CG147 genomes 33 (NCBI, May 2019). CG147 evolution was inferred within a temporal phylogenetic 34 framework (BEAST) based on a recombination-free sequence alignment (Roary/Gubbins). 35 Comparative genomic analyses focused on resistance and virulence genes and other genetic 36 Kleborate, PlasmidFinder, **ICEFinder** elements (BIGSdb, PHASTER, and 37 CRISPRCasFinder).

38 Strain DJ had a pandrug resistance phenotype. Its genome comprised 7 plasmids and 39 1 linear phage-plasmid. Four carbapenemase genes were detected: *bla*_{NDM-5} and 2 copies 40 of bla_{OXA-181} in the chromosome, and a second copy of bla_{NDM-5} on an 84 kb IncFII 41 plasmid. CG147 genomes carried a mean of 13 acquired resistance genes or mutations; 63% 42 carried a carbapenemase gene and 83% harbored bla_{CTX-M}. All CG147 genomes presented 43 GyrA and ParC mutations and a common subtype IV-E CRISPR-Cas system. ST392 and 44 ST273 emerged in 2005 and 1995, respectively. ST147, the most represented phylogenetic 45 branch, was itself divided into two main clades with distinct capsular loci: KL64 (74%, DJ 46 included, emerged in 1994 and disseminated worldwide, with carbapenemases varying 47 among world regions) and KL10 (20%, 2002, predominantly found in Asian countries, associated with carbapenemases NDM and OXA-48-like). Further, subclades within ST147-48

KL64 differed at the yersiniabactin locus, OmpK35/K36 mutations, plasmid replicons and
prophages. The absence of IncF plasmids in some subclades was associated with a possible
activity of a CRISPR-Cas system.

K. pneumoniae clonal group CG147 comprises pandrug- or extensively-resistant isolates and carries multiple and diverse resistance genes and mobile genetic elements, including chromosomal bla_{NDM-5} . Its emergence is driven by the spread of several phylogenetic clades marked by their own genomic features and specific temporo-spatial dynamics. These findings highlight the need for precision surveillance strategies to limit the spread of particularly concerning CG147 subsets.

58

59 Data Summary

60 Sequence read files and complete genome assembly of DJ have been deposited in European61 Nucleotide Archive under the BioProject number PRJEB41234.

62 INTRODUCTION

63 The increasing number of antimicrobial resistant infections by *Klebsiella pneumoniae* 64 (Kp), especially by extended-spectrum beta-lactamases (ESBL)- and carbapenemase-65 producing Kp, led to the declaration of Kp as an 'urgent threat' and 'priority pathogen' by public health agencies (1,2). Molecular analyses of Kp isolates has evidenced that the rapid 66 67 emergence of multidrug resistant (MDR) Kp is largely driven by the geographic spread of successful clonal groups (CG; e.g., CG15, CG101, CG147, CG258, CG307) (3), some of 68 69 them carrying epidemic resistance plasmids (4). In order to treat MDR Kp infections, last-70 resort drugs such as polymyxins (especially colistin) and tigecycline are used (3,5). 71 Consequently, resistance is also observed to these last resort drugs, especially to colistin, and 72 may culminate in the emergence and spread of pandrug-resistant strains (5,6). Pandrug-73 resistant Kp strains leave few or no therapeutic options and are associated with high mortality 74 rates (7–11).

75 The 7-gene MLST sequence type (ST) ST147 has been recognized as a globally 76 distributed antimicrobial resistance clone (12), and is closely related to ST273 and ST392, 77 which themselves comprise MDR isolates. Based on genomic classifications, these three STs are grouped into the CG147 clonal group (13,14). The earliest studies of CG147 date from 78 79 2008-2010 in Hungary, and correspond to ciprofloxacin-resistant CTX-M-15-producing 80 ST147 isolates, which had been disseminating in the country since 2005 (15,16). Between 81 2010 and 2014, CG147 (mainly ST147) was described worldwide in association with several 82 carbapenemases (17). Most reported CG147 isolates are from clinical samples, although 83 some were found in companion animals, river waters, chimpanzees, poultry animals and 84 poultry environment (18-24). The above studies were locally restricted and so far, no study 85 of the global spread and genome dynamics of this clone was performed.

Here, we report a pandrug-resistant clinical isolate from India belonging to ST147, and investigate the genomic evolution and antimicrobial resistance gene dynamics in the global CG147 population. We also analyze the phylogenetic context of virulence-associated genomic features, CRISPR loci and mobile genetic elements in this successful Kp sublineage.

91 MATERIAL AND METHODS

92

Isolation and phenotypic and genomic characterization of strain DJ

93 Isolate DJ was recovered from the urine of a 45-years old female patient diagnosed 94 with a urinary tract infection (UTI) in Vadodara (Gujarat, India) in October 2016. The isolate 95 was confirmed to be Kp by biochemical tests and 16S rRNA sequencing. Antibiotic susceptibility tests performed using a semi-automated commercial system (Vitek, 96 97 BioMérieux) revealed resistance to all antibiotics tested. Confirmatory antimicrobial 98 susceptibility tests were carried out for colistin and tigecycline using broth dilution; and for 99 fosfomycin (agar supplemented with 25 mg/L glucose 6-phosphate sodium salt) using agar 100 dilution method. Disk diffusion method was used for the other antimicrobial classes 101 (penicillins, cephalosporins, carbapenems, monobactams, fluoroquinolones, aminoglycosides, 102 macrolides, tetracyclines, phenicols and inhibitors of the folic acid pathway). Results were 103 interpreted using both the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (25) and the European 104 Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (2018) (http://www.eucast.org/) 105 guidelines.

106 DNA extraction was performed using XpressDNA Bacteria kit (MagGenome 107 Technologies Pvt Ltd., India). Whole-genome sequencing data were generated using (i) an 108 Illumina NextSeq-500 platform with a 2 x 150 nt paired-end protocol (Nextera XT library, 109 Illumina, San Diego, CA); and (ii) long-read Oxford Nanopore sequencing using MinION 110 device integrated with a FLO-MIN-106 flow cell and libraries prepared using a 1D ligation 111 sequencing kit (SQK-LSK109) following the protocol for 1D genomic DNA (gDNA) long 112 reads without BluePippin (Oxford Nanopore Technologies, New York, NY, USA). De novo assemblies of the reads were obtained using SPAdes v3.12.0 (26) for Illumina data and using 113 114 Unicycler v0.4.4 (27) for hybrid assembly. Assembled sequences were annotated using Prokka v1.12 (28). Reads and assembly were deposited at the European Nucleotide Archive
database (under the BioProject PRJEB41234).

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118 Global dataset of publicly-available genomic sequences

All publicly available CG147 Kp genomes from NCBI RefSeq repository of genome assemblies (May 2019) were downloaded. From the 245 CG147 genomes available, duplicated (n=5) and poor-quality genomes (n=6; genome size and G+C content not matching with Kp and/or more than >1000 contigs), and those without attached isolation year (n=17) were excluded. The final dataset comprised 218 genomes, including strain DJ. Sample information, accession numbers, and biological characteristics of the genomes are given in **Table S1**.

126

127 **Phylogenetic analyses**

128 For phylogenetic analyses, a core-genome alignment based on the concatenation of 4,529 core genes was obtained using Roary v3.12 (29) using a blastP identity cut-off of 90% 129 130 and core genes defined as those being present in more than 90% of the isolates. 131 Recombination events were removed from the core-genome alignment using Gubbins v2.2.0 132 (30). The final recombination-free alignment comprised 8,450 single-nucleotide variants 133 (SNVs) and was used to construct a maximum-likelihood phylogenetic tree using IQ-TREE 134 v1.6.11 (model GTR+F+ASC+G4). The tree was rooted with a Kp ST258 NJST258 2 135 (accession number: GCF_000597905.1) and a Kp ST37 INF042 (GCF_002752995.1) 136 (Figure S1).

To evaluate the strength of the temporal signal of our molecular phylogeny, we first conducted a linear regression analysis of the root-to-tip genetic distances as a function of the sample collection year, using TempEst v1.5.3 (<u>http://tree.bio.ed.ac.uk/software/tempest/</u>) 140 (**Figure S2**). The final recombination-free alignment was then subjected to Bayesian 141 phylogenetic analysis using BEAST v2.6.1 (run with a Markov chain Monte Carlo length of 142 1×10^9 , sampling every 5×10^3 steps) (31). We used model parameters that had the best fit: 143 GTR substitution model, lognormal relaxed clock and constant population size. Parameters 144 estimates were computed using Tracer v1.7.1, and a maximum clade credibility tree was 145 obtained with TreeAnnotator v2.6.0. and visualized in FigTree v1.4.4.

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- 147

MLST and genomic analyses of resistance, virulence and other genetic elements

148 Multilocus sequence typing (MLST, 7 genes) was performed using the Institut Pasteur 149 Klebsiella MLST (32) database (https://bigsdb.pasteur.fr/klebsiella/). Kleborate (33) and 150 BIGSdb analytical tools (https://bigsdb.pasteur.fr/klebsiella/) (34) were used to define the presence of antimicrobial resistance, heavy metal tolerance, virulence genes and to 151 152 characterize the capsular gene cluster . Geneious Prime 2019.1.1 software (https://www.geneious.com) was used for further manual curation of antibiotic resistance 153 154 genes, and ISFinder (https://isfinder.biotoul.fr) was used to look for the insertion sequences 155 in the resistance genes or in their genetic context. Plasmid replicons were detected using PlasmidFinder (https://cge.cbs.dtu.dk/services/PlasmidFinder/) (35), whereas prophages, 156 157 integrative and conjugative elements (ICEs) and CRISPRs were identified using PHASTER 158 (https://phaster.ca) (36), ICEfinder (https://db-mml.sjtu.edu.cn/ICEfinder/ICEfinder.html) and CRISPRCasFinder (https://crisprcas.i2bc.paris-saclay.fr/CrisprCasFinder/Index) (37), 159 160 respectively. To depict co-resistance genotypes and plasmid networks, we constructed a 161 correlation matrix for binary variables (1, presence; 0, absence) using the 'corr.test' function (Pearson method, which for a pair of binary variables compares to the Phi coefficient) from 162 163 the 'corrplot' R package. Significant correlations were visualized with the 'corrplot' function from the same package. Statistical analyses to check the association of the different 164

- 165 categorical variables within the phylogeny groups were calculated using the χ^2 test (*P* values
- 166 of <0.05 were considered statistically significant).

167 **RESULTS**

168

Phenotypic and genomic features of pan-drug resistant strain DJ

169 Strain DJ was resistant to all tested antimicrobial agents, including last-resort 170 antimicrobials such as carbapenems, colistin, tigecycline and fosfomycin (Table 1), and is 171 therefore pandrug-resistant (6). To define its genetic mechanisms of resistance, a hybrid 172 complete genome assembly was produced (Figure S3a). The 5.7 Mb sequence was 56.9% G+C-rich and made up of one chromosome and 6 circularized plasmids [123kb 173 174 IncFII(pKPX1); 57 kb IncR; 5.6 kb ColRNAI; 4.7 kb ColRNAI; 2.0 kb ColpVC; and 1.5 kb 175 ColMG828]. In addition, there were two non-circularized contigs: a 84 kb IncFII plasmid and 176 a 57 kb contig corresponding to a N15-like phage-plasmid (P-P) coding for a protelomerase 177 (telN) responsible for the maintenance of its linear genome (38). PHASTER identified four 178 other prophages within the chromosome. Phylogenetic analysis of strain DJ showed it 179 belonged to K. pneumoniae sensu stricto (i.e., phylogroup Kp1) and to the ST147-KL64 180 lineage previously described as endemic in India (12).

181 The long-read sequencing followed by hybrid assembly of strain DJ allowed the 182 identification of multiple copies of unique antibiotic resistance genes in the different genomic 183 elements depicted (chromosomes and plasmids). Strain DJ harbored four carbapenemase 184 genes, corresponding to two copies of each *bla*_{NDM-5} and *bla*_{OXA-181}. Additionally, three copies of *bla*_{CTX-M-15} were detected (Table 1). The above genes were localized as follows (Figure 185 186 **S3, Figure 1**): (i) *bla*_{NDM-5}: one copy in the chromosome, and the second copy in the 84 kb 187 IncFII plasmid; (ii) $bla_{OXA-181}$: two copies in the chromosome; and (iii) $bla_{CTX-M-15}$: two copies in the chromosome and one copy in the 57 kb IncR plasmid. In addition, a 61 kb 188 189 region from the IncFII plasmid, comprising several antimicrobial resistance genes included in 190 a class 1 integron and the replication machinery of the plasmid, was duplicated in the 191 chromosome (FigureS3a,c).

192 Additional molecular determinants of antimicrobial resistance were observed in strain 193 DJ. Most notably, the gene mgrB was disrupted by an IS5 transposase (1057 bp), consistent 194 with the observed colistin resistance phenotype (MIC=4 μ g/ml). This strain also carried *rmtF*, 195 *rmtB*, *strA*, *strB* and *aadA2* genes, associated with resistance to aminoglycosides including 196 amikacin (Table 1). Quinolone resistance determining region (QRDR) mutations were 197 observed, leading to GyrA-S83I and ParC-S80I amino acid alterations. Last, there was a 198 premature stop codon caused by a A580T substitution in RamR, a negative regulator of 199 RamA, itself a transcriptional activator of the *acrAB* genes. Higher production of AcrAB 200 increases the efflux of tigecycline (39), consistent with the resistance phenotype observed for 201 this agent (MIC=16 μ g/ml).

Regarding virulence genes, strain DJ harbored a complete yersiniabactin gene cluster (*ybt*10) located on an ICE*Kp*4 mobile genetic element (**Figure S3a**). Type 1 (*fimAICDFGH*) and type 3 (*mrkABCD*) fimbriae gene clusters were also observed, but none of the *rmpACD*, aerobactin and salmochelin cluster genes, typically associated with hypervirulence, were present.

208 Table 1. Antimicrobial susceptibility of Klebsiella pneumoniae strain DJ, and genes

209 potentially conferring resistance.

Class and antimicrobial agent	Diameter	Interpretation ¹	Associated resistance genes
	(mm) or MIC		(copy number)
	(µg/ml)		
Beta-lactams			$bla_{NDM-5}(2), bla_{OXA-181}(2), bla_{CTX-M-15}$ (3), $bla_{TEM-1}(2), bla_{SHV-11}(1)$, disrupted ompK35, mutation in $ompK36$
Ampicillin	9	R	
Piperacillin	13	R	
Amoxycillin-clavulanic acid	11	R	
Ticarcillin-clavulanic acid	14	R	
Piperacillin-tazobactam	14	R	
Cefuroxime	11	R	
Cefotaxime	12	R	
Ceftazidime	15	R	
Cefepime	15	R	
Aztreonam	14	R	
Ertapenem	12	R	
Imipenem	14	R	
Meropenem	15	R	
Aminoglycosides			<i>rmtB</i> (1), <i>rmtF</i> (2), <i>aac(6')-Ib</i> (2), <i>aadA2</i> (3), <i>strAB</i> (2)
Amikacin	10	R	
Gentamycin	10	R	
Tobramycin	9	R	
Quinolones and Fluoroquinolones			gyrA and parC mutations
Nalidixic acid	11	R	
Ofloxacin	11	R	
Folate pathway inhibitors			sul1 (3), sul2 (1), dfrA12 (3)
Trimethoprim/Sulfamethoxazole	19	R	
Trimethoprim	8	R	
Polymyxins			disrupted mgrB
Colistin	MIC=4	R	
Tetracyclines			ramR mutation ²
Tigecycline	MIC=16	R	
Phenicols			<i>catA2</i> (1), <i>catB</i> (2)
Chloramphenicol	12	R	
Other			
Fosfomycin	MIC=128	R	fosA
Rifampicin	NI	-	<i>arr-2</i> (2)
Macrolides	NI	-	mphA(1), ermB(1)

210 211 NI, not included in the antimicrobial susceptibility testing panel; R, resistant; ¹Interpretations were based on CLSI and

EUCAST guidelines; ² Nucleotide mutation resulting in a premature stop codon.

212

Time-scaled phylogenetic structure of the global population of sublineage CG147

We investigated the evolutionary origins of strain DJ within the global diversity of CG147 using 217 publicly available genomes of isolates collected between 2002 and 2018. CG147 genomes were mainly isolated from human samples (90%, 196/218) and hospital environment (6%, 12/218), mostly in European (40%), Southeastern Asia (17%), Southern Asia (11%) and Northern America (10%) countries (**Figure 2**).

218 CG147 was deeply structured into three main branches (Figure S1), each 219 corresponding to a single MLST sequence type: ST147, ST273 and ST392; the two latter are 220 tonB variants of ST147. The number of genome-wide nucleotide substitutions was associated with isolation dates (root-to-tip regression analysis: $R^2 = 0.1123$, Figure S2), enabling to infer 221 a time-scaled phylogeny (Figure 3). The evolutionary rate within CG147 was estimated at 222 1.45×10^{-6} substitutions/site/year (95% HPD, $1.12 \times 10^{-6} - 1.78 \times 10^{-6}$), corresponding to 6.2 223 224 SNPs per genome per year. The last common ancestor of CG147 was estimated around year 225 1896, with a large uncertainty (95% highest posterior density (HPD): 1817-1962). The ST273 226 lineage was the first to diverge, whereas ST147 and ST392 shared a common ancestor, 227 estimated around 1921 (95% HPD, 1868-1970) (Figure 3).

228 ST147 was the most represented (79%, 172/218 genomes) and geographically 229 widespread lineage (Figure 2), and emerged around 1965 (95% HPD, 1940-1986) (Figure 230 3). The phylogenetic structure within ST147 revealed five main clades characterized by 231 distinct capsular (KL type) and liposaccharide O antigen loci. Clades KL64-O2 (74%; 232 128/172) and KL10-O3a (20%, 34/172) emerged in recent years: 1994 [95% HPD, 1990-233 1998] and 2002 (95% HPD, 1995-2008), respectively (Figure 3). Whereas KL64-O2 genomes were predominantly from Europe (54%), KL10-O3a was mainly sampled from Asia 234 235 (85%; Figure 2).

The ST392 and ST273 branches emerged in 2005 (95% HPD, 2001-2009) and 1995 236 237 (95% HPD, 1987-2001), respectively (Figure 3). ST392 (16% of genomes, 34/218) is 238 distributed globally and harbors a KL27 capsular gene cluster and a O4 antigen. In contrast, 239 ST273 (6%, 12/218) was predominantly found in Asia (64%) and carries KL74 and O3b gene 240 clusters (Figure 2, Figure 3). Of note, a group of closely related genomes from the 241 Philippines (n=5) lacked a capsular gene cluster, with only *ugd* being detected. This gene had 242 100% identity with the ugd gene from the KL74 reference strain, suggesting a recent loss of 243 the capsular gene cluster.

244

245 Acquired antimicrobial resistance genes and their evolutionary dynamics within CG147

All genomes presented QRDR alterations in GyrA and ParC. The topoisomerase ParC S80I alteration was fully conserved, whereas the GyrA gyrase subunit S83I amino-acid change was observed in all genomes except for clade ST147-KL10, which had S83Y, caused by an ATC to TAC codon change. In addition, this clade had an D87A alteration (**Figure 3**).

250 The number of acquired antimicrobial resistance genes or mutations among CG147 251 genomes ranged from 2 to 23 (mean: 13; Table S1). Regarding beta-lactam resistance, in 252 addition to the conserved chromosomal blasHV-11 gene, a majority of CG147 isolates carried a 253 $bla_{\text{CTX-M}}$ (n=181, 83%), 94% of which was the $bla_{\text{CTX-M-15}}$ variant. In addition, 63% (n=137) genomes harbored at least one carbapenemase gene, with 14% (n=19) of these harboring 254 255 more than one copy of the same carbapenemase gene, and/or two or more carbapenemase 256 genes from different families (Table S1). Noteworthy, carbapenemase genes were significantly more frequent in ST147 (69%) compared to ST392 (35%) and ST273 (58%; 257 258 p=0.0005). The two main ST147 clades were similar to this respect (ST147-KL10: 74%; 259 ST147-KL64: 71%; p=0.78). However, their carbapenemase genes were distinct across world regions: there was a predominance of *bla*_{NDM} in Southeastern Asia and Northern America, 260

whereas the combination of bla_{NDM} and $bla_{\text{OXA-48-like}}$ was almost exclusively detected in Southeastern Asia, as observed in strain DJ. In contrast in Europe, $bla_{\text{OXA-48-like}}$, $bla_{\text{KPC-2}}$ and $bla_{\text{VIM-1/-27}}$ were the most frequent carbapenemases (**Figure S4; Table S1**).

264 Different ybt/ICEKp subtypes (associated with hypervirulence) and OmpK35/K36 mutations (associated with multidrug resistance) were observed within the ST147-KL64 265 266 clade (Figure 3; Table S1). First, a group of 29 genomes (denominated subclade 1; mean 267 number of SNPs among them: 57), emerged around 2007, was characterized by the presence 268 of ybt16/ICEKp12 and an altered OmpK35 protein, due to a deletion of 2 nt resulting in a 269 premature stop codon. Within this subclade itself, a subgroup of genomes (n=19/29) harbored 270 $bla_{OXA-48-like}$ genes and the OmpK36GD mutation observed previously (40). Second, a group 271 of 22 genomes emerged around 2009 (subclade 2; mean of 60 SNPs) was defined by the 272 presence of *ybt*10/ICE*Kp*4 and an OmpK35 gene disrupted by ISE*cp1-bla*_{CTX-M-15} (Figure 1, 273 Figure 3, Table S1). As observed in subclade 1, all subclade 2 isolates carrying $bla_{OXA-181}$ 274 shared the same OmpK36TD mutation (40). Subclades 1 and 2 also differed in plasmid 275 replicon content: whereas the former were rich in IncR (90%) and IncHIB/IncFIB(Mar) 276 (41%), in contrast IncFII (pKPX1) (82%), IncFII (59%) and IncR (64%) were frequent in the 277 latter (Table S1). Differently, the remaining ST147-KL64 genomes (n=77) often carried 278 IncFIB_K (65%), IncFII_K (49%; a common pKPN-3-derived plasmid found in Kp harboring 279 pco and sil clusters; (4,41) and IncFIA(HI1) (38%).

Strain DJ belonged to subclade 2 and was phylogenetically closely related (<28 SNPs) to five other isolates recovered between 2014 and 2015 in different Asian countries (**Figure S3b; Figure3**) and described as extremely drug resistant or pandrug-resistant (11,42,43), with identical plasmids being observed among them but no chromosomal integration of bla_{NDM-5} (**Figure S3**).

286 **Convergence of antimicrobial resistance and virulence**

Whereas the yersiniabactin virulence factor gene cluster was rare amongst genomes of ST392 (6%; 2/34) and ST273 (8%; 1/12), it was observed in 53% of ST147 genomes. There were two predominant variants (*ybt*16/ICE*Kp*12 and *ybt*10/ICE*Kp*4 associated with subclades 1 and 2, respectively), and four minority ones (**Figure 3; Table S1**).

291 Two isolates with hypervirulence genotypes, defined by the presence of *rmpA* and/or *rmpA2* or aerobactin, were observed: KpvST147L (ST147-KL14, 2016, United Kingdom) 292 293 and B-8658 (ST147-KL10, 2014, Russia). The plasmid from KpvST147L was fully 294 sequenced previously (GenBank accession number NZ_CM007852) and carries rmpA, 295 rmpA2 and aerobactin; it corresponds to a 343 kb IncFIB-IncHIB (pNDM-MAR) plasmid 296 (Figure S5) (44). This plasmid was recently described in three ST147 Kp isolates recovered 297 in 2018-2019 in the United Kingdom and in other sublineages (45). Here, we found that 298 Russian strain B-8658 (ST147-KL10, 2014) also acquired the pNDM-MAR plasmid, but it 299 lacked the *rmpA* gene (Figure S5).

300

301 Co-occurrence of antimicrobial resistance and heavy metal tolerance genes and 302 plasmids

303 Antimicrobial resistance genes, mutations and plasmids co-occurred in a structured 304 way (Figure S6; Table S1). For example, Col(BS512), ColKp3, IncFIA (HI1), Cml, EreA/B 305 and GyrA S83Y/D87A co-occurred frequently within the ST147-KL10 clade. Associations of 306 (i) VIM, QnrA1, AadB and IncHI2; (ii) OXA-48-like and IncL(pOXA-48) or (iii) KPC and 307 IncFIB(pQIL) were also observed, consistent with previous descriptions of genetic elements 308 co-carrying these genes (46–48). In addition, genes conferring tolerance to copper and silver 309 were associated with $IncFII_K/IncFIB_K$ plasmids (*pco* and *sil* operons; *p*<0.00001), whereas 310 genes for mercuric resistance were linked to IncR plasmids (p=0.0082). Similarly, a positive

311 association between the tellurite cluster and IncHIB/IncFIB (MAR) was observed (*p*<0.0001)

312 (4). Last, a negative association between IncR and $IncFII_K/IncFIB_K$ was observed.

- 313
- 314 CRISPR-Cas systems

315 We investigated whether resistance gene dynamics could be influenced by CRISPR-316 Cas systems in CG147. There were either one (83%; 180/218) or two (17%; 37/218) CRISPR-Cas systems amongst CG147 genomes. A conserved subtype IV-E system was 317 318 found in all genomes, located in the iap - cvsH region, with a %G+C of 60.6%, and defined 319 arbitrary as CRISPR1. Direct repeat sequences were highly conserved but the number and 320 sequences of spacers varied across CG147 genomes. CRISPR1 variant v0 (43 spacers) was 321 present in 56% of the genomes (122/218) and was used as reference to define CRISPR1 322 variants (Figure S7; TableS2). Four of the CRISPR1 v0 spacers (spacers 1, 28, 29 and 42) 323 matched sequences on MDR IncF plasmids disseminated among different 324 Enterobacteriaceae, including Kp. Spacer 1 matched a multicopy intergenic region, whereas 325 spacers 28 and 29 matched a DUF3560-domain containing protein and spacer 42 a 326 hypothetical protein located upstream of SAM-methyltransferase. Although these spacers were highly conserved among CRISPR1 variants, they were also found at high frequency (in 327 328 28% to 53% of the strains) as protospacers located in plasmid contigs. Noteworthy, in 28% 329 (62/218) of CG147 genomes these plasmid protospacers were not detected, and the majority 330 of these strains (65%, 40/62) belonged to subclades 1 and 2, which were also characterized 331 by the absence of IncFII(K) and IncFIB(KpQIL) plasmid replicons. The association of the lack of IncF plasmids with IncF-targeting spacers in CRISPR1, suggests a possible activity of 332 333 this CRISPR system in subclades 1 and 2. Finally, twelve of the forty-three spacers from 334 CRISPR1 v0 targeted prophages; of these, spacers 6 and 25 were found as protospacers in some of the CG147 genomes (28% and 18%, respectively). 335

336 Six other CRISPR-Cas systems, distinct from CRISPR1, were observed in 37 337 genomes. CRISPR2 to CRISPR4, of type IV-A3, were strongly associated with IncHIB 338 and/or IncFIB (pNDM-MAR) plasmids (p < 0.00001), as previously described (49). Two 339 variants of CRISPR2 (v1; n=12; 17 spacers and v3; n=5, 25 spacers) were prevalent (Figure 340 S7; TableS2). CRISPR2 to CRISPR4 systems shared identical direct repeat sequences but 341 showed a high diversity in the number and sequences of spacers. Their tendency to target $IncFII_{K}/IncFIB_{K}$ plasmids has led to suggest a role in inter-plasmid competition (49,50). 342 343 However, here the presence of CRISPR2 to CRISPR4 systems was not uniformly associated 344 with an absence of IncFII_K/IncFIB_K plasmids.

345

346 **Prophage elements**

CG147 genomes harbored 0 to 7 prophages (mean of 4 prophages per genome; considering only the intact ones). Some prophages were frequent, including (i) ST147-VIM1phi7.1-*like* (GenBank accession no. NC_049451; *Myoviridae* family), which was present in 90% of the genomes (196/218); (ii) *Salmonella* phage 118970_sal3-*like* (GenBank accession no. NC_031940; *Myoviridae* family; 70% [152/218]); and (iii) *Enterobacteria* phage mEp237-*like* (GenBank accession no. NC_019704; *Siphoviridae* family; 56% [121/218]) (**Figure S7**).

The N15-*like* phage-plasmid (*Siphoviridae* family) we uncovered in the genomic assembly of strain DJ was present in 37% of CG147 genomes (81/218). It was strongly associated (p<0.00001) with ST147-KL64 subclades 1 and 2 and present in 92% of these genomes (**Table S1, Figure S7**). These two subclades were also enriched in other prophages (mean number of prophages: 5) compared with the remaining CG147 genomes (mean number of prophages=3).

360

361 **DISCUSSION**

362 This study was triggered by the discovery of a pandrug resistance phenotype in strain 363 DJ from India, which prompted us to analyzed its genomic features and understand their 364 dynamics in the context of a large genome dataset of CG147 from multiple world regions. The results revealed its deep phylogenetic structure and a capacity of CG147 members to 365 366 acquire a wide range of antimicrobial resistance or virulence elements, plasmids and 367 prophages. Of these, *Klebsiella* capsular locus (KL) switches, which occurred repeatedly, 368 represent prominent phylogenetic markers of CG147 clades. The evolutionary dynamics of 369 these surface structure in CG147 echo those observed in other MDR clonal groups, such as 370 ST258 or ST307 (13,47,51). The multiple clonal expansions of sublineages with distinct KL 371 or O types has clear implications for diagnostic, control or therapeutic strategies such as 372 vaccination and phage therapy. Although its reliance on public genomic sequences may 373 expose this study to a bias towards antibiotic-resistant CG147 isolates, as well as those 374 involved in nosocomial outbreaks, this study provides new insights into the evolutionary 375 history, epidemiology and population dynamics of this important emerging clonal group.

The genomic arsenal of antimicrobial resistance features of subclade 2, to which strain DJ belongs, suggest extensively drug and pandrug resistance is not restricted to strain DJ, but rather is a shared characteristic in this particular subclade, already disseminated among Asian countries (11,42,43,52–54). Clonal spread of this subclade between different countries was reported (52). This subclade should be closely monitored and may represent a pioneering situation ushering the worrying prospect of pan-resistance in other CG147 subclades.

In the case of strain DJ, we observed the integration of $bla_{\text{NDM-5}}$ in the chromosome. Previous studies have reported the one or multiple copies of $bla_{\text{CTX-M-15}}$ and $bla_{\text{OXA-181}}$ integrated into the chromosome of Kp isolates (55,56), including in the high-risk ST147 (52,57). However, the chromosomal integration of bla_{NDM} was, to our knowledge, only

reported once in Kp, in two NDM-1 producing ST14 clinical isolates from Thailand (58). In that case, the chromosomal integration was mediated by IS*5* and the Tn*3* transposase. In strain DJ, the integration of $bla_{\text{NDM-5}}$ may have been mediated by IS*Ecp*1/IS26 (**Figure 1a**). The genomic rearrangement due to the replicative transposition of IS26 has previously been shown for IncFII-*bla*_{NDM-5} bearing plasmids (59). The chromosomal incorporation of carbapenemase and ESBL genes is concerning, as it may stabilize these genes by promoting their vertical dissemination (52).

The convergence of MDR and hypervirulence genotypes is being increasingly observed in Kp (3). Here, this worrisome association was detected in two phylogenetically distinct CG147 isolates from 2014 (Russia) and 2016 (United Kingdom), which shared an MDR-Hv IncHIB/FIB plasmid (44). The recent observation of this plasmid in ST101 and ST147 isolates from the United Kingdom (45), with no epidemiological link with the isolate from 2016, suggests its continuous circulation and further risk of horizontal spread.

399 The ST147-KL64 lineage is globally disseminated. The evolutionary rate we estimated $(1.03 \times 10^{-6} \text{ substitutions/site/year})$ is very similar to other MDR global sublineages, 400 (1.03×10^{-6}) (1.18×10^{-6}) 401 ST258 substitutions/site/year) and ST307 such as 402 substitutions/site/year) (47,51), and slightly slower than the one estimated for ST101 (2.85x10⁻⁶ substitutions/site/year) (60). It is striking that the emergence of ST147-KL64 403 404 lineage occurred approximately at the same time as other MDR sublineages ST258 (year 405 1995), ST307 (1994) and ST101 (1989) (47,51,60). In addition, the presence of GyrA and 406 ParC QRDR alterations is a common characteristic to these MDR high-risk sublineages 407 [CG258 and ST307: GyrA-S83I and ParC-S80I; ST101: GyrA-S83I, GyrA-D87G/N/A and 408 ParC-S80I] (47,51,60). This phenotypic and temporal conjunction points to common drivers 409 and suggests a role of the usage of fluoroquinolones, introduced into clinical practice in the 410 end of the 1980s, in the emergence of MDR Kp sublineages. This is reminiscent of the

411 scenarios of emergence of *Escherichia coli* ST131 and methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus*412 *aureus* ST22 (61–63).

413 The drivers of genomic diversification of emerging Kp sublineages may include a 414 combination of ecological opportunities to acquire genetic elements, local selective pressure, 415 and molecular mechanisms that enable or restrict genetic flux. Of these, CRISPR-Cas 416 systems may play a role (64-67). In CG258, an association was suggested between the 417 absence of these systems and the ability to acquire IncF plasmids [such as bla_{KPC}-418 IncF(pKpQIL-like plasmids)] (68–70). Here we found a conserved type IV-E CRISPR-Cas 419 system (CRISPR1) within CG147, consistent with early reports (9), with four spacers 420 matching IncF plasmid sequences. The distribution of CRISPR1 in the broader Kp species 421 shows a unique association with CG147, with only two exceptions (ST2746 and ST3700; 422 based on 1001 Kp genomes representing unique STs; selected from a dataset of 4222 423 genomes from NCBI, November 2018; data not shown). Type IV CRISPR-Cas systems 424 primarily target plasmids (50). However, in the majority of CG147 strains, corresponding 425 protospacers were found in plasmid sequences, advocating that the immunity provided by this 426 CRISPR1 system might not be fully functional. In contrast, ST147-KL64 subclades 1 and 2 427 were largely devoid of these protospacers and did not carry IncFIA, $IncFIB_K$ and 428 IncFIB (pQil) plasmids (Figure S7). This observation may suggest a possible activity of the 429 CRIPSR1 system in these recently emerged subclades. Future experimental studies are 430 needed to explore this hypothesis. Noteworthy, it was also among these subclades that the 431 N15-like phage-plasmid was prevalent. Among bacterial phyla, this phage-plasmid family 432 was found almost exclusively in Kp (38), and we found that 58.9% of these belonged to 433 CG147. A possible biological role of plasmid-prophages has yet to be established.

434

435 CONCLUSIONS

436 The presence of pandrug-resistant and extremely-drug resistant isolates in CG147, 437 together with the high genetic plasticity and rapid emergence dynamics of this clone, represents a clear threat to public health. CG147 is globally disseminated but shows a strong 438 439 phylogenetic structure, with different clades being associated with specific genomic features 440 and geographical distributions. These observations underline how different variants of 441 CG147 contribute to the major public health threat posed by Kp, and call for specific surveillance and directed control strategies of this clone and its particularly concerning clades 442 443 (12).

A possible link between the absence of IncF plasmids and the activation of CRISPR1 defense system is intriguing. This observation calls for more work on mechanistic drivers of the flux of genetic elements across MDR bacterial lineages. Precise phylogenetic mapping and understanding of the dynamics of antimicrobial resistance features are needed to guide the development of control strategies, especially those that target specific subsets of strains within pathogenic bacterial species, such as CRISPR delivery or toxic conjugation systems (71,72).

451 **DECLARATIONS**

452 Ethics approval and consent to participate: To conduct the research, we used bacterial 453 strain DJ, which is not considered a human sample. Accordingly, this research was not 454 considered human research and is out of the scope of the decree n° 2016-1537 of November 455 16, 2016 implementing law n° 2012-300 of March 5, 2012 on research involving human 456 subjects. Therefore, no ethics approval was needed and no informed consent was required.

457 Consent for publication: No personal identifying data was used; therefore, no consent was458 necessary.

459 Availability of data and materials: All data generated or analysed during this study are
460 included in this published article and its supplementary information files.

461 **Competing interests**: The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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468 Author contributions: S.D. and D.G. coordinated the microbiological cultures of the isolate 469 DJ and its antimicrobial susceptibility testing and biochemical characterization. V.P., C.R. 470 and S.D. performed the genomic sequencing. C.R. designed and coordinated the comparative 471 genomics study, with input from S.D. C.R. wrote the initial version of the manuscript. All 472 authors provided input to the manuscript and reviewed the final version.

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- 478 Manuscript version arising from this submission.

479 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

480

481 Figure 1. Genetic context of the different copies of *bla*_{NDM-5} (a), *bla*_{OXA-181} (b) and *bla*_{CTX-M-15}
482 (c) genes identified in *K. pneumoniae* strain DJ.

483 Within each panel, the chromosomal and/or plasmid-encoded copies of bla_{NDM-5}, bla_{OXA-181} 484 and $bla_{CTX-M-15}$ detected in DJ are compared between them. Predicted open reading frames (ORFs) are represented on each line by colored arrows, with arrowheads indicating the 485 486 direction of transcription: antimicrobial resistance genes (red), mobile genetic elements 487 (MGEs) or gene mobilization-related genes (green); RNA-binding proteins (dark yellow); 488 other functions (light gray). Disrupted genes are outlined with dotted lines. Dark gray blocks 489 connecting the distinct gene regions represent homology levels, as indicated in the gradient 490 key. The nucleotide positions of the represented regions are indicated at the left below the 491 copy descriptors. Figures were created using the Easyfig (https://mjsull.github.io/Easyfig/).

492

493 Figure 2. Geographic (main) and temporal (inset) distribution of genomes included in this494 study.

The pie charts represent the frequency of each CG147 clade in each country (see size and 495 496 color keys). Inset: Bars represent the number of isolates per year for which genome 497 assemblies were available (NCBI RefSeq) as of May 2019, coloured by clade. Red lines 498 represent (solid line) the number of PubMed-indexed records as of March 2020 (identified 499 using the search criteria 'Klebsiella pneumoniae' and 'ST147' or 'ST392' or 'ST273', resulting in a total of 99 distinct entries); and (dotted line) the cumulative number of 500 501 genomes. The scale on the left Y-axis refers to total number whereas the one on the right 502 refers to cumulative numbers.

504 **Figure 3.** Time-scaled phylogeny of 218 CG147 genomes and their epidemiological and 505 molecular characteristics.

The phylogeny was obtained using the BEAST tool. The three main branches correspond to 506 the three main sequence types (ST). Tree tips are colored by world region of isolation (see 507 508 key). Black dots on main nodes indicate \geq 95% posterior probability. The grey boxes 509 delineate subclades 1 and 2, as indicated. Capsular (KL) and O-antigen (O) locus types and 510 the versiniabactin-carrying ICEKp elements are colored according to their variants as shown 511 in the legend. Antimicrobial resistance determinants are indicated by colored rectangles when present. In the antimicrobial resistance determinants columns:¹ dark pink indicates *bla*_{KPC-2} 512 and light pink indicates bla_{KPC-3} ,² dark pink indicates $bla_{CTX-M-15}$ and dark pink indicates other 513 *bla*_{CTX-M} variants; ³dark pink indicates *mgrB* mutations and dark pink indicates *pmrB* 514 mutations. AMGs: aminoglycosides; FPIs: folate pathway inhibitors. 515

516 Supplementary Data:

517

518 Figure S1. Phylogenetic structure of CG147.

519 The tree was obtained by maximum likelihood analysis (IQ-TREE) based on the final 520 recombination-free alignment of concatenated nucleotide sequence alignments of 4,517 core 521 genes. The tree was rooted with a Kp ST258 NJST258_2 (GCF_000597905.1) and a Kp ST37 INF042 (GCF_002752995.1). Branch lengths represent the number of nucleotide 522 523 substitutions per site (scale, 0.001 substitution per site). The three main branches are colored 524 by sequence type (ST) and branch tips are colored by world region of isolation (see key). 525 Capsular (KL) and O-antigen (O) locus types and the versiniabactin-carrying 526 ICEKp elements are colored according to their variants (see key). Subclades 1 and 2 are 527 denoted by rectangle outlines.

528

529 Figure S2. Temporal signal in genomic sequences.

530 The linear correlation between year of isolation and root-to-tip distance from the maximum531 likelihood phylogeny for CG147 genomes collection was calculated using TempEst.

532

533 Figure S3. Replicons of strain DJ.

(a) Visual representation of the hybrid Unicycler assembly graph, obtained using Bandage
(Wick et al., 2015). Nine replicons were obtained, including the circularized chromosome, 6
circularized plasmids, 1 linear phage-plasmid and 1 non-circularized plasmid contig. The size
of replicons is shown.

(b) Sequence alignments of the chromosomes of strain DJ and the four closest genomes
belonging to subclade 2 (<28 SNPs): MS6671 (GenBank Accession Number:
GCA_001455995), DA48896 (GCA_003006175.1); CRKP-1215 (GCA_002786755;

541 =CRKP-2297) and SKGH01 (GCA_001644765.1). Strain DJ was used as reference. The
542 outermost circle is an annotation of the reference strain showing the location of antimicrobial
543 drug resistance genes, ytb/ICEKp, KL64 capsular locus and the IncFII chromosomal
544 integration region. The figure was created using BRIG (Alikhan et al., 2011).

(c) Sequence alignments of the non-circular IncFII replicon of strain DJ with the closest 545 546 plasmids of subclade 2 strains: pCRKP-2297_2 (CP024836.1); pCRKP-1215_2 (CP024840.1), MS6671_plasmidE (LN824138.1), SKGH01_p3 (CP015503.1), p48896_1 547 548 (CP024430.1) and the region integrated in the chromosome of strain DJ. The IncFII non-549 circularized replicon was used as reference. The outermost circle is an annotation of the 550 reference strain showing the location of antimicrobial drug resistance genes in red. In the 551 table the coverage, identity, size and antimicrobial resistance genes of the plasmids that were 552 used for the comparison. In bold the resistance genes also present in DJ replicon.

553 (d) Sequence alignments of the p48896_1 (CP024430.1) plasmid with the plasmids of the pCRKP-2297_2 554 closest strains: (CP024836.1); pCRKP-1215 2 (CP024840.1), 555 MS6671 plasmidE (LN824138.1), SKGH01 p3 (CP015503.1), DJ-IncFII non-circularized 556 replicon and DJ-IncR plasmid. p48896_1 was used as reference plasmid. The outermost circle is an annotation of the reference strain showing the location of antimicrobial drug 557 558 resistance genes in red.

(e) Sequence alignments of the 123 kb IncFII(pKPX1) plasmid of strain DJ with the closest
plasmids of subclade 2 strains: pCRKP-2297_1 (CP024835.1), pCRKP-1215_1
(CP024839.1), MS6671_plasmidB (LN824135.1), SKGH01_p2 (CP015502.1), p48896_2
(CP024431.1). The IncFII(pKPX1) plasmid of strain DJ was used as reference. The
outermost circle is an annotation of the reference strain showing the location of antimicrobial
drug resistance genes in red. In the table the coverage, identity, size and antimicrobial

resistance genes of the plasmids that were used for the comparison. In bold the resistancegenes also present in DJ replicon.

567

Figure S4. Geographic origins of the genomes included in this study and their associated
carbapenemase profile.

570 The pie charts represent the frequency of each carbapenemase profile in each country (see 571 key). CPKP-: no carbapenemase.

572

573 Figure S5. Sequence alignments of MDR-Hv plasmids identified in CG147 genomes.

574 Comparison of MDR-Hv plasmids identified in CG147 genomes (KpvST147L_NDM and B-

575 8658) with the reference virulence plasmid pK2044 (AP006726.1) and a similar plasmid

576 recovered in 2019 (pKpvST147B, CP040726.1), which was used as reference. The outermost

577 circle shows annotations of the reference strain.

578

579 Figure S6. Correlation between genotypes (Pearson method).

580 Blank squares represent correlations without statistical significance (p > 0.05). The plot was 581 created with the corrplot R package.

582

Figure S7. Time-scaled phylogeny of CG147 genomes and their heavy metal tolerance genes, plasmid replicons, CRIPSR systems, and prophages profile.

The phylogeny was obtained using the BEAST tool. The three main branches correspond to the three main sequence types (ST). Tree tips are colored by world region of isolation (see key). Black dots on main nodes indicate \geq 95% posterior probability. The grey boxes delineate subclades 1 and 2, as indicated. Capsular (KL) and O-antigen (O) locus types and the yersiniabactin-carrying ICE*Kp* elements are colored according to their variants as shown

590	in the legend. The presence of heavy metal tolerance genes, plasmid replicons, CRISPR-Cas
591	systems, protospacers and prophages is indicated. In heavy metal tolerance genes columns,
592	lighter yellow indicates an incomplete operon. In prophages lighter orange indicates an
593	questionable prophage. HMTG, heavy metal tolerance genes.
594	

- 595 Table S1. Epidemiological and genomic characteristics of the 218 CG147 *K. pneumoniae*596 genomes analysed in this study.
- 597
- 598 Table S2. CRISPR/Cas systems and variants identified within CG147 K. pneumoniae
 599 genomes.
- 600

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