Planococcus antarcticus DSM 14505 is a psychrophile bacterium that was isolated from cyanobacterial mat samples, originally collected from ponds in McMurdo, Antarctica. This orange-pigmented bacterium grows at 4°C and may possess interesting enzymatic activities at low temperatures. Here we report the first genomic sequence of P. antarcticus DSM 14505.

Surprisingly, the genome of P. antarcticus DSM 14505 contained three bile salt hydrolases, which are common in gut-associated bacteria of vertebrates. About 65 million years ago, Antarctica had a tropical/subtropical climate and a marsupial fauna and dinosaurs, all of which are believed to have disappeared with the Eocene-Oligocene extinction about 34 million years ago (2). Our analysis, including comparative genomics, will offer new insight into the evolution and history of some genes, including bile salt hydrolases and antibiotic determinants, thought to be restricted to the gastrointestinal environment or to be selected by human activity. Finally, this sequence will offer the possibility of studying several enzymatic activities working at low temperatures.

Nucleotide sequence accession numbers. This Whole Genome Shotgun project has been deposited at DDBJ/EMBL/GenBank under the accession number AJYB00000000. The version described in this paper is the first version, AJYB01000000.

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