Streptococcus suis is one of the most important pathogens in the porcine industry and is responsible for causing septicaemia, meningitis, and many other infections. In addition, it is an emerging zoonotic agent responsible for septicaemia with or without septic shock, meningitis and other less common infections in humans (1). During the last decade, the number of S. suis infections reported worldwide has increased significantly, with most cases reported in Asia (2).

A total of 33 serotypes of S. suis have been described and are defined based on the antigenicity of their capsular polysaccharide (2). Among them, serotypes 1, 2, 4, 5, 14, 16, 21, and 24 have caused human infections (3–8). Strains isolated from diseased pigs primarily belong to serotype 2 in most countries, followed by serotypes 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 1/2 in Asian countries (9–11), and serotypes 3, 1/2, 4, 7, and 8 in Canada (12). To date, genome sequences of S. suis have not been reported except for serotypes 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 14 16, 21, and 1/2 (13–15). Although S. suis serotype 4 is zoonotic and rather prevalent worldwide, its genome has not been reported. To facilitate studies, we sequenced a reference strain of S. suis serotype 4 (strain 6407). The genome, 2,292,360 bp in length, covering 2,239 coding sequences, 58 tRNAs, and 4 rRNA loci was identified in the 6407 genome. The complete genome sequence was determined by an Illumina Miseq system. Assembly was performed using SOAPdenovo. Gaps were filled by primer walking and sequencing of PCR products. The assembly of the genome was further verified by PCR. Coding sequences (CDSs) were predicted using Glimmer 3.02 and GeneMarkS (17), and further examined with the nonredundant protein database through BLASTp. tRNAs and rRNAs were identified using tRNAscan-SE and RNAmmer (18), respectively.

The genome of 6407 was found to have an orientation similar to the majority of the published genomes of S. suis in GenBank (13). The genome of strain 6407 consists of a single circular chromosome which is 2,292,360 bp in length, with a G+C content of 40.98%. A total of 2,239 CDSs that account for 97.4% of the genome, 58 tRNAs, and 4 rRNA loci were identified in the 6407 genome. The function of the CDSs is mainly related to carbohydrate transport and metabolism, translation, ribosomal structure, and biogenesis. There are 4 phase-related regions and 7 prophage elements in the 6407 genomes. The genome of 6407 harbors some virulence associated genes (19), including efp, sspA, srtA, pgdA, gfpA, and flps. Some other virulence associated genes, mrp, ofs, zur, dtaA, ghaA, and sly, were absent in the 6407 genome.

Nucleotide sequence accession number. The complete genome sequence of S. suis serotype 4 (strain 6407) has been assigned GenBank accession number CP008921.

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REFERENCES


