

# Yangzhou University

# 扬州大学

**The Quorum Sensing Type I enhances the acid  
resistance of EHEC O157:H7 by activating the *rpoS*  
and *gad* system**

**Guoqiang Zhu (DVM, MSc, PhD)**  
COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE  
YANGZHOU UNIVERSITY

Email: yzgqzhu@yzu.edu.cn

Tel: 0514-87972590 (Office)

13773564198 (Cell Phone)

Wechat: jonhzhu

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# Background

## The AHLs-produced strains in hosts (bovine, swine)

AHLs are prominent within the bovine rumen but undetectable in other areas of the GI tract such as rectum, colon and cecum.



frontiers

in Cellular and Infection Microbiology

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

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### Isolation and Characterization of N-acyl Homoserine Lactone-Producing Bacteria From Cattle Rumen and Swine Intestines

Yang Yang<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Mingxu Zhou<sup>2,3</sup>, Philip R. Hardwidge<sup>4</sup>, Hengmi Cui<sup>1\*</sup> and Guoqiang Zhu<sup>2,3\*</sup>

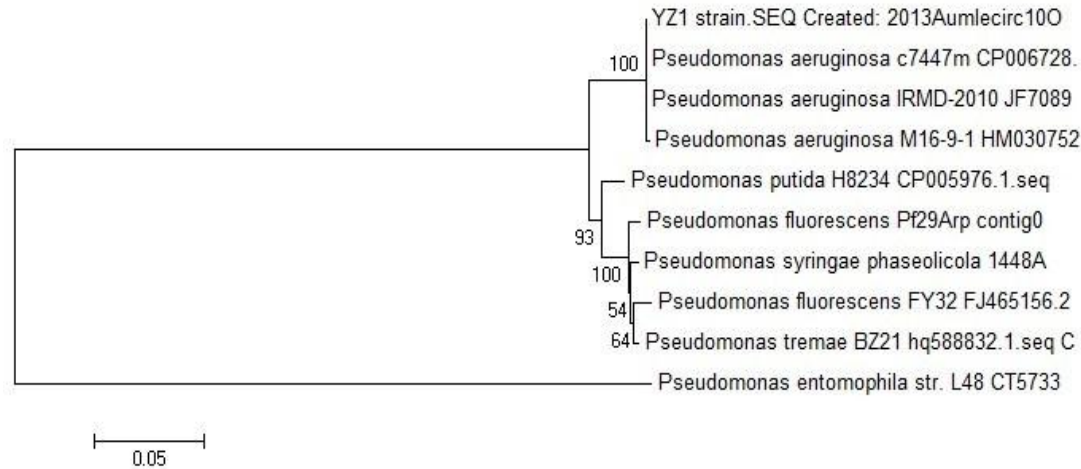
<sup>1</sup> Institute of Epigenetics and Epigenomics and College of Animal Science and Technology, Yangzhou University, Yangzhou, China, <sup>2</sup> Jiangsu Co-Innovation Center for Important Animal Infectious Diseases and Zoonoses, Yangzhou University, Yangzhou, China, <sup>3</sup> College of Veterinary Medicine, Yangzhou University, Yangzhou, China, <sup>4</sup> College of Veterinary Medicine, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS, United States

《Isolation and Characterization of N-acyl Homoserine Lactone-Producing Bacteria From Cattle Rumen and Swine Intestines》

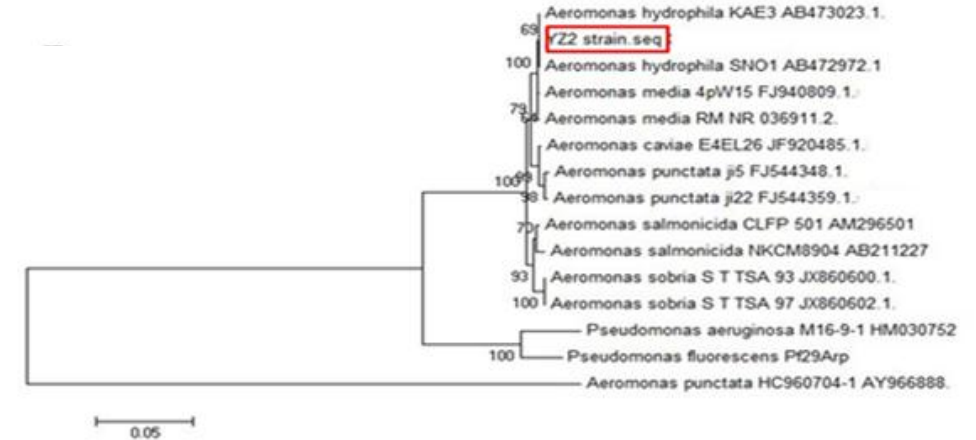


# Background

## The AHLs-produced strains in hosts



Phylogenetic tree analysis determined that bovine derived YZ1 belongs to *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*



Phylogenetic tree analysis determined that swine derived YZ2 belongs to *Aeromonas hydrophila*



# Background

## Acid Resistance (AR) of *E. coli*

Most pathogenic bacteria require a large infectious dose (e.g., *Vibrio cholerae* requires  $\sim 10^9$  organisms) in order to survive passage through the stomach. Remarkably, infectious enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* requires a substantially lower infectious dose ( $\sim 10^2$  organisms).

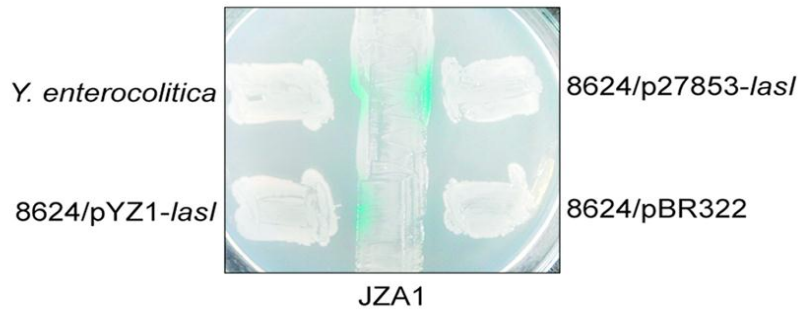
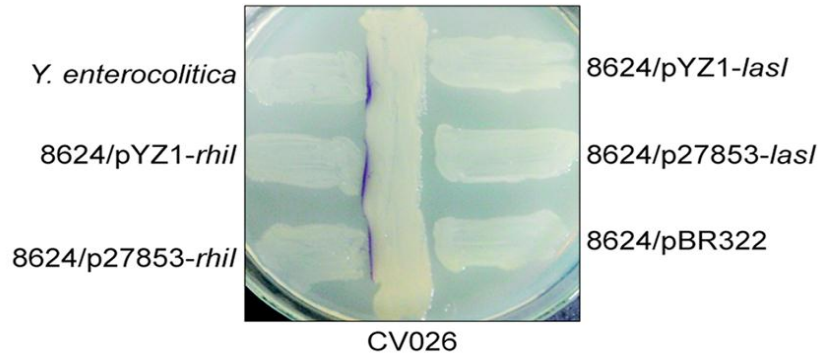
Type	Mechanism
AR1	<b>RpoS</b> –dependent acid resistance system
AR2	Glutamic acid–dependent acid resistance system ( <b>GDAR</b> )
	Arginine-dependent acid resistance system (ADAR)
	Lysine-dependent acid resistance system (LDAR)



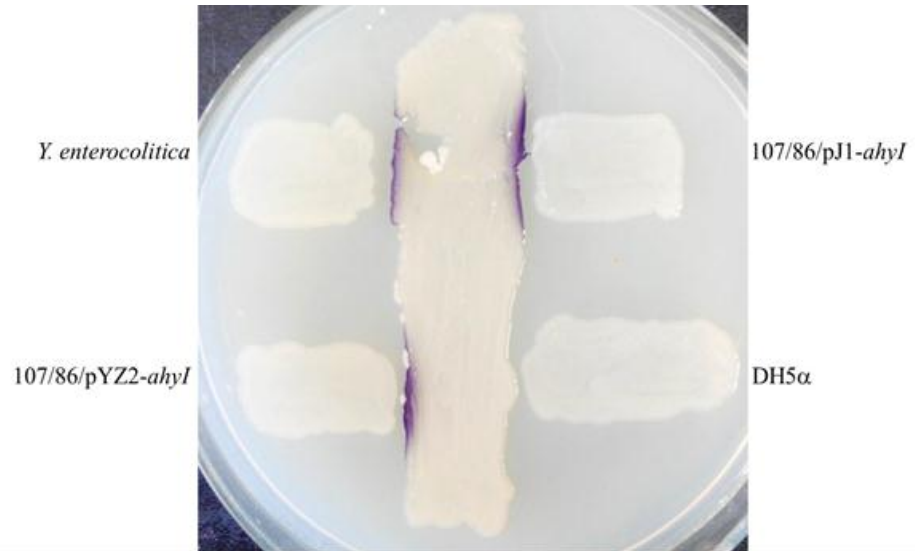


# Results

*To confirm E.coli recombinant expressing AHLs endogenously*



**O157:H7 strain 8624 recombinant**  
*rhII* → short chain AHL  
*lasI* → long chain AHL

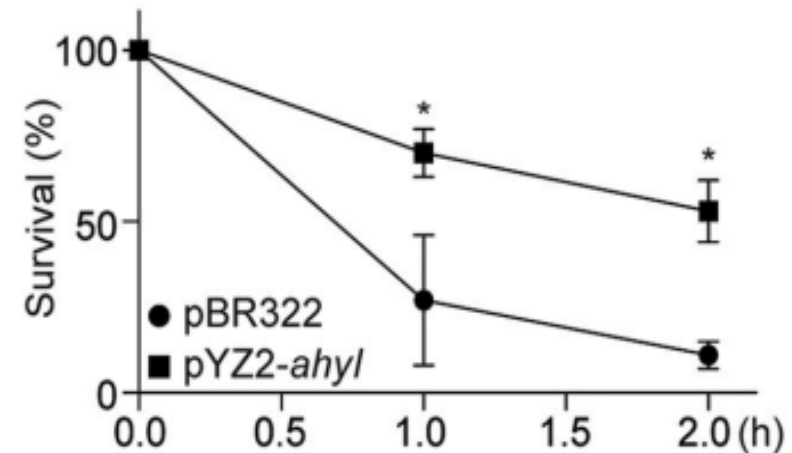
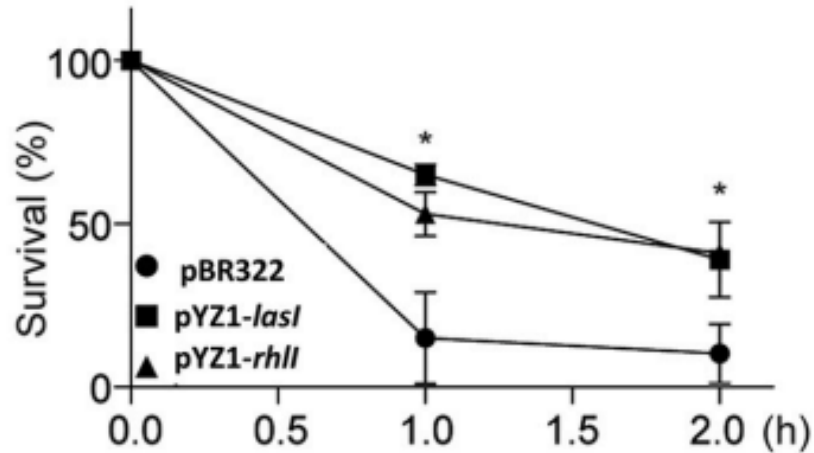


**F18 strain 107/86 recombinant**  
*ahyI* → short chain AHL



# Results

## Acid resistance (AR) assay



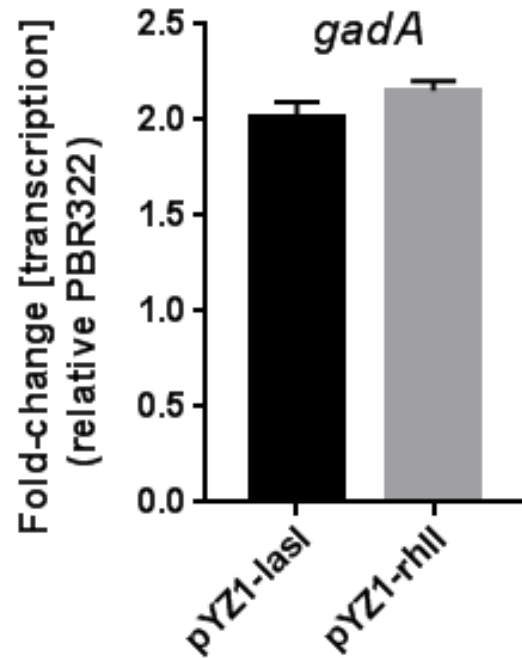
Compared with *E. coli* pBR322, the AR survival of *rhlI* and *lasI*, *ahyI*-expressing *E. coli* significantly increased (**4 folds**)



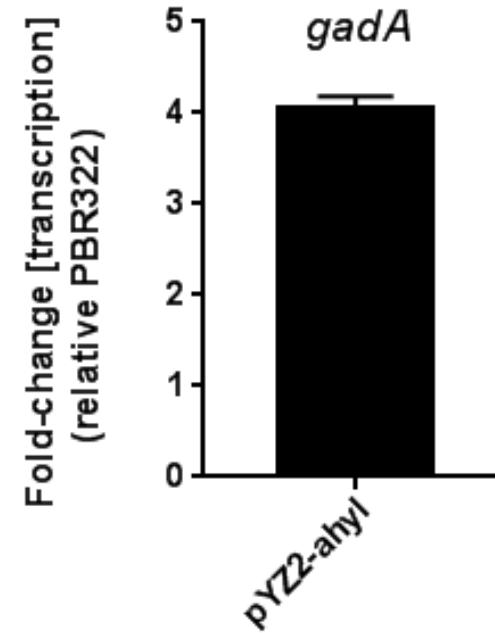


# Results

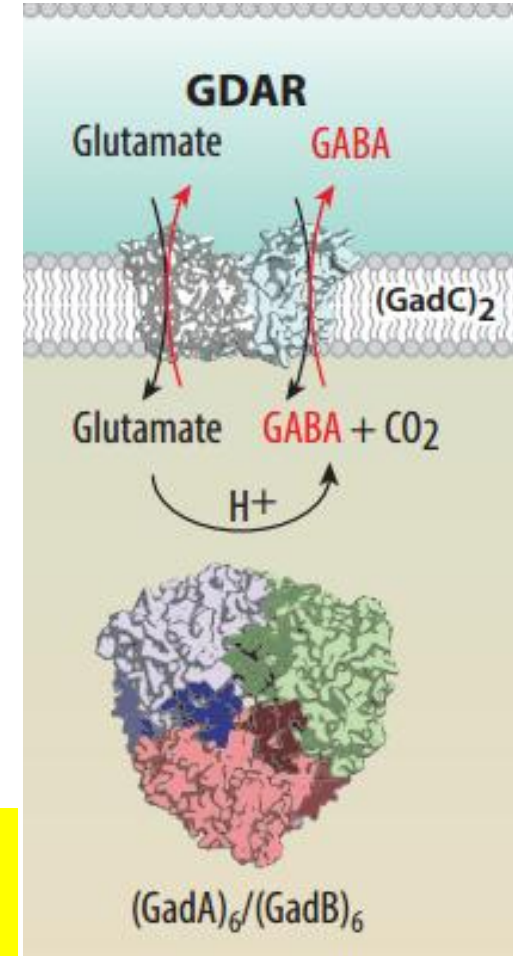
## Changes in AR2 gene expression



*gadA* up-regulated **2** folds, compared with EHEC pBR322



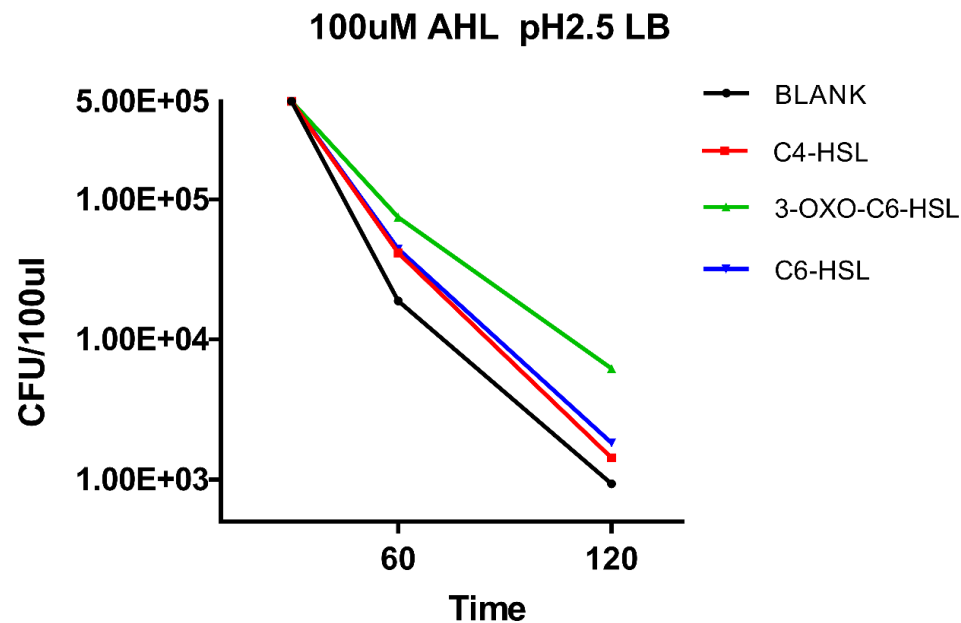
*gadA* up-regulated **4** folds, compared with EHEC pBR322



# Results

## AR assay of *E. coli* O157:H7 under different external AHLs

C4-HSL, 3-oxo-C6-HSL, and C6-HSL as the external AHLs to test the AR



The increased folds with 100uM AHLs

	C4-HSL	3-oxo-C6-HSL	C6-HSL
1h	~2.2	~4.0	~2.4
2h	~1.5	~6.6	~2.0

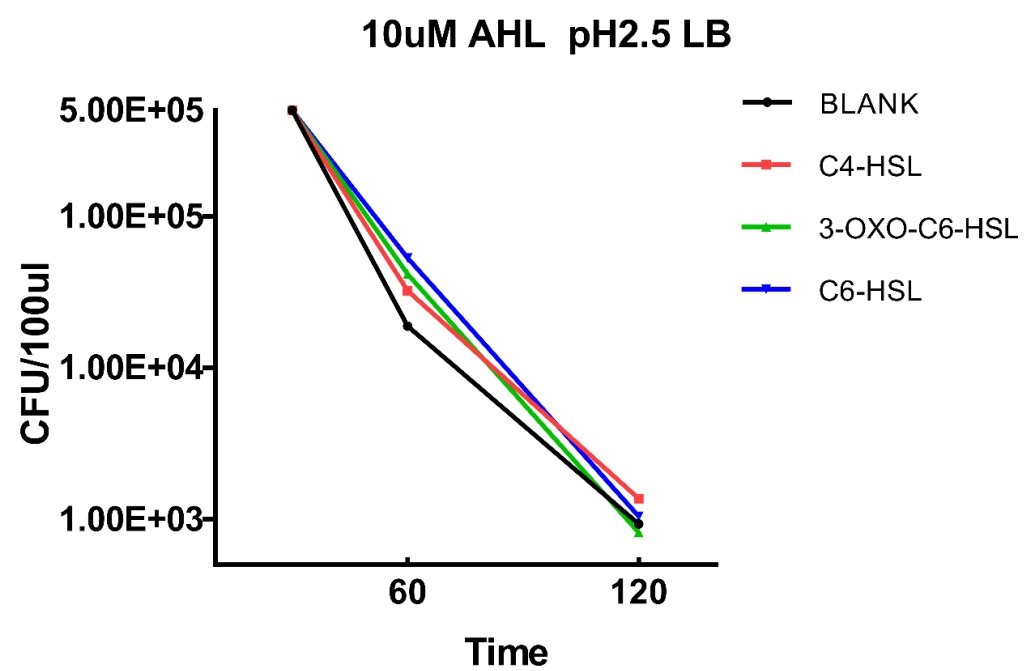
Folds= Survival with 100uM AHLs / Survival of blank

AR survival of O157:H7 was enhanced by different AHLs(100uM), especially the **3-oxo-C6-HSL** is significant



# Results

## AR assay of *E. coli* O157:H7 under different external AHLs



The increased folds with 10uM AHLs

	C4-HSL	3oxo-C6-HSL	C6-HSL
1h	~1.7	~2.2	~2.8
2h	~1.5	~0.9	~1.1

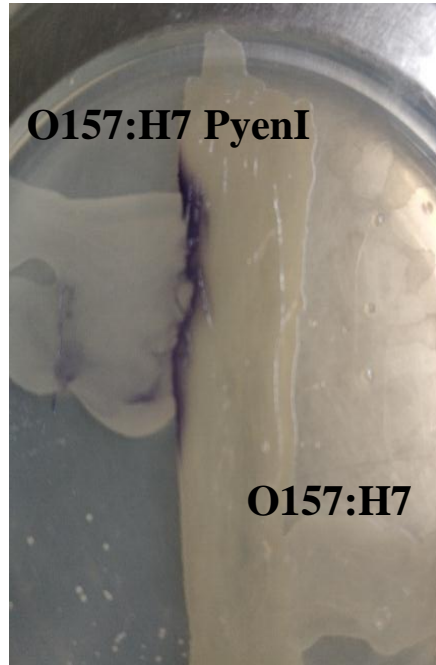
Folds= Survival with 10uM AHLs / Survival of blank

Compared with AHLs (100uM), effect of AHLs (10uM) on AR survival is not remarked

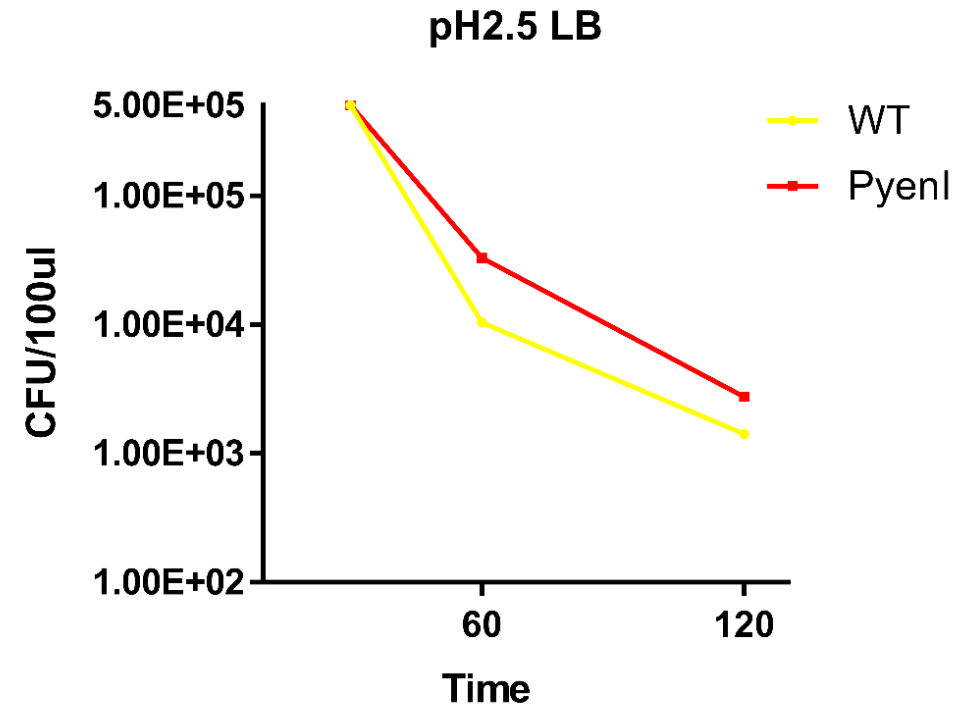


# Results

## AR assay of *E. coli* O157:H7 under endogenous AHLs



CV026 bioreporter

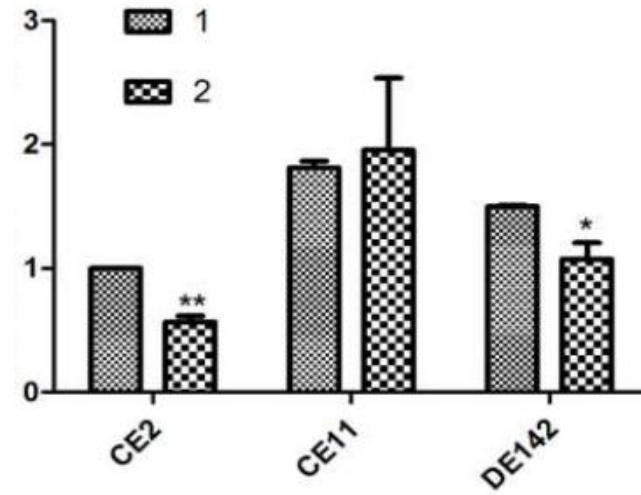
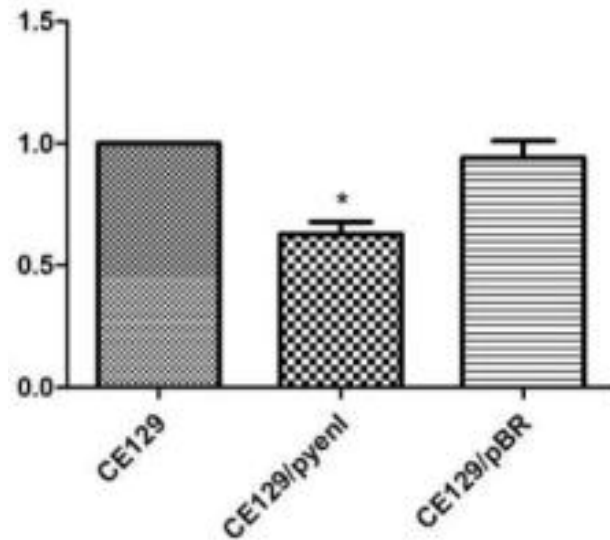


*E. coli* O157:H7 expressing *yenI* gene (*luxI* homologue), producing AHLs and getting the AR



# Results

## No Effect of AHLs on AR of APEC rather than enteropathogenic *E. coli*



1, Blank group 2, externally added AHLs

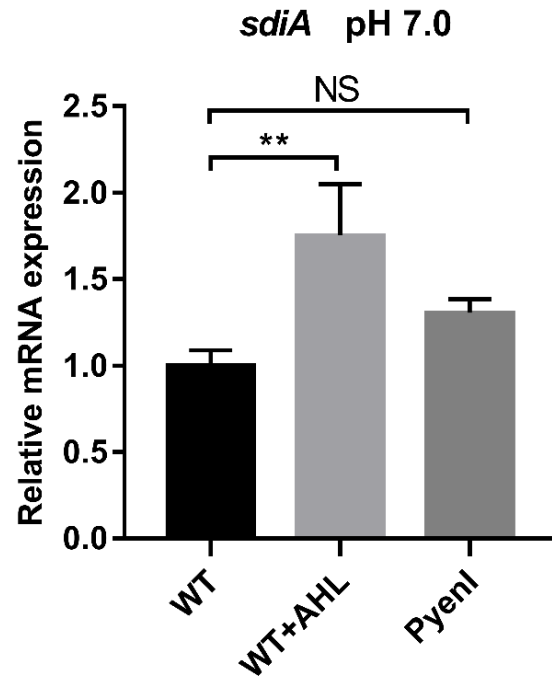
### Relative mRNA expression of *gadA*

- APEC CE129 strain expressing *yenI* gene have no effect on AR survival
- APEC (CE2, CE11, DE142) strains with external AHLs also have no effect on AR survival

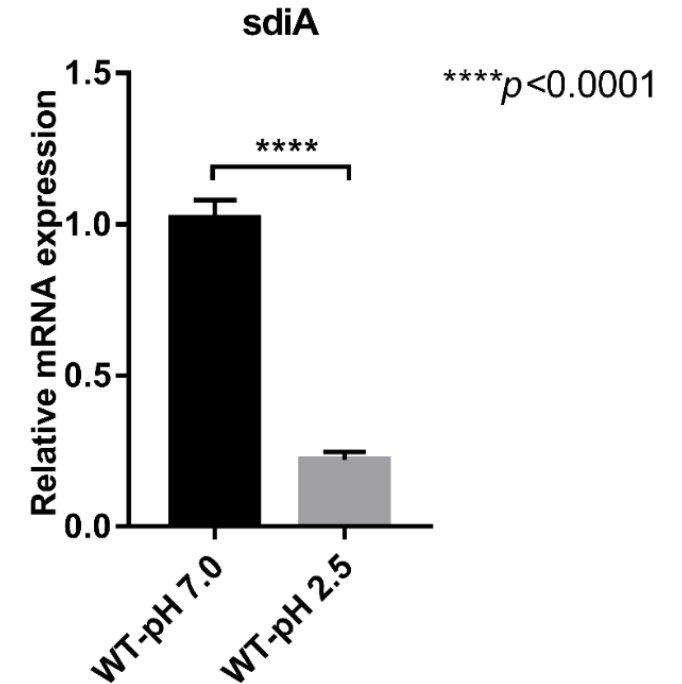
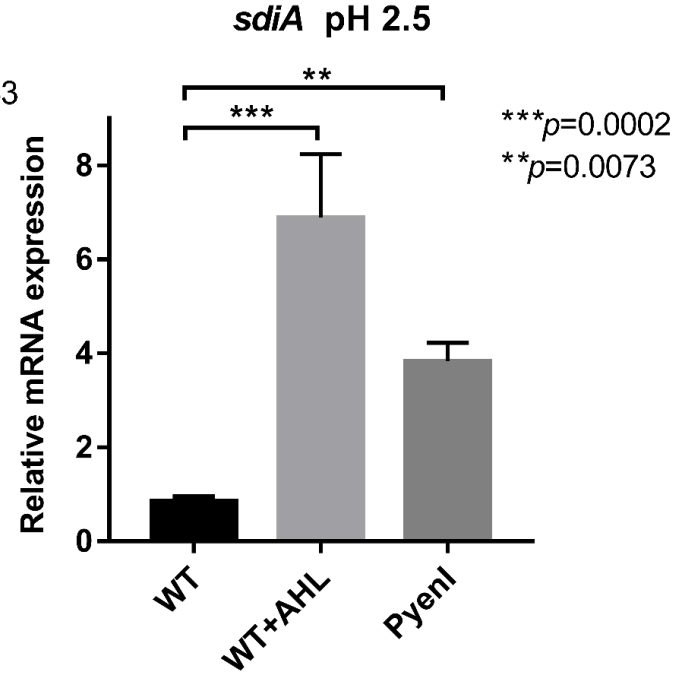


# Results

## Transcription study of *sdiA*, *rpoS* and *gadA* under AHLs



Expression of *sdiA* under AHLs at pH=2.5 or 7.0



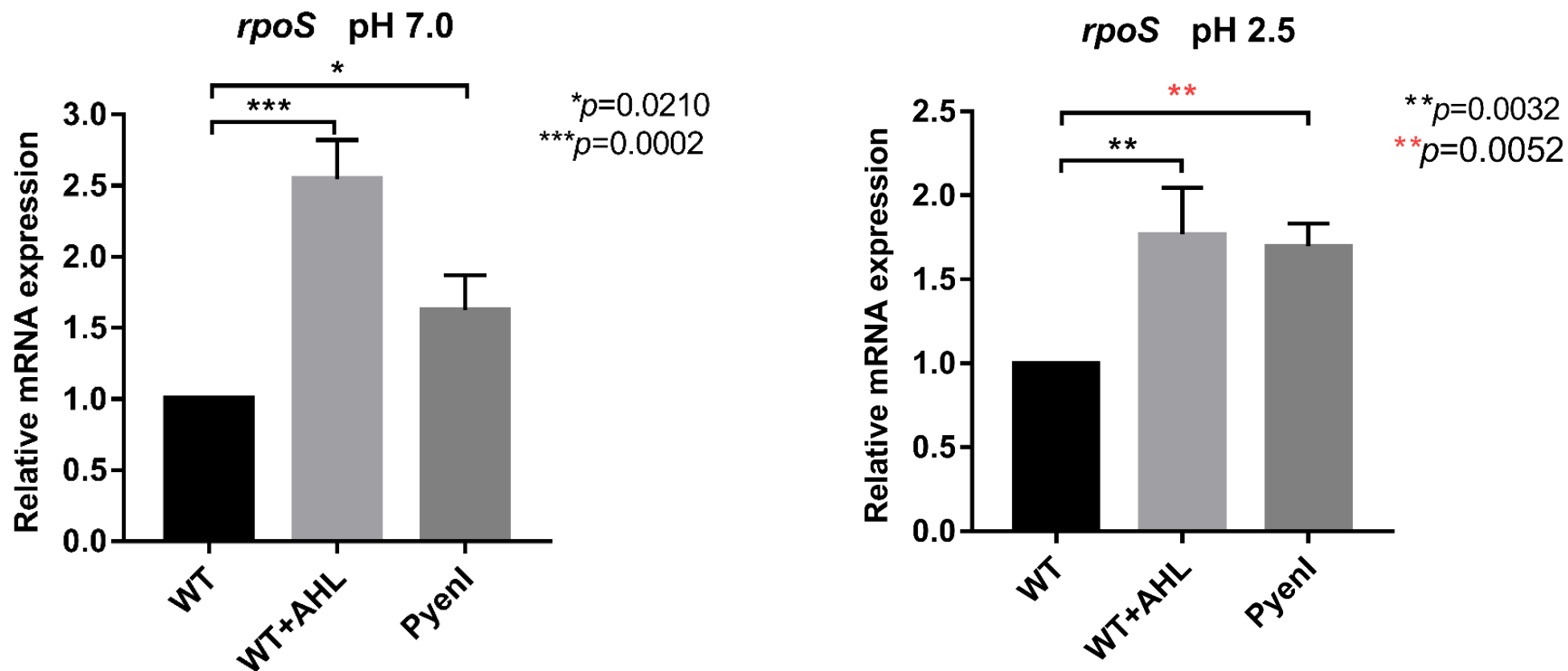
Expression of *sdiA* at pH=2.5 or 7.0

- The *sdiA* transcription is different in normal and acid environment under AHLs
- The functional activation of *sdiA* needs AHLs and acidic condition together



# Results

## Transcription study of *sdiA*, *rpoS* and *gadA* under AHLs



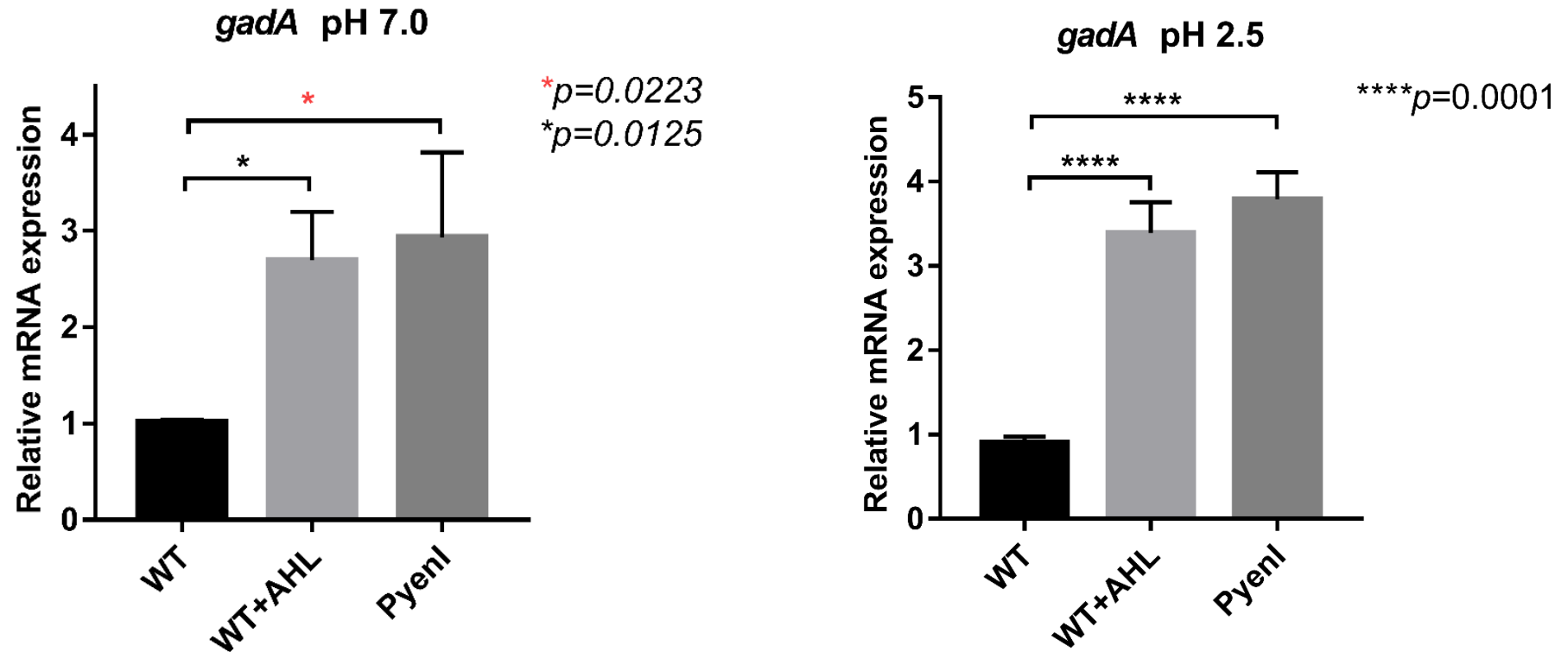
Expression of *rpoS* under AHLs at pH=2.5 or 7.0

The *rpoS* can be activated by AHLs in normal and acid environment



# Results

## Transcription study of *sdiA*, *rpoS* and *gadA* under AHLs



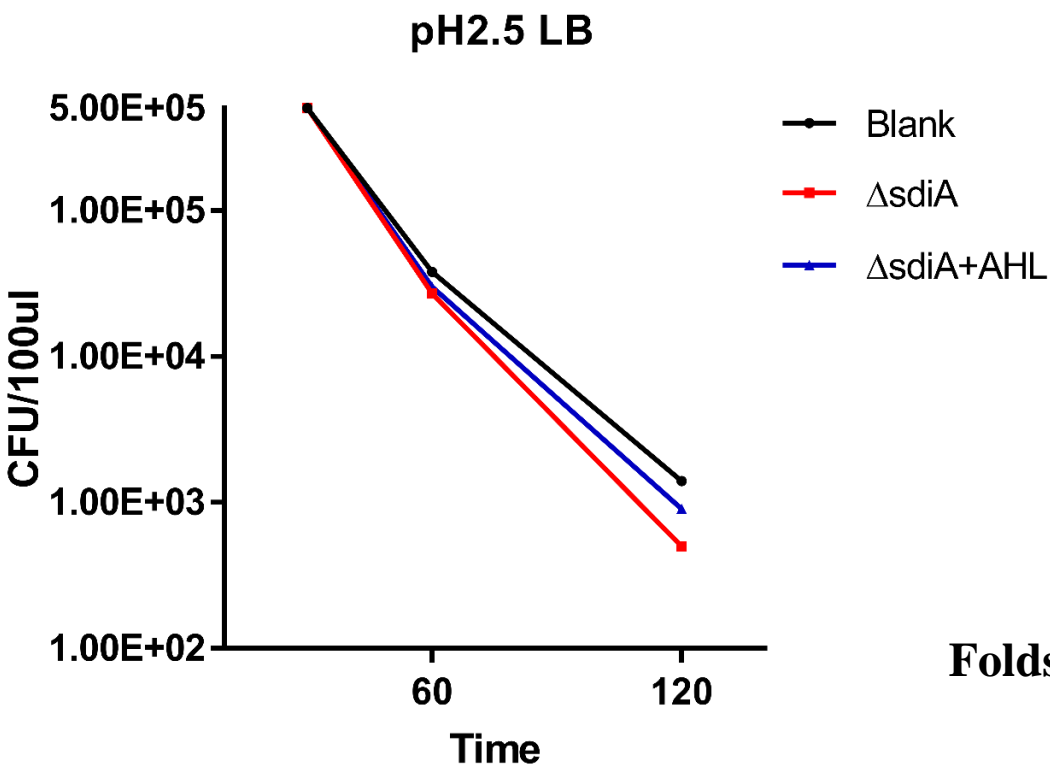
Expression of *gadA* under AHLs at pH=2.5 or 7.0

The *gadA* can be activated by AHLs in normal and acid environment



# Results

## AR assay of O157:H7, O157:H7 $\Delta sdiA$ , O157:H7 $\Delta sdiA$ +AHL



The decreased folds of  $\Delta sdiA$  and  $\Delta sdiA$ +AHL

	$\Delta sdiA$	$\Delta sdiA$ +AHL
1h	~0.71	~0.78
2h	~0.36	~0.64

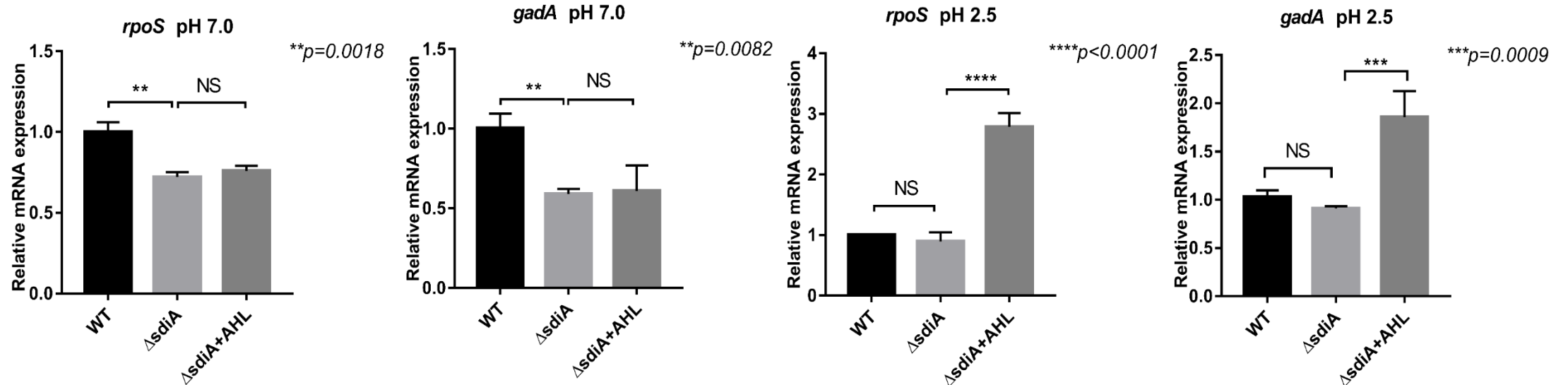
Folds= Survival of  $\Delta sdiA$  and  $\Delta sdiA$ +AHL/ Survival of blank

The *sdiA* deletion strain reduces the AR survival of O157:H7, and AHLs can enhance the AR survival of O157:H7  $\Delta sdiA$  strain



# Results

## Transcription study of *rpoS* and *gadA* in *O157:H7* $\Delta sdiA$ strain



Transcription of *rpoS* and *gadA* of  $\Delta sdiA$  at pH=7.0 and pH=2.5

In normal condition,  $\Delta sdiA$  and  $\Delta sdiA$ +AHL reduce the expression of *rpoS* and *gadA*  
In acidic condition,  $\Delta sdiA$  can't affect *rpoS* and *gadA*, and  $\Delta sdiA$ +AHL can upregulate *rpoS* and *gadA*

This result indicates that AHL with some unknown factors work synergetically to enhance AR

# Summary

1. AHLs can enhance the AR of enteropathogenic *E. coli* to a certain extent, especially the AHL molecules containing carbonyl, but does not increase the AR for non-enteric pathogenic *E. coli*.
2. The AHL-SdiA system can enhance AR by activating *rpoS* and *gad* AR system, and this regulatory mechanism mainly function in acid stress environments.
3. AHLs with some unknown factors were involved in the gene regulatory mechanism of AR for *E. coli*.





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**THANK YOU FOR  
THE ATTENTION !**





Welcome to Yangzhou!

