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Chlamydia trachomatis (Ct) is the leading cause of bacterial sexually transmitted diseases worldwide. The Ct Multi Locus Sequence Typing (MLST) scheme is effective in differentiating strain types (ST), deciphering transmission patterns and treatment failure, and identifying recombinant strains. Here, we analyzed 323 reference and clinical samples, including 58 samples from Russia, an area that has not previously been represented in Ct typing schemes, to expand our knowledge of the global diversification of Ct STs. The 323 samples resolved into 84 unique STs, a 3.23 higher typing resolution compared to the gold standard single locus *ompA* genotyping. Our MLST scheme showed a high discriminatory index, *D*, of 0.98 (95% CI 0.97–0.99) confirming the validity of this method for typing. Phylogenetic analyses revealed distinct branches for the phenotypic diseases of lymphogranuloma venereum, urethritis and cervicitis, and a sub-branch for ocular trachoma. Consistent with these findings, single nucleotide polymorphisms were identified that significantly correlated with each phenotype. While the overall number of unique STs per region was comparable across geographies, the number of STs was greater for Russia with a significantly higher ST/sample ratio of 0.45 (95% CI: 0.35–0.53) compared to Europe or the Americas ($p < 0.009$), which may reflect a higher level of sexual mixing with the introduction of STs from other regions and/or reassortment of alleles. Four STs were found to be significantly associated with a particular geographic region. ST23 [$p = 0.032$ (95% CI: 1–23)], ST34 [$p = 0.019$ (95% CI: 1.1–25)]; and ST19 [$p = 0.001$ (95% CI: 1.7–34.7)] were significantly associated

with Netherlands compared to Russia or the Americas, while ST 30 [$p = 0.031$ (95% CI: 1.1–17.8)] was significantly associated with the Americas. ST19 was significantly associated with Netherlands and Russia compared with the Americans [$p = 0.001$ (95% CI: 1.7–34.7) and $p = 0.006$ (95% CI: 1.5–34.6), respectively]. Additionally, recombinant strains were ubiquitous in the data set [106 (32.8%)], although Europe had a significantly higher number than Russia or the Americas ($p < 0.04$), the majority of which were from Amsterdam [43 (87.8%) of 49]. The higher number of recombinants in Europe indicates selective pressure and/or adaptive diversification that will require additional studies to elucidate.

Keywords: *Chlamydia trachomatis*, MLST, recombination, global diversification, allele mixing, reassortment

INTRODUCTION

The modern pathogenic *Chlamydiaceae* family has a rich evolutionary history, diverging from environmental *Chlamydiales* approximately seven million years ago (Horn et al., 2004). The human *Chlamydiaceae* spp. *Chlamydia trachomatis* (*Ct*) has infected human populations causing sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and the chronic ocular disease known as trachoma since the 27th century BC (Perkins and Hill, 2013). Trachoma was initially described in China and in the Eber's Papyrus of Egypt, and subsequently spread to Europe during the Crusades (Perkins and Hill, 2013). While improvements in hygiene and sanitation have eliminated trachoma from many global populations, the disease is still endemic in many developing countries of Africa, Central and South America, the South Pacific and Asia in addition to aboriginal populations in Australia (Perkins and Hill, 2013). Presently, *Ct* is the leading cause of preventable blindness and bacterial sexually transmitted infections (STIs) worldwide (Rowley et al., 2012) with estimates of over 250 million trachoma cases and 110 million annual STI cases, according to the World Health Organization (WHO Sexually transmitted infections [STIs], 2015).

Ct has evolved to include 19 serological variants (serovars) based on antibody typing of the major outer membrane protein (MOMP) with over 60 *ompA* genotypes (Dean and Millman, 1997; Batteiger et al., 2014; Isaksson et al., 2016; Peuchant et al., 2016; Schillinger et al., 2016), the gold standard typing technique for all *Chlamydiaceae* spp. The serovars are designated A through K, Ba, Da, Ia, Ja, and L_{1–3}, and L_{2a} while the *ompA* genotypes or strains are denoted by the same or by a number or letter after the conventional serovar name (e.g., D1; Ga) for new genotypes (Batteiger et al., 2014). These strains are responsible for ocular, urogenital and rectal infections. Ocular infections include trachoma, a chronic ocular disease, and ophthalmia neonatorum (Darville, 2005), an infection acquired during passage through a *Ct* infected birth canal (WHO Sexually transmitted infections [STIs], 2015). Urogenital strains cause not only ocular infections, which usually present as unilateral conjunctivitis (Dean et al., 2008), but also can ascend from the endocervix to cause sequelae such as pelvic inflammatory disease, infertility and ectopic pregnancy (Mårdh, 2004; Blas et al., 2007; Baud et al., 2008). Rectal infections can progress to proctitis and inguinal syndrome

(Sethi et al., 2009). While the later is caused primarily by the lymphogranuloma venereum strains (LGV) L_{1–3}, L_{2a}, L_{2b}, and L_{2c}, the former can be caused by most *Ct* strains, although strains B, Ba, and C are rarely detected in the urethra, endocervix or rectum (Danby et al., 2016; Labiran et al., 2016). Strain A is the only strain that is confined to the ocular mucosa (Dean, 2010).

Classification of *Ct* strains was conventionally performed by serotyping and more recently by *ompA* genotyping (Dean et al., 1992) since the organism is rarely cultured, a requirement for serotyping. Although *ompA* genotyping can be informative, the gene represents a mere 0.1% of the genome and is subject to immune selective pressure and recombination (Joseph et al., 2011, 2012). Finer, more holistic typing schemes are necessary to track recombination events, differentiate new and persistent infections (Götz et al., 2013), reinfection, transmission patterns and elucidate potential biomarkers. Three Multi Locus Sequence Typing (MLST) schemes have been developed for *Ct* (Klint et al., 2007; Pannekoek et al., 2008; Dean et al., 2009), of which only two meet the MLST criteria of using strictly housekeeping genes (Pannekoek et al., 2008; Dean et al., 2009). Our MLST scheme employs seven highly conserved housekeeping genes and successfully resolves reference and clinical *Ct* samples into LGV, trachoma, non-prevalent non-invasive urogenital, and prevalent non-invasive urogenital clonal complexes representing the respective diseases in addition to revealing evidence for recombination (Dean et al., 2009; Batteiger et al., 2014).

Partial and whole genome sequencing (WGS) have added considerably to our knowledge of the diversity of *Ct* and evidence for recombination. We initially bioinformatically identified recombination within *ompA* (Millman et al., 2001) and then among partial genome sequences of trachoma and sexually transmitted strains involving *ompA* and polymorphic membrane proteins (*pmp*) (Gomes et al., 2004, 2006, 2007). In the first publication of comparative WGS of *Ct*, we identified three major clades that were similar to the MLST disease-related clonal complexes with a subclade encompassing the trachoma strains within the non-prevalent non-invasive urogenital clade (Joseph et al., 2011). Subsequent WGS by our and other groups have substantiated these phylogenetic groupings as well as the recombinogenic nature of *Ct* (Harris et al., 2012; Joseph et al., 2012; Seth-Smith et al., 2013; Hadfield et al., 2017).

As whole genome sequencing remains cost-prohibitive for large sample sets and beyond the reach of most research

laboratories, in this work, 323 *Ct* reference and clinical samples from 15 countries and 5 continents were analyzed by MLST to provide a more comprehensive analysis of the global diversification of *Ct* strain types. We included 60 new clinical samples from Amsterdam, Netherlands, eight from Boston, MA, United States, and 58 from St. Petersburg, Russia, a region that had not previously been evaluated by MLST.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Populations and Ethics

Information on populations and ethics for samples collected previously are included in the publications by Dean et al. (2009) and Batteiger et al. (2014). Russian women were enrolled in the original studies following verbal informed consent after approval by the Local Institutional Review Board at DO Ott Institute of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences (RAMS), St. Petersburg, Russia (Shipitsyna et al., 2007). The studies were additionally approved by the Department of Clinical Investigations and Intellectual Property, St. Petersburg Medical Academy of Postgraduate Studies (North-Western State Medical University named after I.I. Mechnikov since 2011), under the Federal Agency of Public Health and Social Development of Roszdrav, in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki. For the 60 Dutch samples, each was obtained as previously described (Dean et al., 2009) according to the Declaration of Helsinki. The eight Boston samples were sent to Dr. Dean as de-identified samples with no trace to patient name and were not considered human subjects according to IRB at Children's Hospital Oakland Research Institute and NIH guidelines.

For the Russian samples, endocervical swabs were obtained consecutively from January 2006 to January 2008 in two university clinics in St. Petersburg, Russia, as described elsewhere (Smelov et al., 2009). To minimize the potential for low response from the enrolled women, samples were collected without obtaining personal information. After removal of any mucopus with a cotton swab, a Dacron swab was inserted into the endocervix, rotated and placed in an empty 5 mL vials. Specimens were kept at 4°C (39°F) for up to 4 days before they were shipped to the laboratory where they were stored at 4°C (39°F). Within 1–3 days (Shipitsyna et al., 2007) all samples were tested for the presence of *Ct* by commercial NAAT assays (Shalepo et al., 2006; Smelov et al., 2009). Additionally, either a conventional PCR (Lytech, Moscow, Russia) or a real-time PCR (Central Research Institute of Epidemiology, Moscow, Russia) were used. The results were confirmed in Amsterdam, Netherlands by the commercial real-time PCR (TaqMan, Applied Biosystems, United States) (Morré et al., 1999; Smelov et al., 2009) and CE-IVD certificated Presto CT-NG Assays (Goffin Molecular Technologies, Beek, Netherlands) (de Waaij et al., 2015).

Ct Reference and Clinical Samples

A total of 323 reference and clinical samples were analyzed that included 58 endocervical samples from St. Petersburg, 60 additional endocervical samples from Amsterdam and eight

endocervical samples from Boston, Massachusetts; 265 were already in the MLST database¹ including the 20 reference strains: A/SA-1, A/HAR13, B/TW5/OT, Ba/Apache2, C/TW3/OT, D/UW3/Cx, Da/TW-448, E/Bour, F/IC-Cal3, G/UW57/Cx, H/UW4/Cx, I/UW12/Ur, Ia/UW202, J/UW36/Cx, Ja/UW92, K/UW36/Cx, L₁/440, L₂/434, L_{2a}/UW396, L₃/404.

ompA Genotyping and MLST Analysis

Genomic DNA was purified from clinical isolates and *ompA* genotyped as described previously (Dean et al., 2009; Batteiger et al., 2014). Only the samples from St. Petersburg were provided as swabs; DNA was extracted and purified for these samples using our protocol as described in Joseph et al. (2014). MLST analysis examined seven housekeeping genes: *glyA*, *mdhC*, *pdhA*, *yhbG*, *pykF*, *lysS*, and *leuS*, with primers as described (Dean et al., 2009) (Supplementary Table 1). All seven housekeeping genes were amplified and sequenced as described (Batteiger et al., 2014). A consensus sequence was created from the forward and reverse sequence. The genes for each of the St. Petersburg, Amsterdam and Boston samples were each concatenated and queried against the 265 samples in the MLST database in addition to including these samples in the database. Allelic numbers and STs were assigned based on this query as described previously (Batteiger et al., 2014).

Phylogenetic Analysis and Strain Clustering

Using the concatenated sequences, dataset strain clustering and Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) analyses were performed as described (Batteiger et al., 2014). Briefly, this included visualizing clusters of related STs and non-related STs using eBURST² (Feil et al., 2004). Founder STs were identified by the highest number of single locus variants (SLV) branching from that particular ST (i.e., the clonal ancestor that diversifies into other STs). Clonal complexes generated by eBURST were defined as a group of STs separated by one SLV.

Phylogenetic trees were created by Maximum likelihood using the Symmetric+GI model, which provided the best fit for the data, in the R package phangorn (Schliep, 2010) to analyze the nucleotide sequence variation between the seven MLST loci for each ST. Tree nodes were verified with 1,000 bootstrap replicates. Alternative evolutionary pathways, such as horizontal gene transfer, were analyzed with SplitsTree³ using the splits decomposition method as described (Dean et al., 2009; Tamura et al., 2013). In addition, the sequence for each of the seven MLST loci for a sample were compared across the dataset and to the *ompA* genotype of the same sample to determine evidence for putative recombination.

Statistical Tests

Fisher's exact test was performed in R⁴ to test for significant region-specific *ompA* and ST clustering; a *p*-value of <0.05 was

¹<https://pubmlst.org/chlamydiales/>

²<http://eburst.mlst.net>

³www.splitstree.org

⁴<http://www.r-project.org>

considered significant. Confidence intervals were determined based on the method of Clopper-Pearson (Borkowf, 2006). Simpson's Diversity Index, D , was calculated for the MLST data as described (Simpson, 1949; Hunter and Gaston, 1988). A D -value of ≥ 0.95 was considered ideal for molecular typing techniques (van Belkum et al., 2007). The *ompA* genotypes were excluded from the analysis. The Benjamin-Hochberg FDR method (Benjamini and Hochberg, 1995) was used to correct p -values for multiple comparisons.

Samples were classified as putative recombinants when the sequences of the seven gene sequences that comprise the ST or any of the seven genes were non-concordant with each other or with the *ompA* genotype of the same sample.

PROC FREQ in SAS was used to identify SNPs associated with disease phenotype and Haplotype as described previously (Dean et al., 2009). Levene's test evaluated the variance across the dataset of the 323 samples. The Classification Index was used to determine significance of each SNP with a disease phenotype where a p -value of < 0.05 was considered significant.

DnaSP v5.10 (Librado and Rozas, 2009) was used to calculate nucleotide (nt) and haplotype (hd) to determine the genetic diversity and differentiation for regional subgroups on the concatenated sequences of the seven MLST genes. DnaSP considers the frequency of variants (STs) present in a population and also genetic distances that separate these variants from each other. Genetic population differentiation between regional subgroups was assessed using the pairwise fixation index (F_{st}) in Arlequin v3.5 (Excoffier and Lischer, 2010) with significance testing by permutation.

RESULTS

Characteristics and Geographic Distribution of Alleles

The characteristics of the alleles for each gene locus are shown in Supplementary Table 2. The number of alleles varied by gene locus, ranging from seven to 18, as did the number of polymorphic sites. We determined the allele frequencies by geographic region for the 78 alleles (Table 1). Thirty-two (41%) alleles were observed once. The highest number of unique alleles for a geographic region was in Western Europe at 16 alleles but the highest frequency was 43.3% for Russia, which was not statistically significant.

ST and *ompA* Distributions

For the 323 samples, 84 unique STs were identified (Supplementary Table 3). STs novel to the dataset were numbered consecutively in order of identification. Of those 84, 57 (67.9%) were singletons, with a relatively even distribution by geographic region (excluding Asia and Africa where the sample sizes were very small) with a higher percentage of singletons in Europe that was not significantly different (Table 2; $p = 0.08$). Table 2 also shows that the percentage of unique STs per region was highly similar. However, the ST/sample ratio was significantly greater for Russian than for European and American samples ($p < 0.009$). There were also significant differences in the

distribution of STs (Table 3). Dutch females ($n = 79$) were significantly more likely to be infected with ST23 ($p = 0.032$; 95% CI: 1–23) and ST34 ($p = 0.02$; 95% CI: 1.1–25) compared to Russian females ($n = 58$) and with ST19 ($p = 0.001$; 95% CI: 1.7–34.7) compared to American females ($n = 108$). Supplementary Table 4 shows the distribution of STs by geographic region.

There were 26 *ompA* genotypes observed in the dataset resulting in a 3.23 lower resolution than for STs. Excluding the STDs samples from South Africa, all samples available from Asia and Africa were from trachoma patients; 1 (7.1%) of 14 was a urogenital Da *ompA* genotype (ST 37) in Asia while 1 (5.9%) of 17 was a urogenital E genotype (ST 39) in Africa.

ompA genotype E ($n = 72$) was the most prevalent and associated with 18 STs with an ST to sample ratio of 0.25 (Supplementary Table 3). The distribution for the remaining *ompA* genotypes in descending order was G (38; 16 STs; ratio: 0.42); D (33; 16 STs; ratio: 0.48); F (30; 5 STs; ratio: 0.17); Ia (17; 4 STs; ratio: 0.25); K (15; 7 STs; ratio: 0.47); J (13; 9 STs; ratio: 0.69); B, H and I at 12 samples each (7, 6, and 3 STs, respectively; ratios: 0.58, 0.50, and 0.25, respectively); C (11; 5 STs; ratio: 0.45); A (9; 4 STs; ratio: 0.44); D2 and Ja at 4 samples each (1 and 3 STs, respectively; ratios: 0.25 and 0.75, respectively); Ba, D1, E6, F4 and Ia4 at 2 samples each (1 ST for each; ratio: 0.50 for each); and Da (1; 1 ST; ratio: 0.10).

The *ompA* distribution of urogenital strains varied across Europe, the Americas, and Russia. In Europe, *ompA* genotype D was significantly more prevalent than in other geographic regions ($p = 0.046$) and more frequent than the globally prevalent genotype E. In Russia, *ompA* genotype G was significantly more prevalent than in all other regions ($p = 0.001$). In the Americas, *ompA* genotype Ia was significantly more prevalent than the other regions ($p = 0.001$). In comparing female STD cohorts, Russian women were significantly more likely to be infected with E and G ($p = 0.001$ and 0.026, respectively) while Dutch women were significantly more likely to be infected with D and I ($p = 0.026$ and 0.002, respectively).

Simpson's Discriminatory Index was 0.98 (95% CI 0.97–0.99) for MLST and 0.70 (95% CI 0.67–0.73) for *ompA* genotyping.

Based on DnaSP, nucleotide diversity was lower in Russia ($P_i = 0.00216$) compared to Netherlands ($P_i = 0.00321$) and North America ($P_i = 0.00294$) (Table 4). However, Netherlands and North American datasets contained isolates from men and LGV samples. The phylogenetically disparate LGV samples appeared to contribute substantially to nucleotide diversity; nucleotide diversity dropped from 0.00250 to 0.00196 in Dutch women when the four LGV isolates were removed. When comparing non-LGV isolates from women in these regions, Russian women had the highest nucleotide diversity ($P_i = 0.00216$), followed by North American women ($P_i = 0.00210$), and Dutch women ($P_i = 0.00196$).

Assessing population differentiation between regional subgroups by F_{st} revealed significant differences between most regional subgroup pairwise comparisons (Table 5). African and Asian subgroups exhibited high F_{st} values in all comparisons, indicating those regions were distinct from others in the dataset. This is not surprising given the small sample size and the fact that these samples are from two distinct trachoma populations.

TABLE 1 | Allele frequencies by geographic region by locus.

Gene locus	No. alleles	Africa <i>n</i> = 21 (%)	Western Europe <i>n</i> = 109 (%)	Russia <i>n</i> = 58 (%)	Asia <i>n</i> = 13 (%)	Americas <i>n</i> = 122 (%)	Classification index <i>p</i> -value
<i>glyA</i>	12	1 (14.29)	1 (12.84)			1 (7.37)	<0.001
			3 (50.46)	3 (62.07)	3 (30.77)	2 (0.82)	
		3 (80.95)	4 (0.92)	6 (34.48)		3 (42.62)	
		6 (4.76)	5 (1.83)	10 (1.72)	6 (7.69)		
			6 (32.11)	11 (1.72)	7 (61.54)	6 (48.36)	
<i>mdhC</i>	7	1 (14.29)	1 (11.93)			1 (8.19)	<0.001
		3 (76.19)	2 (2.75)	3 (63.79)	3 (100.00)	3 (68.85)	
		4 (4.76)	3 (70.64)	4 (34.48)			
		5 (4.76)	4 (12.84)	7 (1.72)		4 (22.95)	
			6 (1.83)				
<i>pdhA</i>	8	1 (4.76)					<0.001
		3 (95.24)	2 (0.92)	3 (94.83)	3 (100)	3 (97.54)	
			3 (91.74)	5 (3.45)			
			4 (2.75)	8 (1.72)		5 (1.64)	
			5 (3.67)	7 (0.92)		6 (0.82)	
<i>ybhG</i>	11				1 (7.69)		<0.001
		2 (4.76)	2 (31.19)	2 (44.83)	4 (7.69)	2 (43.44)	
		6 (80.96)	3 (0.92)	6 (48.28)	5 (7.69)		
		8 (14.29)	5 (1.83)	9 (5.17)	6 (76.92)	3 (0.82)	
			6 (48.62)	11 (1.72)		5 (9.83)	
<i>pykF</i>	10		1 (15.60)			1 (8.20)	<0.001
		3 (71.43)	6 (49.54)	6 (53.45)	3 (92.31)	2 (2.46)	
		6 (9.52)	7 (33.03)	7 (37.93)		4 (0.82)	
		7 (4.76)	8 (0.92)	10 (8.62)	7 (7.69)	5 (0.82)	
			9 (0.92)			6 (36.07)	
<i>lysS</i>	12		1 (6.42)	1 (8.62)		1 (7.38)	<0.001
		4 (23.81)	4 (74.31)	4 (74.14)	4 (7.69)	2 (0.82)	
		5 (71.43)	8 (18.35)	8 (13.79)	5 (30.77)	3 (0.82)	
		7 (4.76)	10 (0.92)	11 (1.72)	6 (61.54)	4 (73.77)	
				12 (1.72)		8 (14.75)	
<i>leusS</i>	18					9 (2.46)	<0.001
		2 (4.76)	3 (75.23)	3 (79.31)	2 (7.69)	3 (67.21)	
		3 (4.76)	4 (0.92)	6 (8.62)	7 (84.62)		
		7 (9.52)	5 (0.92)	8 (3.45)		6 (5.74)	
		9 (66.67)	6 (3.67)	14 (1.72)	10 (7.69)	8 (14.75)	
No. novel alleles per region	78	3 (12.5%)	16 (40%)	13 (43.3%)	5 (29.4)	13 (36.1%)	
Total no. alleles		24	40	30	17	36	

*Numbers are arranged vertically for each locus to represent the individual alleles (e.g., *glyA* alleles are assigned 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7...12 because there are 12 alleles for this locus). Alleles marked in boldface are specific for a single geographic region. *n*, number of samples.

TABLE 2 | Strain type (ST) diversity and recombinants by geographic region.

Geographic location	Number of Samples	Number of ST's	ST/sample ratio (95% CI)	Number ST Singletons (%)	Number Novel STs per Region (%)	Number Recombinant Samples (%)
Europe	109	28	0.26 (0.18–0.39)	17 (61)	19 (68)	49 (45)**
Americas	122	34	0.28 (0.20–0.40)	16 (47)	24 (71)	28 (23)
Asia	13	8	0.57 (0.48–0.66)	5 (63)	8 (100)	1 (7.7)
Africa	21	7	0.35 (0.26–0.44)	5 (71)	5 (71)	8 (38.1)
Russia	58	26	0.45* (0.35–0.53)	14 (54)	18 (69)	20 (34.5)
Total	323			57		106 (32.8)

*Significantly increased compared to Europe and the Americas ($p < 0.009$); Asia and Africa were excluded due to small numbers. **Significantly increased compared to Russia and the Americas ($p < 0.04$).

TABLE 3 | Differences in ST distribution by geographic region.

Regions of comparison*	ST	Significance
Netherlands vs. Russia	23	$p = 0.03199$ (95% CI: 1–23)
Netherlands vs. Russia	34	$p = 0.0188$ (95% CI: 1.1–25)
Netherlands vs. Americas	19	$p = 0.000399$ (95% CI: 1.7–34.7)
Americas vs. Netherlands	39	$p = 0.03127$ (95% CI: 1.1–17.8)
Russia vs. Americas	19	$p = 0.005752$ (95% CI: 1.5–34.6)

*Women were analyzed separately for the purposes of comparing similar cohorts.

Though Western Europe was significantly different from all subgroups, the Russia and Americas subgroups were not significantly different by Fst. However, this could be attributed to the higher LGV representation in the Western European samples (15.5%) in comparison to the American samples (7.3%), and Russian samples (0%). Concordantly, when LGV samples were removed from the Western European dataset, Western Europe was no longer significantly different from Russia (Table 5). When evaluating only women without LGV from the Netherlands, Russia, and North America, the Russian women were not significantly different from the American and Netherlands women (Supplementary Table 8).

Phylogenetic Relationships and Evidence for Recombination

The phylogenetic relationships were initially evaluated by eBURST, which revealed clonal clusters (CC) similar to what we reported previously (Figure 1) (Dean et al., 2009; Batteiger et al., 2014) but with the addition of an LGV cluster. These included CC-A encompassing trachoma STs, CC-B with non-invasive, non-prevalent urogenital STs, CC-C with non-invasive prevalent STs and CC-D that included LGV STs. The predicted founders were ST19, ST23, ST34, and ST39 (Figure 1 and Supplementary Table 5). The 57 singleton STs are denoted by a gray circle alone or within a colored circle, representing a specific geographic region, but were not associated with any specific region.

The tree (Figure 2) revealed ST branches similar to the eBURST clusters; both had branches or clusters for the disease phenotypic groups of LGV, non-invasive prevalent urogenital, and non-invasive non-prevalent urogenital STs. However, the trachoma STs formed a subgroup of the non-invasive non-prevalent urogenital branch. In addition, within disease groups,

STs branched from central nodes by geographic region. These nodes contained, in general, large numbers of STs from diverse locations. For example, the founders ST19, ST23, ST34, and ST39 located at nodes in the tree contain STs from Europe, Russia, and the Americas. The amino acid tree showed a similar phylogeny (Supplementary Figure 1).

The Splitstree decomposition tree revealed evidence for a network structure consistent with homologous recombination (Figure 3). This was demonstrated by the interconnecting networks specifically among the ST founders ST19, ST23, ST34, and ST39 and other STs on the network in addition to the canonical evolutionary pathway shown in the tree (Figure 2). Supplementary Figure 2 shows the amino acid tree.

The Splitstree data are consistent with findings in the MLST and *ompA* genotyping data. Samples were classified as recombinant when the sequences of the seven genes that determine the ST were non-concordant with each other or with the seven gene sequences of the *Ct* genotype associated with the *ompA* genotype (Table 6), denoted in bold in Supplementary Table 3. There was no evidence of any recombination among the seven ST genes for any sample, although this would conceivably be possible.

A total of 106 (32.8%) samples were considered putative recombinants. Excluding Asia and Africa where the sample sizes were small, Europe had a significantly higher number of recombinants than Russia and the Americas ($p < 0.04$) (Table 2), where, of the 109 samples, 49 were recombinant with 43 (87.8%) from the Netherlands. While *ompA* genotypes were generally consistent across samples of the same ST, many cases of recombinant strains were observed. For example, ST19 ($n = 40$) was primarily associated with *ompA* genotype G (37.5%) but eight different *ompA* genotypes (B, D, E, G, H, I, J, K) were also associated with this ST. The majority of these samples were from St. Petersburg and Amsterdam (Supplementary Table 3). ST23 ($n = 32$) was also associated with eight *ompA* genotypes (B, D, G, H, I, Ia, J, K) but the most frequent was Ia (47%). In contrast, the most geographically prevalent ST was ST39 ($n = 45$) where 95% were associated with *ompA* genotypes E. There were also 24 singletons that were recombinants (Table 6).

Table 7 shows the *ompA* genotype, ST and allelic SNPs, if present, associated with each of the eight Boston samples added to the dataset. Under the column denoted ST sequence homology are the *Ct ompA* genotype sequences to which the sequences of the seven MLST genes are identical. For example, sample J/259b

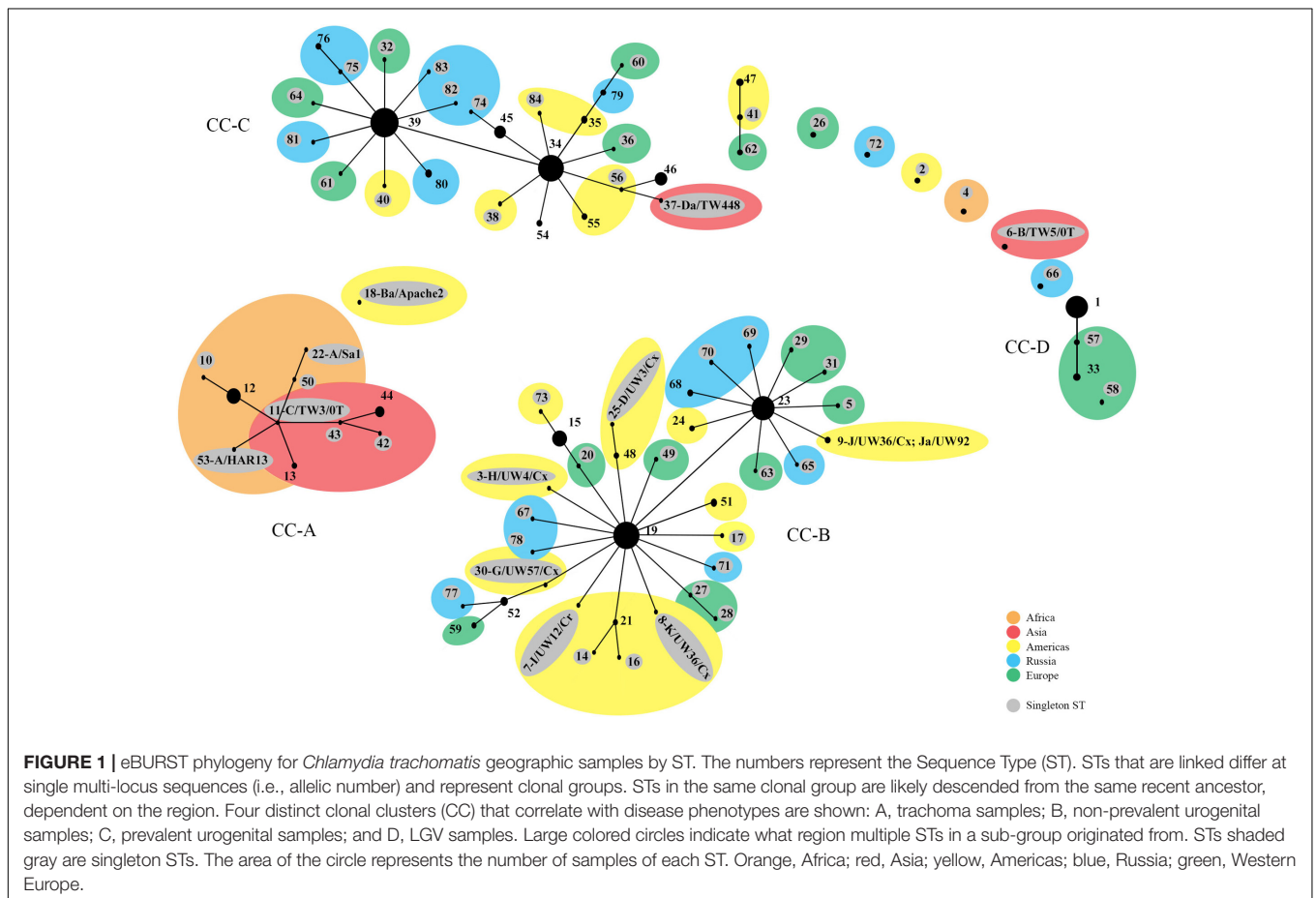
TABLE 4 | Nucleotide and haplotype diversity.

Subgroup	N	Nucleotide diversity(nt)	Haplotype diversity(hd)
Russia	58	0.00216 ± 0.00007	0.917 ± 0.023
Netherlands	79	0.00321 ± 0.00030	0.879 ± 0.020
North America	116	0.00294 ± 0.00023	0.926 ± 0.012
North American Women	66	0.00210 ± 0.00009	0.925 ± 0.016
Netherlands Women	72	0.00250 ± 0.00026	0.863 ± 0.024
Netherlands Women non-LGV	68	0.00196 ± 0.00011	0.846 ± 0.026

TABLE 5 | Pairwise population differentiation (Fst) for regional subgroups.

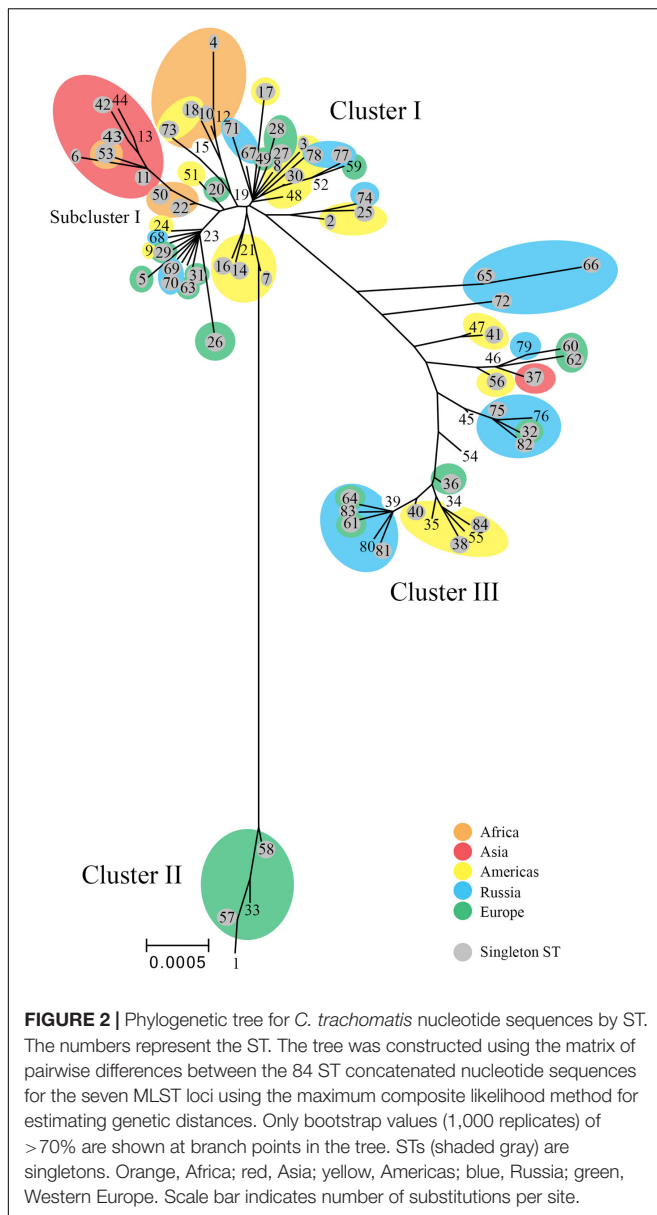
	Africa	Asia	Americas	Russia	Western Europe	Western Europe non-LGV	Americas non-LGV
Africa		0.23421*	0.27401*	0.33802*	0.17265*		
Asia			0.36715*	0.44728*	0.29367*		
Americas				0.01482 ns	0.02892*		
Russia					0.05425*	0.00305 ns	0.00884 ns
Western Europe							
Western Europe non-LGV							0.02627*
Americas non-LGV							

* $p < 0.05$ by permutation test ($n = 110$).



has four SNPs that are different from the sequences of the seven genes for reference and clinical J strains in the database. These SNPs are identical to the sequences of strains G and K, which

suggests that this sample is a recombinant between J and G or K strains. Another example is sample D/256b; the *ompA* genotype is D but the MLST sequences of the seven genes are identical to



reference and clinical F strains in the database. Therefore, it is a recombinant between D and F. Five (62.5%) of the eight Boston samples were putative recombinants. Supplementary Table 5 shows similar data for the 60 new samples from Amsterdam. For the Amsterdam samples, 43 (54.4%) of 79 samples were recombinants. Likewise, Supplementary Table 6 represents the data from St. Petersburg where 20 (34.5%) of 58 samples were recombinants.

Disease Phenotypes Are Associated with Specific Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs)

Table 8 shows the SNPs that are specific for each Haplotype and disease phenotype group. These groups include invasive

urogenital disease caused by LGV strains (Haplotype 1), non-invasive urogenital disease group that includes the most prevalent worldwide strains including D, Da, E, and F (Haplotype 2), and trachoma caused by ocular A, B, Ba, and C strains (Haplotype 3). The non-invasive group includes clinical Ja strains that are recombinants of E and F strains. There are 14 SNPs that are specific for the LGV disease group, and each SNP independently identifies this group and Haplotype. The same is true for the non-invasive disease group. However, the two SNPs for the trachoma group together are specific for this group and Haplotype 3. Based on the Classification Index, the SNPs were not uniformly distributed.

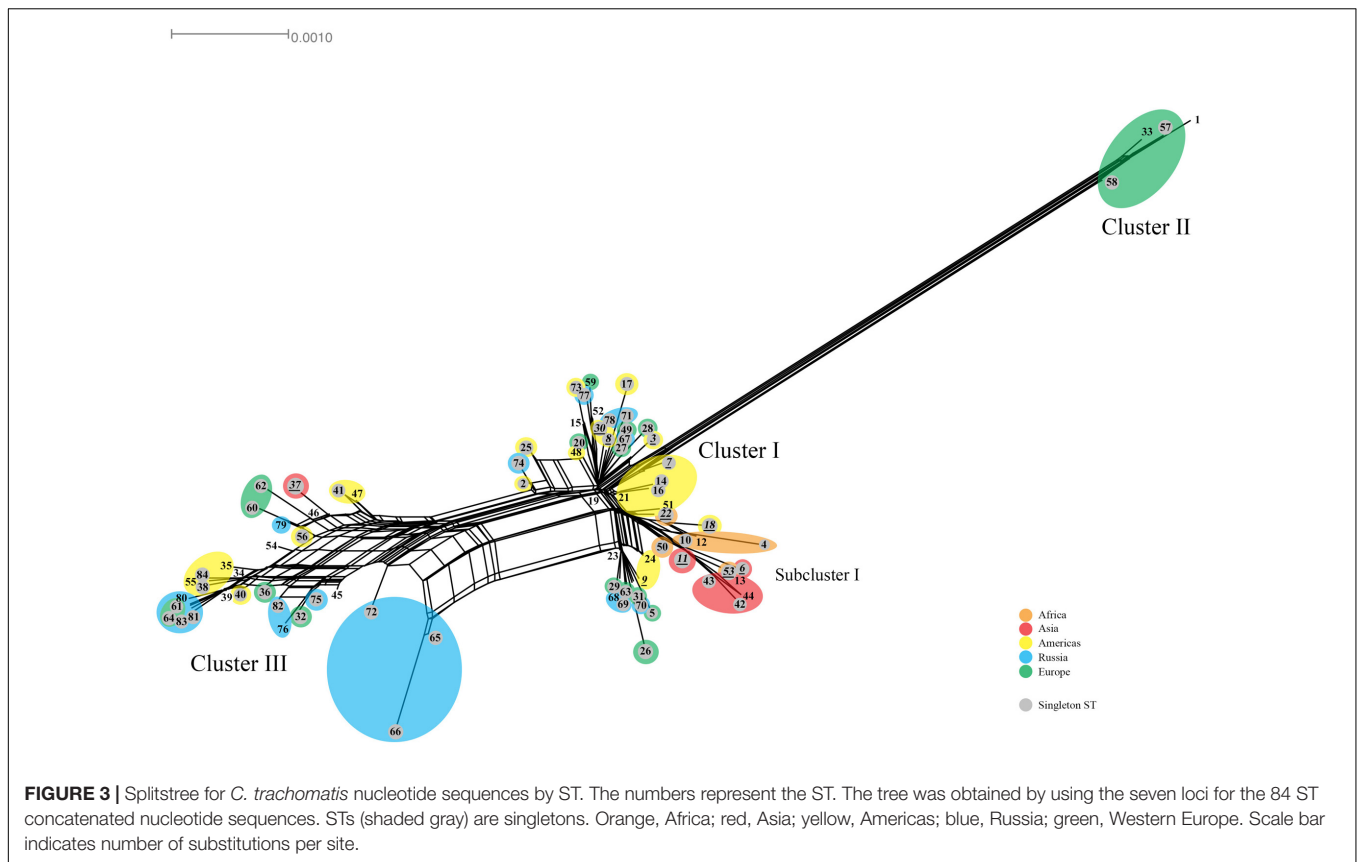
DISCUSSION

The evolution of straining-typing techniques for bacteria have progressed from identifying variations in gel electrophoresis patterns and melt curve analyses to sequencing single pathogen-specific genes and MLST. While typing based on WGS would be ideal, this remains out of reach given the current expense and lack, in general, of sufficient DNA from clinical samples. However, it should be mentioned that we and others have been developing techniques to enrich DNA recovery directly from urogenital and ocular patient sample types with some success (Seth-Smith et al., 2013; Joseph et al., 2014; Hadfield et al., 2017).

ompA genotyping remains widely used among *Chlamydia* investigators for molecular epidemiologic and comparative studies of strains between STD and trachoma populations. However, *ompA* encodes for the MOMP, which is under immune selection. MLST offers a more robust typing scheme by employing 6–8 housekeeping genes as relatively immutable signatures for strain typing (Maiden et al., 1998; Dean et al., 2009) and has become an important tool for studying both the epidemiology and evolution of human pathogens (Urwin and Maiden, 2003), including *Ct*.

In this study, we included 58 samples from Russia and eight from Boston, regions that have not previously been represented in *Ct* typing schemes. The 323 reference and clinical samples resolved into 84 STs, representing a 3.23 higher typing resolution over *ompA* genotyping consistent with previous studies (Dean et al., 2009; Gravningen et al., 2012; Batteiger et al., 2014; Herrmann et al., 2015). The high discriminatory index *D* of 0.98 (95% CI 0.97–0.99) and narrow CI for our MLST scheme confirms the validity of this typing method.

We noted an overall high rate of novel STs (67.9%), which may be expected because entire populations were not sampled and the numbers are small for some areas such as Asia and Africa. For example, there were 109 samples from Europe, representing six different countries, and 19 (68%) of the 28 STs were novel. Our findings are similar to other studies in Europe where the rates for novel STs were 62% among high school students in Norway (Gravningen et al., 2012), 65% among Tunisian sex workers (Gharsallah et al., 2016) and 62% among young adults in Amsterdam (Versteeg et al., 2015). Additional novel STs are likely to be identified as new regions undergo MLST. Indeed in



Russia, of the 26 STs that contained Russian samples, 18 (69%) were novel.

A significantly higher ST to sample ratio of 0.45 was identified for Russian compared to European and American samples ($p < 0.009$). This was not explained by the number of STs unique to a region as the percentages were relatively uniform across the geographies (Table 2). However, Russian women had the highest nucleotide diversity ($P_i = 0.00216$), followed by North American women ($P_i = 0.00210$), and Dutch women ($P_i = 0.00196$), excluding LGV strains that are present only in the female Dutch population and would therefore skew the data. There are no males in the Russian dataset and therefore only women were evaluated here for the three locals. However, when assessing population differentiation for women from the Netherlands, Russia, and North America, excluding those with LGV, there were no significant differences (Supplementary Table 8). A larger sample size for each group would likely provide better resolution of the data. The increased sample ratio for Russia may reflect sexual mixing among the Russian STD cohort with the introduction of STs from other regions or reassortment of existing alleles. Of the 30 alleles present in Russia, 23 (76.7%) were found in other geographic regions, supporting the geographic influx of STs. Reassortment of alleles that generate new STs is also possible given the higher frequency of novel alleles in Russia at 43.3%. It has been shown that recombinational replacements are the major contributors to clonal diversity in contrast to point mutations among bacteria (Spratt et al., 2001).

In support of our hypothesis, Hadfield et al. (2017) has shown that *Ct* evolves within genomic 'ecotypes' but also outside of these niches via recombination, consistent with prior genomic studies (Harris et al., 2012; Joseph et al., 2012). However, without a larger sample size from St. Petersburg, the relative overall diversity of STs will remain unknown, and we can only speculate as to the degree of reassortment based on the alleles comprising the STs that represent only the currently sampled cohort of women in Russia.

Excluding singleton STs, STs 23 and 34 were significantly associated with female STD patients in Amsterdam. We had previously noted that *ompA* genotyping is valuable as a separate adjunctive typing method along with MLST as it allows comparison with strains typed only by *ompA* and also can provide evidence for transmission and treatment efficacy as well as putative recombination (Batteiger et al., 2014). But *ompA* should not be included as one of the genes in the MLST scheme because it is under immune selection (Maiden et al., 1998; Dean et al., 2009). We performed *ompA* genotyping on all samples in the database and, for ST23, the samples comprised Ia, B, D, G, H, I, J, and K genotypes while for ST34 they included genotypes F, D, D2, E, J, and Ja (Supplementary Table 3). The high number of *ompA* genotypes for these two STs suggests a high rate of recombination. For example, the sequences of the seven MLST genes matched those of reference strain Ia/UW202 for 47% of the ST23 samples where the *ompA* genotype was also Ia. However, the remaining samples that also matched the seven MLST Ia/UW202

TABLE 6 | *Chlamydia trachomatis* recombinant samples in the dataset.

ST	Number of samples for ST	<i>ompA</i> genotype that matches ST sequences	Additional <i>ompA</i> genotypes for ST	Number of recombinants (%)*	Geographic region
2	1	D	None	1 (100)	Americas
3	1	H	None	1 (100)	Americas
8	1	K	None	1 (100)	Americas
12	12	A	B, Ba	6 (50)	Tanzania
15	12	K	J	5 (42)	Americas, Russia
16	1	J	None	1 (100)	Americas
17	1	E	None	1 (100)	Americas
19	40	G	B, D, E, H, I, J, K	25 (62.5)	Americas, Europe, Russia
20	1	D	None	1 (100)	Europe
23	32	Ia	A, B, D, G, H, I, J, K	17 (53)	Americas, Europe, Russia
26	1	G	None	1 (100)	Europe
34	38	F	D, E, J, Ja	17 (45)	Americas, Europe
37	1	Da	None	1 (100)	Asia
39	45	E	D, G	2 (4.4)	Americas, Russia
41	1	Ja	None	1 (100)	Americas
45	8	F	D, E	5 (62.5)	Americas, Europe, Russia
46	9	E	D	1 (11)	Europe
49	1	K	None	1 (100)	Europe
50	1	B	None	1 (100)	Africa
53	1	A	None	1 (100)	Africa
60	1	D	None	1 (100)	Europe
62	1	D	None	1 (100)	Europe
65	1	K	None	1 (100)	Russia
66	1	B	None	1 (100)	Russia
68	2	B and G	B and G	2 (100)	Russia
69	1	J	None	1 (100)	Russia
71	1	E	None	1 (100)	Russia
72	1	D	None	1 (100)	Russia
73	1	J	None	1 (100)	Americas
74	1	G	None	1 (100)	Russia
78	1	D	None	1 (100)	Russia
79	2	D and Da	D and Da	2 (100)	Russia
84	1	K	None	1 (100)	Americas

*106 (32.8%) samples were recombinants among the entire database of 323.

sequences had B, D, G, H, I, J, and K *ompA* genotypes, indicating a mismatch between the MLST and *ompA* sequences, providing evidence for recombination (Supplementary Table 3). Similarly, STs such as 15, 19, and 34 had numerous samples, some of which were putative recombinants. These findings are supported by partial and WGSs where *ompA* has been shown to be involved in frequent exchange and is considered a hotspot for recombination (Gomes et al., 2007; Harris et al., 2012; Joseph et al., 2012). For example, phylogenetic analyses indicate clustering of *ompA* Ja genotypes, which are uncommon, with highly prevalent *ompA*, D, E, and F genotypes (similar to ST34) where hotspots of recombination were noted in *ompA* and *pmpEFGH* genomic regions (Gomes et al., 2007; Joseph et al., 2012). Clusters of *ompA* D genotypes with less prevalent strains G, Ia, and J, similar to our strains in ST23, have also been noted (Harris et al., 2012). In a recent study, *ompA* Ba and C trachoma strains isolated from Australian Aborigines were found to cluster with urogenital D, Da, E, and F strains with hotspots also involving

ompA and *pmpEFGH* (Andersson et al., 2016). Of course, with WGS, many additional genes have been found to be involved in recombination (Harris et al., 2012; Joseph et al., 2012; Hadfield et al., 2017).

To confirm putative recombinants, we had described that the sequences of the seven MLST genes were individually aligned to the respective gene for all samples in the database and compared these results to the *ompA* genotype of the same sample. For example, **Table 7** shows the five putative recombinants among the eight Boston samples. Sample D/256b had an *ompA* genotype of D but the seven MLST sequences were an exact match to the seven sequences of F. In some cases, one or more of the seven genes matched two different strains as was the case for samples J/253b and J/259b. Other examples of recombinants are shown in Supplementary Tables 6 and 7 for the Dutch and Russian samples, respectively. In addition, Splitstree analysis was performed and revealed ancillary evidence for a network structure consistent with homologous recombination

TABLE 7 | Evidence for recombination among the Boston, MA, United States *C. trachomatis* samples.

Sample	ompA genotype	ST sequence homology*	ST	Location of allelic SNPs	
J/253b	J	G or K	15 (G/K)	G: pdhA: 339 C→T lysS: 34 A→G	K: pykF: 40 G→A lysS: 34 A→G
la/258b	la	la	23 (la)		
F/255b	F	F	34 (F)		
D/256b	D	F	34 (F)		
D/257b	D	E	39 (E)		
E/260b	E	E	39 (E)		
J/259b	J	G or K	73 (G/K)	G: pdhA: 339 C→T yhbG: 433 G→C lysS: 34 A→G leuS: 282 T→C	K: yhbG: 433 G→C pykF: 40 G→A lysS: 34 A→G leuS: 282 T→C
K/254b	K	F	84 (F)		

*Bold denotes putative recombinant. *The seven ST genes of the sample have the highest homology to the seven genes of the strain that has the ompA genotype denoted in the column (e.g., for sample D/256b that has a D ompA genotype, the seven ST genes were identical to the seven genes of F strains in the database where the ompA genotype was also F for those strains).*

TABLE 8 | Single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNP) correlate with haplotype and disease phenotype.

Gene Locus	Number of SNPs per locus	Haplotype 1 All clinical and reference invasive LGV strains	Haplotype 2 Prevalent reference and clinical Da, E, F, and Ja strains (except clinical D/83s, D84s, D2s, D/EC, D/LC, D/SotonD5, D/SotonD6, D43nl, D/202nl, D/203nl, D/204nl, D/205nl, D/206nl, D/207nl, E87e, and reference D/UW3/Cx)	Haplotype 3 All reference and clinical trachoma A, B, Ba, and C strains (except reference strain A/Sa-1 and strain B/Jali20)
		Disease phenotype: LGV*	Disease phenotype: urogenital non-invasive*	Disease phenotype: trachoma*
<i>glyA</i>	1–7			
<i>fmhC</i>	1–5			
<i>pdhA</i>	1–6			
<i>yhbG</i>	1–21	SNPs 2–6 8–12 16	SNPs 15 18 20	
<i>pykF</i>	1–9		SNPs 6 7	SNP 3
<i>lysS</i>	1–11			
<i>leuS</i>	1–12	SNPs 1 5 11		SNP 3
Total	71	14	5	2

LGV, lymphogranuloma venereum. * $p < 0.01$.

(Figure 2). While these data confirm the recombinant nature of the samples, it is likely that there are other genetic regions that have undergone recombination and, therefore, it is not possible to determine the extent of genetic exchange unless WGS is performed (Joseph et al., 2011, 2012; Harris et al., 2012; Hadfield et al., 2017).

Overall, there were 106 (32.8%) putative recombinants (Table 2 and Supplementary Table 3), which is similar to our previous studies and those of other investigators (Dean et al., 2009; Gravningen et al., 2012; Batteiger et al., 2014). Each geographic region contained recombinants, although Europe had a significantly higher number than Russia and the Americas ($p < 0.04$) (Table 2). This result was skewed by the higher rate of recombinants among the Amsterdam population, which would

be expected given that the samples came from individuals at high risk for STDs where sexual mixing and import of strains from tourists could increase the chances for multiple *Ct* strain infections and opportunities for recombination. Indeed, rates of *Ct* mixed infections as high as 6 to 16% have been reported among men who have sex with men and heterosexual populations, respectively, in Europe, including the Netherlands (Quint et al., 2011; Rodriguez-Dominguez et al., 2015).

The most geographically prevalent ST was 39 with 45 samples, 95% of which had an *ompA* genotype of E; there were only two recombinants in this ST: one from Boston with a D *ompA* genotype and one from St. Petersburg with a G genotype. E genotypes are known to be the most globally prevalent (Lysén et al., 2004; Millman et al., 2004; Spaargaren et al., 2004;

Lee et al., 2006; Gharsallah et al., 2016) and the least recombinogenic based on whole genome sequencing (Joseph et al., 2011, 2012). In our dataset, there were 72 E genotypes with an ST to sample ratio of 0.25; only the F genotype, the 4th most prevalent genotype with 30 samples, had a lower ratio at 0.17. The lower ratios indicate greater fitness as these strains are prevalent worldwide and have fewer allelic variants that resolve into fewer STs. This is borne out by the fact that only eight (11%) of the 72 E genotypes and 0 of the 30 F genotypes were recombinants (Supplementary Table 3). A recent genome study that included 149 E strains supports our conclusions (Hadfield et al., 2017). Genotype D was also highly prevalent but had a much higher ratio at 0.48, and 29 (88%) of 33 samples were recombinants.

We previously found that phylogeny based on MLST resolved the STs along disease phenotype demarcations. As samples have been added to the database, the phenotype resolution has increased to include the LGV phenotype, denoted as clonal cluster-D (CC-D; **Figure 1**). Similarly, the tree shows the three main clusters with the trachoma STs as a Subcluster of Cluster I, which resembles those of other reports (Herrmann et al., 2015).

To determine whether the phenotypic groups could be more finely discriminated, we analyzed the database for SNPs that independently or together would identify a phenotype. As in our previous studies (Dean et al., 2009; Batteiger et al., 2014), specific SNPs correlated with LGV, non-invasive urogenital disease and trachoma. Haplotype 2, which included the non-invasive urogenital disease group required exclusion of strains that were recombinants, specifically D genotypes.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Conceived and designed experiments: DD and VS. Wrote the paper: VS, AV, and DD. Assisted with editing the paper: EFvE, MPN, LAS, HJCdV, and SAM. Performed experiments: EFvE, MPN, TM, and BS. Analyzed data: VS, AV, EFvE, MPN, TM, BS, RW, and DD. Contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools: VS, LAS, HJCdV, JD, CE, SAM, and DD.

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SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

The Supplementary Material for this article can be found online at: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmicb.2017.02195/full#supplementary-material>

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Supplemental Material

***Chlamydia trachomatis* strain types have diversified regionally and globally with evidence for recombination across geographic divides**

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Tables

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Figures

Supplementary Figure 1: Minimum evolution tree for *C. trachomatis* amino acid sequences by ST. The numbers represent the Sequence Type (ST). The tree was constructed using the matrix of pairwise differences between the 84 ST concatenated amino acid sequences for the seven loci using the maximum composite likelihood method for estimating genetic distances. Only bootstrap values (1,000 replicates) >70% are represented at branch points in the tree. STs shaded grey are singleton STs. The area of the circle represents the number of samples of each ST. Orange, Africa; red, Asia; yellow, The America; blue, Russia; green, Western Europe. Scale bar indicates number of substitutions per site.

Supplementary Figure 2: Splitstree for *C. trachomatis* amino acid sequences by ST. The numbers represent the Sequence Type (ST). The tree was obtained by using the 7 loci for the 84 ST concatenated sequences. STs shaded grey are singleton STs. The area of the circle represents the number of samples of each ST. Orange, Africa; red, Asia; yellow, The America; blue, Russia; green, Western Europe. Scale bar indicates number of substitutions per site.

Supplementary Table 1: Primers used for PCR and Sequencing

Target Locus	Region	PCR Primer Label	Sequence 5' to 3'	Sequencing Primer Label	Sequence 5' to 3' ²	Length of Sequence, bp
<i>glyA</i>	CT432	1FglyA 1RglyA	GAAGACTGTGGCGCTGTT CTTCCTGAGCGATCCCTTC	G1FSP G1RSP	GCTCATTTTCGCAGGCTTGTT GACAGCTCTCCCTCACTT	523
		<i>Alternates:</i> G1PCRFa G1PCRRa	GAACATAAGCCCACCGTTCT TTCCAGATCGATTTCAGGAT	1FglyA 1RglyA	GAAGACTGTGGCGCTGTTT CTTCCTGAGCGATCCCTTC	
<i>mdhC</i>	CT376	3FmdhC 3RmdhC	GGAGATGTTTTTGGCCTTG CGATTACTGCACTACCACG	G3FSP G3RSP	GATGTTTTTGGCCTTGATTG CTGTACAGAAGGCACCATAATA	521
		<i>Alternates:</i> G3PCRFa G3PCRRa	AGGGCAAATAGCCTATAGCT AAGCTCGTGCTGCAGAAGCT	3FmdhC 3RmdhC	GGAGATGTTTTTGGCCTTG CGATTACTGCACTACCACG	
<i>pdhA</i>	CT245	5FpdhA 5RpdhA	CTACAGAAGCCCGAGTTTT CTGTTTGTGTCATGTGGTG	G5FSP G5RSP	ATTCTTTCTGCATTGACCT CATGTGGTGATAAGCTTCTCTAAA	551
		<i>Alternate:</i> G5PCRFa G5PCRRa	CATCCTCTGACTCTCAACAT TAGGATCGGAAATAGAGTGT	5FpdhA 5RpdhA	CTACAGAAGCCCGAGTTTT CTGTTTGTGTCATGTGGTG	
<i>ybhG</i>	CT653	8FybhG 8RybhG	TCAAGTCAATGCAGGAGAA GATAGTGTGACGTACCATAGGAT	G8FSP G8RSP	CCTAACGGAGCGGGGAAA GAGCAGACGATCCTTCAA	504
<i>pykF</i>	CT332	9FpykF 9RpykF	ATCTTATCGCTGCTTCGTT CAGCAATAATAGGGAGATA	G9SeqF G9SeqR	TGTAATGAAGATATTGACA TTGGATAAAAACATCGGAG	527
		<i>Alternates:</i> G9seqF G9seqR	TGTAATGAAGATATTGACAGCAT TTGGATAAAAACATCGGAG	G9SeqF2 G9SeqR2	GATATTGACAGCATGCGTAAAGTT ATTGTGTATACCCAGACGGGAGGAT	
<i>lysS</i>	CT781	11FPCR2 11RPCR2	GAATGTCCCGAGTTTATGAA GTATAGAAGCAAAAAAAGAT	11FlysS 11RlysS	GAAGGAATCGATAGAACGCATAAT ATACGCCGCATAACAGGGAAAAAC	577
		<i>Alternates:</i> G11FSP G11RSP	TCCAGAGTTTACCATGATAGAGG AACAGGGAAAAACAGGACAT	11seqF 11seqR	TATGCGGCTTATTGGGATTA AATGGATGCGGCTCTGTCAA	
<i>leuS</i>	CT209	12F5 12R5	GAGCTGGATTGGCCAGAAAGT GCCAGAAACGCGCATAAAGT	12DeanF5 G12PCRRa G12RSP	TCTTCAGGAGCTTCTGTTAATT AGTGCAGTACAGCATGTTCT AAGAGCCTGCCATTGAG	521
		<i>Alternates:</i> G12PCRFa G12PCRRa	ACAAGACCGGACACTTTGAT AGTGCAGTACAGCATGTTCT	G12PCRFa G12RSP	ACAAGACCGGACACTTTGAT CTCAATGGGCAGGCTCTT	

Supplementary Table 2. Characteristics of alleles for each locus

Gene locus	No. alleles	Length, bp	No.	Average	Average dS	Average dN
			polymorphic sites	pairwise distance		
<i>glyA</i>	12	523	9	0.0032	0.0019	0.0013
<i>mdhC</i>	7	521	6	0.0013	0.0009	0.0004
<i>pdhA</i>	8	551	6	0.0002	0.0001	0.0001
<i>yhbG</i>	11	504	22	0.0109	0.0100	0.0009
<i>pykF</i>	10	527	13	0.0029	0.0013	0.0016
<i>lysS</i>	12	577	15	0.0015	0.0011	0.0004
<i>leuS</i>	18	521	19	0.0024	0.0007	0.0017
Total	78	3,724	90	0.0224	0.0160	0.0064

Supplementary Table 3. Sequence types, allelic profiles, and clinical characteristics of reference and clinical samples*

Strain ID †	ST	Allele assignment for each locus							Region of isolation	Diagnosis/Site
		<i>glyA</i>	<i>mdhC</i>	<i>pdhA</i>	<i>yhbG</i>	<i>pykF</i>	<i>lysS</i>	<i>leuS</i>		
L1/440	1	1	1	3	8	1	4	11	California	LGV
L2/434	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	California	LGV
L3/404	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	California	LGV
L2b/Canada1	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Canada	Proctitis
L2b/Canada2	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Canada	Proctitis
L2b/CV204	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	France	Proctitis
L2b/LST	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	France	Proctitis
L2b/795	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	France	Proctitis
L2/54s	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	San Francisco	Proctitis
L2a/UW396	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Seattle	LGV
L1/115	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	South Africa	LGV
L1/1322/p2	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	South Africa	LGV
L1/224	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	South Africa	LGV
L2b/8200/07	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Sweden	Proctitis
L2b/Ams1	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Proctitis
L2b/Ams2	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Proctitis
L2b/Ams3	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Proctitis
L2b/Ams4	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Proctitis
L2b/Ams5	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Proctitis
L2b/86nl	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Proctitis
L2/237nl	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervix
L2b/UCH1	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	United Kingdom	Proctitis
L2b/UCH2	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	United Kingdom	Proctitis
L2/25667R	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	USA	Proctitis
L2c	1	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	San Francisco	Proctitis
D/84s	2	2	3	3	6	5	4	3	San Francisco	Cervicitis
H/UW4/Cx	3	3	1	3	6	6	4	3	Washington	Cervicitis
A/51t	4	3	3	1	6	3	7	9	Tanzania	Trachoma
H/46nl	5	3	3	2	6	6	8	3	The Netherlands	Cervicitis and vaginal discharge
B/TW5/OT	6	3	3	3	4	3	5	10	Taiwan	Conjunctivitis
I/UW12/Ur	7	3	3	3	6	1	4	3	Washington	Urethritis
K/UW36/Cx	8	3	3	3	6	2	4	3	Washington	Cervicitis
J/UW36/Cx	9	3	3	3	6	2	8	3	Washington	Cervicitis
Ja/UW92	9	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Washington	Cervicitis
B/53t	10	3	3	3	6	3	4	9	Tanzania	Trachoma
C/TW3/OT	11	3	3	3	6	3	5	7	Taiwan	Conjunctivitis
A/2497	12	3	3	3	6	3	5	9	Tanzania	Trachoma
A/363	12	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Tanzania	Trachoma
A/48t	12	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Tanzania	Trachoma
A/5291	12	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Tanzania	Trachoma
A/59t	12	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Tanzania	Trachoma
A/7249	12	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Tanzania	Trachoma
B/TZ1A828/OT	12	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Tanzania	Trachoma
B/50t	12	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Tanzania	Trachoma
B/60t	12	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Tanzania	Trachoma
B/61t	12	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Tanzania	Trachoma
B/62t	12	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Tanzania	Trachoma
Ba/52t	12	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Tanzania	Trachoma
C/32n	13	3	3	3	6	3	6	7	Nepal	Trachoma, TS
C/33n	13	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Nepal	Trachoma, TS
G/15s	14	3	3	3	6	4	4	8	San Francisco	Proctitis
K/186i	15	3	3	3	6	6	1	6	Indianapolis	Urethra
K/187i	15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Indianapolis	Cervix
K/296sp	15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
K/305sp	15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis

K/42nl	15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervicitis w/ vaginal discharge
K/49nl	15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervicitis w/ vaginal discharge
K/250nl	15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervix
J/253b	15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Boston	Cervicitis
J/112i	15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Indianapolis	Urethra
J/113i	15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Indianapolis	Cervix
J/31-98	15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Seattle	Cervicitis
J/318sp	15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
J/27s	16	3	3	3	6	6	1	8	San Francisco	Cervicitis/urethritis
E/87e	17	3	3	3	6	6	2	3	Ecuador	Cervicitis
Ba/Apache2	18	3	3	3	6	6	3	9	Arizona	Conjunctivitis
G/266sp	19	3	3	3	6	6	4	3	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
G/271sp	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
G/273sp	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
G/284sp	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
G/286sp	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
G/295sp	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
G/301sp	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
G/303sp	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
G/315sp	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
G/317sp	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
G/225nl	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervix
G/227nl	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervix
G/229nl	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervicitis
G/230nl	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	PID
G/SotonG1	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	United Kingdom	Cervicitis
B/193nl	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervicitis
B/194nl	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	PID
D/83s	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	San Francisco	Cervicitis
D/202nl	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervix
D/203nl	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervix
D/204nl	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervix
D/205nl	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervicitis
D/206nl	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	PID
D/207nl	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	PID
D/SotonD5	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	United Kingdom	Cervicitis
D/SotonD6	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	United Kingdom	Cervicitis
E/279sp	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
E/294sp	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
H/114i	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Indianapolis	Urethra
H/115i	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Indianapolis	Cervix
H/18s	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	San Francisco	Cervicitis/urethritis
H/40nl	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervicitis
I/22p	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Lisbon	Cervicitis/urethritis
I/240nl	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	PID
I/241nl	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervix
I/245nl	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	PID
J/44nl	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervicitis
K/267sp	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
K/248nl	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervix
K/249nl	19	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervix
D/43nl	20	3	3	3	6	6	4	6	The Netherlands	Cervicitis and vaginal discharge
G/13s	21	3	3	3	6	6	4	8	San Francisco	Proctitis
G/14s	21	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	San Francisco	Proctitis
A/Sa1	22	3	3	3	6	6	5	2	Saudi Arabia	Trachoma
la/57e	23	3	3	3	6	6	8	3	Ecuador	Cervicitis
la/94i	23	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Indianapolis	Urethra

la/95i	23	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Indianapolis	Cervix
la/118i	23	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Indianapolis	Cervix
la/119i	23	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Indianapolis	Urethra
la4/177i	23	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Indianapolis	Urethra
la4/180i	23	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Indianapolis	Cervix
la/178i	23	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Indianapolis	Cervix
la/179i	23	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Indianapolis	Urethra
la/183i	23	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Indianapolis	Urethra
la/184i	23	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Indianapolis	Cervix
la/Sotonla1	23	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	United Kingdom	Cervicitis
la/Sotonla3	23	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	United Kingdom	Cervicitis
la/UW202	23	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Washington	Cervicitis
la/258b	23	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Boston	
B/298sp	23	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
D/2s	23	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	San Francisco	Cervicitis/urethritis
G/268sp	23	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
H/231nl	23	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervix
H/232nl	23	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervix
H/233nl	23	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervicitis
H/234nl	23	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	PID
I/235nl	23	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervix
I/236nl	23	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervix
I/238nl	23	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervicitis
I/239nl	23	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervicitis
I/242nl	23	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervix
I/243nl	23	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervicitis
I/244nl	23	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervicitis
J/311sp	23	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
J/247nl	23	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervix
K/251nl	23	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervicitis
la/24s	24	3	3	3	6	6	8	8	San Francisco	Cervicitis/urethritis
la/25s	24	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	San Francisco	Cervicitis/urethritis
D/UW3/Cx	25	3	3	3	6	7	4	1	Washington	Cervicitis
G/16p	26	3	3	3	7	6	8	5	Lisbon	Cervicitis/urethritis
G/17p	27	3	3	4	6	6	4	3	Lisbon	Cervicitis/urethritis
la/23p	28	3	3	4	6	6	4	4	Lisbon	Cervicitis/urethritis
H/21p	29	3	3	4	6	6	8	3	Lisbon	Cervicitis
G/UW57/Cx	30	3	3	5	6	6	4	3	Washington	Cervicitis
H/20p	31	3	3	7	6	6	8	3	Lisbon	Cervicitis/urethritis
F/38nl	32	4	4	3	2	7	4	3	The Netherlands	Cervicitis and vaginal discharge
L2b/48nl	33	5	2	3	8	1	4	11	The Netherlands	Proctitis
L2b/85nl	33	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Proctitis
F/ICCal3	34	6	3	3	2	7	4	3	Boston	
F/98i	34	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Indianapolis	Urethra
F/99i	34	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Indianapolis	Cervix
F/181i	34	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Indianapolis	Urethra
F/182i	34	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Indianapolis	Cervix
F/191i	34	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Indianapolis	Urethra
F/192i	34	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Indianapolis	Cervix
F/8p	34	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Lisbon	Cervicitis/urethritis
F/9p	34	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Lisbon	Cervicitis/urethritis
F/289sp	34	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	St. Petersburg	cervicitis
F/312sp	34	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	St. Petersburg	cervicitis
F/313sp	34	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	St. Petersburg	cervicitis
F/SW4	34	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Sweden	Cervicitis
F/SW5	34	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Sweden	Cervicitis
F/217nl	34	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervix
F/218nl	34	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervix
F/219nl	34	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervix

F/220nl	34	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	The Netherlands	Cervicitis
F/221nl	34	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	The Netherlands	PID
F/SotonF3	34	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	United Kingdom	Cervicitis
F/255b	34	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	Boston	
D/256b	34	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	Boston	Cervicitis
D2/96i	34	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	Indianapolis	Urethra
D2/97i	34	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	Indianapolis	Cervix
D2/189i	34	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	Indianapolis	Cervix
D2/190i	34	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	Indianapolis	Urethra
D/196nl	34	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	The Netherlands	Cervix
D/197nl	34	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	The Netherlands	Cervix
D/200nl	34	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	The Netherlands	Cervicitis
D/201nl	34	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	The Netherlands	PID
D/209nl	34	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	The Netherlands	Cervix
D/SotonD1	34	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	United Kingdom	Cervicitis
E/19e	34	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	Ecuador	Cervicitis
E/5s	34	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	San Francisco	Cervicitis/urethritis
E/214nl	34	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	The Netherlands	PID
Ja/41nl	34	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	The Netherlands	Cervicitis and vaginal discharge
Ja/47nl	34	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	The Netherlands	Cervicitis and vaginal discharge
J/252nl	34	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	The Netherlands	PID
F/10s	35	6	3	3	2	7	4	8	San Francisco	PID
F/11s	35	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	San Francisco	PID
F/12s	35	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	San Francisco	PID
E/39nl	36	6	3	3	3	7	4	3	The Netherlands	Cervicitis
Da/TW448	37	6	3	3	5	7	4	2	Taiwan	Trachoma
D/3s	38	6	3	6	2	7	4	3	San Francisco	Cervicitis/urethritis
E/Bour	39	6	4	3	2	7	4	3	California	Cervicitis
E/28e	39	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	Ecuador	Cervicitis
E/55e	39	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	Ecuador	Cervicitis
E/56e	39	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	Ecuador	Cervicitis
E/88i	39	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	Indianapolis	Cervix
E/89i	39	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	Indianapolis	Urethra
E/102i	39	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	Indianapolis	Urethra
E/103i	39	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	Indianapolis	Cervix
E/106i	39	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	Indianapolis	Urethra
E/107i	39	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	Indianapolis	Cervix
E/108i	39	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	Indianapolis	Cervix
E/109i	39	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	Indianapolis	Urethra
E/110i	39	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	Indianapolis	Cervix
E/111i	39	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	Indianapolis	Urethra
E/116i	39	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	Indianapolis	Urethra
E/117i	39	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	Indianapolis	Urethra (female)
E6/120i	39	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	Indianapolis	Cervix
E6/121i	39	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	Indianapolis	Urethra
E/171i	39	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	Indianapolis	Urethra
E/172i	39	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	Indianapolis	Cervix
E/6p	39	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	Lisbon	Cervicitis
E/7p	39	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	Lisbon	Cervicitis
E/150	39	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	Seattle	Proctitis
E/11023	39	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	Seattle	Cervicitis
E/260b	39	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	Boston	
E/275sp	39	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	St. Petersburg	cervicitis
E/276sp	39	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	St. Petersburg	cervicitis
E/278sp	39	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	St. Petersburg	cervicitis
E/280sp	39	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	St. Petersburg	cervicitis
E/285sp	39	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	St. Petersburg	cervicitis
E/290sp	39	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	St. Petersburg	cervicitis

E/292sp	39	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	St. Petersburg	cervicitis
E/299sp	39	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	St. Petersburg	cervicitis
E/307sp	39	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	St. Petersburg	cervicitis
E/SW2	39	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Sweden	Urethritis
E/SW3	39	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Sweden	Cervicitis
E/58t	39	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Tanzania	Conjunctivitis
E/45nl	39	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervicitis
E/213nl	39	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	cervicitis
E/215nl	39	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	PID
E/216nl	39	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	PID
E/SotonE4	39	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	United Kingdom	Cervicitis
E/SotonE8	39	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	United Kingdom	Cervicitis
D/257b	39	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Boston	Cervicitis
G/269sp	39	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
E/4s	40	6	4	3	3	7	4	3	San Francisco	Cervicitis/urethritis
Ja/26s	41	6	4	3	5	6	4	8	San Francisco	Cervicitis/urethritis
C/31n	42	7	3	3	1	3	5	7	Nepal	Trachoma, TI
C/35n	43	7	3	3	6	3	5	7	Nepal	Trachoma, TI
C/1n	44	7	3	3	6	3	6	7	Nepal	Trachoma, TI
C/29n	44	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Nepal	Trachoma, TI
C/30n	44	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Nepal	Trachoma, TI
C/34n	44	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Nepal	Trachoma, TI
C/36n	44	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Nepal	Trachoma, TI
C/37n	44	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Nepal	Trachoma, TI
F/1-93	45	3	3	3	2	7	4	3	Seattle	Cervicitis
F/6-94	45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Seattle	Cervicitis
F/11-96	45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Seattle	Cervicitis
D1/90i	45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Indianapolis	Cervicitis
D1/91i	45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Indianapolis	Urethra
D/13-96	45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Seattle	Cervix
D/199nl	45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervicitis
E/306sp	45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
E/92i	46	6	3	3	5	7	4	8	Indianapolis	Urethra
E/93i	46	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Indianapolis	Cervix
E/104i	46	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Indianapolis	Urethra
E/105i	46	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Indianapolis	Cervix
E/173i	46	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Indianapolis	Cervix
E/174i	46	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Indianapolis	Urethra
E/185i	46	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Indianapolis	Urethra
E/188i	46	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Indianapolis	Cervix
D/210nl	46	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervicitis
E/100i	47	6	4	3	5	6	4	3	Indianapolis	Cervix
E/101i	47	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Indianapolis	Urethra
D/EC	48	3	3	3	6	6	4	1	Montana	
D/LC	48	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Montana	
K/SotonK1	49	3	3	3	6	6	4	13	United Kingdom	Cervicitis
B/Jali20	50	3	3	3	6	6	5	7	Gambia	Trachoma
G/11074	51	3	3	3	6	6	9	3	Seattle	Proctitis
G/9301	51	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Seattle	Urethritis
G/9768	51	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Seattle	Proctitis
G/11222	52	3	3	5	6	6	1	3	Seattle	Cervicitis
G/272sp	52	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
G/223nl	52	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervix
G/228nl	52	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervicitis
A/HAR13	53	3	5	3	6	3	5	7	Tunisia	Trachoma
F/1	54	6	3	3	2	6	4	3	Seattle	Cervicitis
F/316sp	54	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
F4/175i	55	6	3	3	2	7	4	12	Indianapolis	Cervix
F4/176i	55	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Indianapolis	Urethra
J/151s	56	6	3	3	5	7	4	3	San Francisco	Cervicitis

L2/208nl	57	1	2	3	8	1	4	11	The Netherlands	PID
L2/246nl	58	3	3	3	8	1	4	11	The Netherlands	PID
G/222nl	59	3	6	5	6	6	1	3	The Netherlands	Cervix
G/224nl	59	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	The Netherlands	Cervix
D/195nl	60	6	3	3	9	7	10	8	The Netherlands	Cervix
E/212nl	61	6	4	3	2	9	4	3	The Netherlands	Cervix
D/198nl	62	6	4	3	5	8	4	8	The Netherlands	Cervicitis
G/226nl	63	8	3	3	6	6	8	3	The Netherlands	Cervix
E/211nl	64	9	4	3	2	7	4	3	The Netherlands	Cervix
K/291sp	65	3	3	3	2	6	8	3	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
B/277sp	66	3	3	3	2	6	12	18	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
G/270sp	67	3	3	3	6	6	4	15	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
B/300sp	68	3	3	3	6	6	8	6	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
G/302sp	68	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
J/283sp	69	3	3	3	6	6	8	14	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
la/262sp	70	3	3	3	6	6	8	16	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
E/314sp	71	3	3	3	6	6	11	3	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
D/263sp	72	3	3	3	9	7	4	17	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
J/259b	73	3	3	3	10	6	1	6	Boston	Cervicitis
G/308sp	74	3	3	3	11	7	4	3	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
E/264sp	75	3	4	3	2	7	4	3	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
E/261sp	76	3	4	3	2	10	4	3	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
E/265sp	76	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
G/304sp	77	3	4	5	6	6	1	3	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
D/297sp	78	3	7	3	6	6	4	3	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
D/288sp	79	6	3	3	9	7	4	8	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
D/310sp	79	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
E/274sp	80	6	4	3	2	10	4	3	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
E/287sp	80	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
E/309sp	80	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
E/281sp	81	6	4	8	2	7	4	3	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
E/282sp	82	10	4	3	2	7	4	3	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
E/293sp	83	11	4	3	2	7	4	3	St. Petersburg	Cervicitis
K/254b	84	12	3	3	2	7	4	3	Boston	Cervicitis

Note: **Boldface** denotes putative recombinant

† The strain ID is comprised of the letter that denotes the samples *ompA* genotype (e.g., E) followed by a backslash and then the number of the same that was assigned based on when it was added to the database (e.g., the first samples added have numbers 1, 2, 3, etc while samples added later have higher numbers. The last 1 or 2 letters denote the geographic region from which the sample derived and correlates with the region of isolation (e.g., sp, St. Petersburg; nl, The Netherlands; b, Boston).

Supplementary Table 4. Distribution of STs by geographic region.

ST	Africa n=21	Europe n=109	Russia n=58	Asia n=13	Americas n=122
1	3	13			9
2					1
3					1
4	1				
5		1			
6				1	
7					1
8					1
9					2
10	1				
11				1	
12	12				
13				2	
14					1
15		3	3		6
16					1
17					1
18					1
19		23	13		2
20		1			
21					2
22	1				
23		15	3		14
24					2
25					1
26		1			
27		1			
28		1			
29		1			
30					1
31		1			
32		1			
33		2			
34		20	3		15
35					3
36		1			
37				1	
38					1
39	1	10	10		24
40					1
41					1
42				1	

43				1	
44				6	
45		1	1		6
46		1			8
47					2
48					2
49		1			
50	1				
51					3
52		2	1		1
53	1				
54			1		1
55					2
56					1
57		1			
58		1			
59		2			
60		1			
61		1			
62		1			
63		1			
64		1			
65			1		
66			1		
67			1		
68			2		
69			1		
70			1		
71			1		
72			1		
73					1
74			1		
75			1		
76			2		
77			1		
78			1		
79			2		
80			3		
81			1		
82			1		
83			1		
84					1

Supplementary Table 5: eBURST report for 323 isolates*

Group 1: No. Isolates = 323 | No. STs = 84 | Predicted Founder = 19

ST	FREQ	SLV	DLV	TLV	SAT	Average Distance
19	41	15	24	17	27	2.75
23	32	14	18	15	36	3.2
39	46	10	10	6	57	4.21
34	38	9	13	10	51	3.65
21	2	8	20	23	32	3.13
20	1	7	22	18	36	3.2
75	1	7	7	15	54	3.81
48	2	6	22	19	36	3.22
24	2	6	20	15	42	3.57
68	2	6	20	15	42	3.65
49	1	5	23	19	36	3.24
67	1	5	23	19	36	3.24
32	1	5	8	8	62	4.43
83	1	5	8	8	62	4.43
82	1	5	8	8	62	4.43
64	1	5	8	8	62	4.43
11	1	5	5	23	50	4
51	3	4	27	16	36	3.33
17	1	4	27	16	36	3.33
71	1	4	27	16	36	3.33
70	1	4	21	16	42	3.68
69	1	4	21	16	42	3.68
45	8	4	18	26	35	3.25
15	13	4	16	23	40	3.72
27	1	4	16	21	42	3.59
29	1	4	14	17	48	4.03
56	1	4	11	17	51	3.8
35	3	4	9	16	54	4.02
46	9	4	6	12	61	4.18
8	1	3	19	28	33	3.19
30	1	3	19	19	42	3.57
16	1	3	18	22	40	3.65
31	1	3	14	18	48	4.06
5	1	3	14	18	48	4.06
52	4	3	11	21	48	4.09
36	1	3	11	16	53	3.85
80	3	3	10	9	61	4.46
79	2	3	6	12	62	4.21
43	1	3	4	3	73	4.59
7	1	2	21	27	33	3.15

50	1	2	21	23	37	3.66
9	2	2	14	25	42	3.63
3	1	2	13	29	39	3.48
78	1	2	13	29	39	3.49
84	1	2	13	15	53	3.86
40	1	2	11	13	57	4.42
61	1	2	11	9	61	4.48
55	2	2	10	13	58	4.13
12	12	2	8	23	50	4.03
76	2	2	7	13	61	4.07
13	2	2	5	26	50	4.07
37	1	2	5	13	63	4.27
44	6	2	2	4	75	4.66
59	2	2	1	13	67	4.83
77	1	2	1	13	67	4.66
41	1	2	1	10	70	4.56
57	1	2	1	0	80	5.42
22	1	1	19	24	39	3.72
65	1	1	17	23	42	3.51
10	1	1	14	27	41	3.54
54	2	1	13	31	38	3.46
63	1	1	13	20	49	3.81
25	1	1	12	34	36	3.4
14	1	1	11	28	43	3.57
74	1	1	10	33	39	3.46
81	1	1	10	9	63	5.07
38	1	1	9	12	61	4.5
28	1	1	8	23	51	4.07
47	2	1	7	14	61	4.19
53	1	1	4	5	73	4.73
73	1	1	3	19	60	4.25
62	1	1	2	8	72	5.01
60	1	1	2	6	74	4.79
42	1	1	2	5	75	5.12
1	25	1	2	0	80	5.42
33	2	1	2	0	80	5.43
18	1	0	20	22	41	3.78
26	1	0	6	21	56	4.21
72	1	0	4	21	58	3.92
58	1	0	4	13	66	4.09
2	1	0	3	25	55	3.81
6	1	0	2	7	74	4.6
4	1	0	2	3	78	4.97
66	1	0	1	23	59	4.13

* ST, sequence type; FREQ, frequency; SLV, single locus variant; DLV, double locus variant; TLV, triple locus variant; SAT, satellite

Supplementary Table 6: Evidence of recombination for samples from Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Sample	<i>ompA</i> genotype	ST sequence homology*	ST (majority <i>ompA</i>)	Location of SNPs	
L2/237nl	L2	L2	1 (L)		
K/250nl	L2	G or K	15 (K)	G: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40; <i>lysS</i> , 34; <i>leuS</i> : 282	K: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40; <i>lysS</i> , 34; <i>leuS</i> : 282
B/193nl	B	G or K	19 (G)	G: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40	K: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40
B/194nl	B	G or K	19 (G)	G: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40	K: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40
D/202nl	D	G or K	19 (G)	G: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40	K: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40
D/203nl	D	G or K	19 (G)	G: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40	K: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40
D/204nl	D	G or K	19 (G)	G: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40	K: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40
D/205nl	D	G or K	19 (G)	G: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40	K: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40
D/206nl	D	G or K	19 (G)	G: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40	K: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40
D/207nl	D	G or K	19 (G)	G: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40	K: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40
G/225nl	G	G or K	19 (G)	G: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40	K: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40
G/227nl	G	G or K	19 (G)	G: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40	K: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40
G/229nl	G	G or K	19 (G)	G: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40	K: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40
G/230nl	G	G or K	19 (G)	G: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40	K: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40
I/240nl	I	G or K	19 (G)	G: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40	K: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40
I/241nl	I	G or K	19 (G)	G: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40	K: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40
I/245nl	I	G or K	19 (G)	G: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40	K: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40
K/248nl	K	G or K	19 (G)	G: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40	K: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40
K/249nl	K	G or K	19 (G)	G: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40	K: <i>pdhA</i> , 339; <i>pykF</i> , 40
H/231nl	H	Ia	23 (Ia)		
H/232nl	H	Ia	23 (Ia)		

H/233nl	H	Ia	23 (Ia)		
H/234nl	H	Ia	23 (Ia)		
I/235nl	I	Ia	23 (Ia)		
I/236nl	I	Ia	23 (Ia)		
I/238nl	I	Ia	23 (Ia)		
I/239nl	I	Ia	23 (Ia)		
I/242nl	I	Ia	23 (Ia)		
I/243nl	I	Ia	23 (Ia)		
I/244nl	I	Ia	23 (Ia)		
J/247nl	J	Ia	23 (Ia)		
K/251nl	K	Ia	23 (Ia)		
D/196nl	D	F	34 (F)		
D/197nl	D	F	34 (F)		
D/200nl	D	F	34 (F)		
D/201nl	D	F	34 (F)		
D/209nl	D	F	34 (F)		
E/214nl	E	F	34 (F)		
J/252nl	J	F	34 (F)		
F/217nl	F	F	34 (F)		
F/218nl	F	F	34 (F)		
F/219nl	F	F	34 (F)		
F/220nl	F	F	34 (F)		
F/221nl	F	F	34 (F)		
E/213nl	E	E	39 (E)		
E/215nl	E	E	39 (E)		
E/216nl	E	E	39 (E)		
D/199nl	D	F	45 (F)	F: <i>glyA</i>, 176; <i>glyA</i>, 264; <i>glyA</i>, 420	
D/210nl	D	E	46 (E)		
G/223nl	G	G	52 (G)		
G/228nl	G	G	52 (G)		
L2/208nl	L2	L2	57 (L2)	L1, L2, L2a or L3: <i>mdhC</i> ; 76	
L2/246nl	L2	L2	58 (L2)	L1, L2, L2a or L3: <i>glyA</i> ; 215; <i>glyA</i> : 420; <i>mdhC</i> : 76; <i>mdhC</i> : 211	
G/222nl	G	G	59 (G)	G: <i>mdhC</i> : 194; <i>lysS</i> : 34	
G/224nl	G	G	59 (G)	G: <i>mdhC</i> : 194; <i>lysS</i> : 34	
D/195nl	D	Da or F	60 (Da)	Da: <i>yhbG</i>: 267, 369, 451; <i>pykF</i>: 317; <i>lysS</i>: 280; <i>leuS</i>: 58; <i>leuS</i>: 58, 96	F: <i>yhbG</i>: 267, 369, 451; <i>pykF</i>: 317; <i>lysS</i>: 280; <i>leuS</i>: 58; <i>leuS</i>: 58, 96

E/212nl	E	E	61 (E)	E: <i>pykF</i> : 484	
D/198nl	D	Da or E	62 (Da)	Da: <i>yhbG</i>: 267, 451; <i>mdhC</i>: 183; <i>pykF</i>: 518, 521; <i>leuS</i>: 58; <i>leuS</i>: 96	E: <i>yhbG</i>: 267, 451; <i>mdhC</i>: 183; <i>pykF</i>: 518, 521; <i>leuS</i>: 58; <i>leuS</i>: 96
G/226nl	G	G or Ia	63 (G)	Ia: <i>glyA</i>: 191	
E/211nl	E	E	64 (E)	E: <i>glyA</i> : 313	

Note: **Boldface** denotes putative recombinant; Occasionally both the *ompA* genotype and MLST ST match but where there are one or a few SNPs in the 7 genes.

**The seven ST genes of the sample have the highest homology to the seven genes of the strain that has the *ompA* genotype denoted in the column (e.g., for sample H/231nl that has a H *ompA* genotype, the seven ST genes were identical to the seven genes of Ia strains in the database where the *ompA* genotype was also Ia for those strains).

Supplemental Table 7: Evidence of recombination for samples from St. Petersburg, Russia.

Sample	<i>ompA</i> genotype	ST sequence homology	ST (majority <i>ompA</i>)	Location of SNPs	
E/261sp	E	E	76 (E)		
Ia/262sp	Ia	Ia	70 (Ia)		
D/263sp	D	Da or F	72 (Da)	Da: <i>glyA</i>: 176 A→G, 264 C→T, 420 G→A <i>ybhG</i>: 451 A→G <i>leusS</i>: 58 G→A, 96 G→C, 422 G→A	F: <i>glyA</i>: 176 A→G, 264 C→T, 420 G→A <i>ybhG</i>: 267 G→A <i>leusS</i>: 58 G→A, 96 G→C, 422 G→A
E/264sp	E	E	75 (E)		
E/265sp	E	E	76 (E)		
G/266sp	G	G or K	19 (G)	G: <i>pdhA</i> : 339 C→T	K: <i>pykF</i> : 40 G→A
K/267sp	K	G	19 (K)		
G/268sp	G	Ia	23 (Ia)		
G/269sp	G	E	39 (E)		
G/270sp	G	G or K	67 (G)	G: <i>pdhA</i> : 339 C→T <i>leusS</i> : 397 A→G	K: <i>pykF</i> : 40 G→A <i>leusS</i> : 397 A→G
G/271sp	G	G or K	19 (G)	G: <i>pdhA</i> : 339 C→T	K: <i>pykF</i> : 40 G→A
G/272sp	G	G	52 (G)		
G/273sp	G	G	19 (G)		
E/274sp	E	E	80 (E)		
E/275sp	E	E	39 (E)		
E/276sp	E	E	39 (E)		
B/277sp	B	F	66 (F)		
E/278sp	E	E	39 (E)		
E/279sp	E	G or K	19 (G)	G: <i>pdhA</i>: 339 C→T	K: <i>pykF</i>: 40 G→A
E/280sp	E	E	39 (E)		
E/281sp	E	E	81 (E)		
E/282sp	E	E	82 (E)		
J/283sp	J	Ia	69 (Ia)		
G/284sp	G	G	19 (G)		
E/285sp	E	E	39 (E)		
G/286sp	G	G or K	19 (G)	G: <i>pdhA</i> : 1 C→G, 339 C→T	K: <i>pdhA</i> : 1 C→G <i>pykF</i> : 40 G→A
E/287sp	E	E	80 (E)		
D/288sp	D	Da or F	79 (Da)	Da: <i>ybhG</i>: 451 A→G <i>leusS</i>: 58 G→A, 96 G→C	F: <i>ybhG</i>: 267 G→A, 369 A→G <i>leusS</i>: 58 G→A
F/289sp	F	F	34 (F)		
E/290sp	E	E	39 (E)		
K/291sp	K	F or Ia	65 (F/Ia)	F: <i>glyA</i>: 176 A→G,	Ia: <i>ybhG</i>: 267 A→G,

				264 C→T, 420 G→A <i>pykF</i> : 317 C→T, 384 G→A <i>lysS</i> : 222 G→A, 261 T→C	303 A→G, 367 T→C, 369 G→A, 372 T→C, 387 T→C, 451 A→G
E/292sp	E	E	39 (E)		
E/293sp	E	E	83 (E)		
E/294sp	E	G	19 (G)		
G/295sp	G	G	19 (G)		
K/296sp	K	K	15 (K)		
D/297sp	D	G or K	78 (G/K)	G : <i>mdhC</i> : 168 G→A, 183 G→A, 339 C→T <i>lysS</i> : 82 A→T	K : <i>mdhC</i> : 168 G→A, 183 G→A <i>pdhA</i> : 339 C→T <i>lysS</i> : 82 A→T
B/298	B	Ia	23 (Ia)		
E/299sp	E	E	39 (E)		
B/300sp	B	Ia	68 (Ia)		
G/301sp	G	G	19 (G)		
G/302sp	G	A or Ba	68 (A/Ba)	A : <i>mdhC</i> : 168 G→A, 183 G→A <i>lysS</i> : 222 G→A <i>leuS</i> : 96 G→C, 282 T→C	Ba : <i>mdhC</i> : 168 G→A, 183 G→A <i>lysS</i> : 202 G→A, 222 G→A <i>leuS</i> : 58 A→G
G/303sp	G	G or I	19 (G)	G: <i>pdhA</i> : 339 C→T	I: <i>pykF</i> : 40 G→A
G/304sp	G	G	77 (G)		
K/305sp	K	G or K	15 (K)	G: <i>pdhA</i> : 339 C→T <i>lysS</i> : 34 A→G <i>leuS</i> : 282 T→C	K: <i>pykF</i> : 40 G→A <i>lysS</i> : 34 A→G <i>leuS</i> : 282 T→C
E/306sp	E	F	45 (F)		
E/307sp	E	E	39 (E)		
G/308sp	G	D	74 (D)		
E/309sp	E	E	80 (E)		
D/310sp	D	Da or F	79 (Da)	Da : <i>ybhG</i> : 451 A→G <i>leuS</i> : 58 G→A, 96 G→C	F : <i>ybhG</i> : 267 G→A, 369A→G <i>leuS</i> : 58 G→A
J/311sp	J	Ia	23 (Ia)		
F/312sp	F	F	34 (F)		
F/313sp	F	F	34 (F)		
E/314sp	E	G or K	71 (G/K)	G : <i>pdhA</i> : 339 C→T <i>lysS</i> : 221 G→A, 470 G→A	K : <i>pykF</i> : 40 G→A <i>lysS</i> : 221 G→A, 470 G→A
G/315sp	G	G	19 (G)		
F/316sp	F	F	54 (F)		

G/317sp	G	G or K	19 (G)	G: <i>pdhA</i> : 339 C→T <i>lysS</i> : 34 A→G	K: <i>pykF</i> : 40 G→A <i>lysS</i> : 34 A→G
J/318sp	J	G or K	15 (G/K)	G: <i>pdhA</i>: 339 C→T <i>lysS</i>: 34 A→G	K: <i>pykF</i>: 40 G→A <i>lysS</i>: 34 A→G

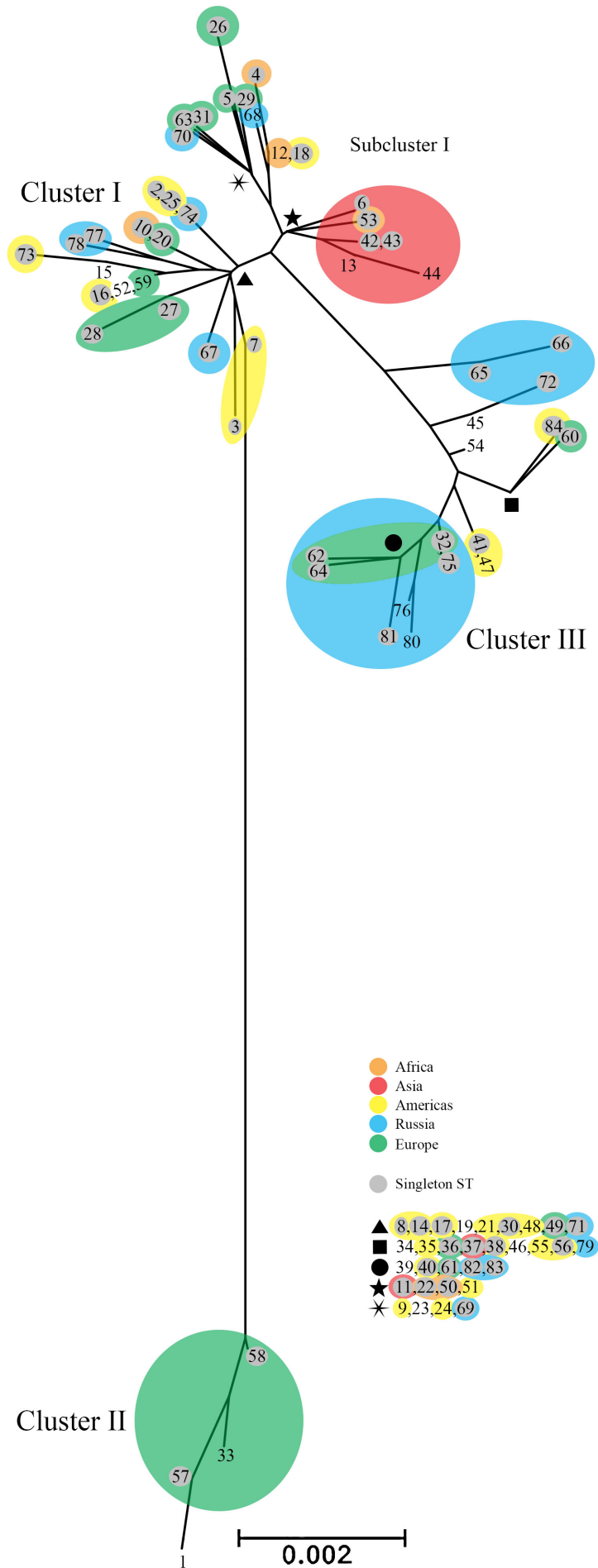
Note: **Boldface** denotes putative recombinant

*The seven ST genes of the sample have the highest homology to the seven genes of the strain that has the *ompA* genotype denoted in the column (e.g., for sample G/268sp that has a G *ompA* genotype, the seven ST genes were identical to the seven genes of Ia strains in the database where the *ompA* genotype was also Ia for those strains).

Supplementary Table 8: Pairwise Population Differentiation (F_{st}) for North American, Dutch, and Russian Women

Comparison	F_{st}
American vs. Netherlands Women	0.05332*
Russian vs. American Women	0.00966 ns
Russian vs. Netherlands Women	0.01996 ns
Russian vs. Netherlands Women non-LGV	0.01101 ns
American vs Netherlands Women non-LGV L2	0.04671*

* $p < 0.05$ by permutation test ($n = 110$)



0.0010

