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## Targeting of temperate phages drives loss of type I CRISPR-Cas systems

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### Abstract

Upon infection of their host, temperate phages (viruses that infect bacteria) enter either a lytic or a lysogenic cycle. The former results in bacterial cell lysis and phage release (horizontal transmission), while lysogeny is characterized by integration of the phage in the host genome and dormancy (vertical transmission)<sup>1</sup>. Co-culture experiments of bacteria and temperate phage mutants, which are locked in the lytic cycle, have shown that CRISPR-Cas can efficiently

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### Author Contributions

Conceptualization of the study was done by C.R., A.C. and E.R.W. Experimental design was carried out by C.R., A.C., B.N.J.W and E.R.W. Bacterial evolution, competition and growth experiments were done by C.R. and A.C. with assistance from O.F. and I.M.; Virulent vs Temperate phage competitions and prophage induction rate experiments were performed by C.R. All experiments with Acr-phages and CRISPR2 spacer 1 were done by A.C.; B.N.J.W and A.C. carried out Pf5 experiments. Experiment with superinfecting virulent phage was done by E.R.W.; C.R., A.C., B.W., T.C., C.B., P.F., and E.R.W. analysed the data. S.G. generated theoretical mathematical models; T.C. conducted bioinformatic analyses supervised by C.B. and P.F.; A.C. made whole genome sequencing analyses. C.R. wrote the original draft of the manuscript; A.C. wrote the revised version of the manuscript with contributions from C.R., B.W., T.C., S.G., C.B. and P.F.; E.R.W. supervised the project and provided comments on all versions of the manuscript.

### Author Information

The authors declare no competing interests.

### Data and code availability

Source data associated with main figures and Extended Data Figures 1,2,3,5,7,8 and 9 are available in the online version of this publication. Sequencing data have been deposited in the European Nucleotide Archive under the study accession number PRJEB34503. The datasets analysed for the bioinformatic study are available on github at <https://github.com/davidchyou/Rollie-Chevallereau>

### Code availability

Mathematical algorithms generated during this study are available in the online supplementary information file. Scripts generated for the bioinformatics analyses are available on github at <https://github.com/davidchyou/Rollie-Chevallereau>

eliminate the invading phages<sup>2,3</sup>. By contrast, here we show that when challenged with wild-type temperate phage that can become lysogenic, type I CRISPR-Cas immune systems are unable to eliminate these phages from the bacterial population. In fact, our data suggest that CRISPR-Cas immune systems are in this context maladaptive to the host due to severe immunopathological effects brought about by imperfect matching of spacers to integrated phage sequences (prophages). These fitness costs drive the loss of CRISPR-Cas from bacterial populations, unless the phage carries anti-CRISPR (*acr*) genes that suppress the immune system of the host. Using bioinformatics, we show that this imperfect targeting is likely to occur frequently in nature. These findings can help to explain the patchy distribution of CRISPR-Cas immune systems within and between bacterial species and highlight the strong selective benefits of phage-encoded *acr* genes for both the phage and host under these circumstances.

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CRISPR-Cas (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats; CRISPR-associated) adaptive immune systems provide sequence-specific resistance against phage infections by inserting phage-derived sequences (spacers) of around 30 bp into CRISPR loci on the host genome<sup>4</sup>. Upon reinfection, CRISPR transcripts guide Cas proteins to destroy the matching target<sup>5</sup>. The uptake of new spacers is far more efficient if a pre-existing spacer has partial complementarity to the phage. This process, known as “priming”, is widespread in type I systems, and provides protection against phage mutants that overcome host resistance by point mutation of their target sites<sup>6,7</sup>. However, partially matching spacers can also cause immunopathological effects when temperate phages enter the lysogenic lifecycle, where the phage genome is integrated into that of the host and exists in a dormant state until it gets induced. Lysogeny is common but variable across bacterial genera<sup>8</sup>. During lysogeny, a primed CRISPR-Cas immune system may target the partially complementary site in the prophage, causing damage to both the phage and host DNA and resulting in induction of the SOS-response<sup>9</sup>. However, if and how these potentially negative effects impact the evolutionary and population dynamics of phage-bacteria interactions remains unclear, since these processes have only been studied in the context of virulent phages<sup>2,3</sup>.

## Temperate phages persist despite CRISPR

To explore this, we infected *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* PA14 with either the temperate phage DMS3 or the virulent mutant DMS3 *vir* (a DMS3 mutant that is locked in the lytic cycle through mutation of the c-repressor gene) and monitored bacterial and phage population dynamics for 8 days. *P. aeruginosa* strain PA14 carries a type I-F CRISPR-Cas immune system, with spacer 1 of CRISPR array 2 having an imperfect match (5 mismatches) to gene 42 of DMS3<sup>9,10</sup>. As previously reported<sup>3</sup>, DMS3 *vir* was driven extinct by WT bacteria at 5 days post-infection (dpi) due to the evolution of CRISPR-based resistance, whereas a  $\Delta cas7$  mutant - lacking a functional CRISPR-Cas system - evolved surface-based resistance that allowed for phage persistence (Fig. 1a-c). In contrast, both WT and  $\Delta cas7$  bacteria were unable to clear wildtype DMS3 infections (Fig. 1b), suggesting that the ability to transmit vertically (i.e. lysogeny) is a critical determinant of temperate phage survival when bacteria encode CRISPR-Cas immune systems. To understand the evolutionary drivers of these population dynamics, we isolated bacterial clones from the DMS3-infected cultures at 3 dpi and quantified the proportion of lysogens and bacteria with CRISPR-based and surface-

based resistance. This showed that CRISPR resistance evolution was significantly reduced in WT populations exposed to DMS3 compared to DMS3 *vir* (Fig. 1c,d), and instead many WT bacteria carried the DMS3 prophage (Fig. 1d), which confers phage resistance through superinfection exclusion. However, lysogeny levels were reduced in WT hosts compared to the  $\Delta cas7$  strain, which almost invariably carried the prophage (Fig. 1d).

The difference in DMS3 and DMS3 *vir* persistence could be due to either differences in host resistance evolution or the ability of DMS3 to transmit vertically while continuously releasing free phage particles through prophage induction. To distinguish between these possibilities, we infected WT and  $\Delta cas7$  strains with an equal mix of DMS3 and DMS3 *vir* and observed similar bacterial and phage population dynamics and resistance evolution to those during infection with temperate phage alone (Extended Data Fig. 1). Next, we examined how the relative frequencies of DMS3 and DMS3 *vir* changed over time (Fig. 2a,b). Initially, DMS3 *vir* outcompetes DMS3, consistent with the idea that high densities of sensitive hosts favour horizontal transmission (i.e. the lytic replication cycle)<sup>11</sup>. However, at later time points, all free phage particles belong to the DMS3 genotype. As the host population experienced by the two phage genotypes was identical, this demonstrates that vertical transmission facilitates the observed persistence of DMS3. Interestingly, persistence of free phages was facilitated despite low frequencies of lysogeny in WT compared to  $\Delta cas7$  bacteria (Fig. 2a,b, compare blue and red lines, and Extended Data Fig. 1c,d).

Next, to understand why lysogen formation was depressed in WT compared to  $\Delta cas7$  bacteria, we performed temporal sampling of DMS3-infected populations over 7 days. Interestingly, this revealed that lysogeny in WT bacteria was already depressed at 1 dpi and continued to decline until 7 dpi, whereas the proportion of lysogens in isogenic mutants with a defective CRISPR-interference pathway ( $\Delta cas3$  and  $\Delta cas7$  mutants) was high and constant during this same period (Fig. 2c). Crucially, the proportion of DMS3 lysogens at 1 dpi was also depressed in a  $\Delta cas1$  mutant, which is unable to acquire novel spacers (adaptation) but is proficient in detecting and destroying complementary DNA (interference). However, in this background, the proportion of lysogens increased between 1 and 7 dpi to levels similar to the CRISPR-interference mutants (Fig. 2c). These data therefore suggest that WT and  $\Delta cas1$  bacteria are partially resistant to DMS3 infection, even in the absence of spacer acquisition, resulting initially in fewer lysogens and further reductions if the hosts carry the genetic machinery to acquire additional spacers.

## Mismatched spacers are maladaptive

We hypothesized that the observed suppression of lysogeny in WT and  $\Delta cas1$  backgrounds was dependent on the imperfect match (5 mismatches) between gene 42 of DMS3 and spacer 1 of CRISPR array 2<sup>9,10</sup>. To test this, we infected a strain lacking CRISPR array 2 ( $\Delta CRISPR2$ ) with DMS3 and observed that plasmid-based expression of spacer 1 ( $\Delta CRISPR2$ -sp1) led to similar population dynamics to those observed during infection of the wildtype strain (Extended Data Fig. 2a,b) and suppression of lysogeny (Extended Data Fig. 2c), while expression of a control non-targeting spacer ( $\Delta CRISPR2$ -NT) did not. To further corroborate the hypothesis that the suppression of lysogeny was caused by partial CRISPR-Cas resistance, we performed infections with phages carrying anti-CRISPR genes

(*acr*), which are widespread and diverse genes (currently classified into 45 families) carried by a range of different mobile genetic elements, that block CRISPR-interference<sup>12</sup>. As expected, infection of WT bacteria with a mutant phage DMS3 carrying either *acrIF1* or *acrIF4*, both of which block the I-F CRISPR-Cas system of PA14<sup>13</sup>, showed similar lysogeny levels to those observed for interference-deficient mutants (Extended Data Fig. 3a).

Intriguingly, although lysogen formation was reduced in WT and  $\Delta cas1$  bacteria, the concentration of free phages was actually higher during the early stages of DMS3 infection of these hosts (Fig. 2d). This effect disappeared by 7 dpi - if bacteria were unable to acquire new spacers ( $\Delta cas1$ ) - or inverted at 4 dpi if they had a functional CRISPR-Cas system (Fig. 2d). This also coincided with reduced bacterial densities of WT and  $\Delta cas1$  populations compared to CRISPR-interference mutants during the early stages of the phage epidemic (Fig. 2e), suggesting that functional CRISPR-Cas immune systems may be maladaptive in this context. We speculated that the high DMS3 titres during early stages of infection of WT and  $\Delta cas1$  bacteria (Fig. 2d and 1b) and the concurrent reduced bacterial densities could be due to interactions between the CRISPR interference machinery and the partially complementary prophage (i.e. autoimmunity), which can activate an SOS-response<sup>9</sup> and which in turn may trigger prophage induction<sup>14</sup>. To test this, we isolated 6 independent DMS3 lysogens from WT,  $\Delta cas7$  and  $\Delta cas1$  backgrounds at 1 dpi. Growth measurements revealed significant fitness costs of lysogeny in WT and  $\Delta cas1$  backgrounds, whereas growth of  $\Delta cas7$  lysogens was unaffected (Fig. 3a-c). Growth of lysogens lacking spacers 1 and 2 of CRISPR 2 ( $\Delta sp1-2$ ) or lacking the entire CRISPR 2 array ( $\Delta CRISPR2-NT$ ) was comparable to that of  $\Delta cas7$  lysogens (Fig. 3d and Extended Data Fig. 2c), but restoring the expression of CRISPR 2 spacer 1 ( $\Delta CRISPR2-sp1$ ) resulted in a reduced growth rate (Extended Data Fig. 2d), confirming that this spacer is responsible for the reduced fitness of WT bacteria carrying the prophage. Competition of lysogens against bacteria with surface-based resistance confirmed a fitness cost of lysogeny in the WT, but not in the  $\Delta cas7$  background (Fig. 3e,f, relative fitness < 1, one-tailed Wilcoxon and t-tests, WT: df=5, p=0.016;  $\Delta cas7$ :  $t_5=3.6551$ , p=0.99). This effect was reduced if the prophage possessed an *acr* gene (Fig. 3e, one-tailed t-test, *acrIF1*:  $t_5=16.562$ , *acrIF4*:  $t_5=14.805$  and p<0.0001 in both cases), whereas *acr* genes had no effect on fitness of  $\Delta cas7$  lysogens (Fig. 3f, ANOVA  $F_{2,15}=0.205$ , p=0.82).

Next, we estimated prophage induction levels in WT and  $\Delta cas7$  lysogens. To this end, we pelleted bacterial cultures and washed away free phages, followed by resuspension in fresh medium, and monitored bacterial densities and free phage accumulation over 25 hours. While initial cell densities were similar for all strains, growth of WT cultures plateaued at a lower density (Extended Data Fig. 3b), yet they accumulated more phage particles compared to  $\Delta cas7$  lysogens (Extended Data Fig. 3c), unless the prophage carried an *acr* gene. Taken together, these data support the hypothesis that, unless DMS3 encodes *acr* genes, CRISPR-Cas causes immunopathology during vertical transmission of the phage, which triggers prophage induction and hence explains the high free phage titres during the early infection stage.

These immunopathological effects may select for CRISPR mechanisms that selectively target phages during their lytic cycle, as has been described for type III systems<sup>15,16</sup>. However, competition between DMS3 and DMS3 *vir* phages showed that the main

determinant of their relative fitness is the proportion of sensitive bacteria in the population<sup>11</sup> (Extended Data Fig. 3d, two-way ANOVA  $F_{6,83}=3.1683$ ,  $p=0.008$ ) and is independent of whether resistance of bacteria in the population was CRISPR-based or surface-based (Extended Data Fig. 3d,  $F_{1,76}=2.8923$ ,  $p=0.09$ ). This suggests that the type I CRISPR-Cas system of *P. aeruginosa* lacks the ability to distinguish between phages that enter lytic or lysogenic cycles.

Given these opposing fitness effects of CRISPR-Cas immune systems during horizontal<sup>2,3</sup>, and vertical transmission of DMS3 (Fig. 3), it is unclear what the net fitness effects of CRISPR-Cas systems are during temperate phage infections. To explore this, we competed WT and  $\Delta cas7$  strains in the presence of either DMS3 *vir*, DMS3, DMS3-*acrIF1* or DMS3-*acrIF4* phages and determined their relative fitness at day 1, 3 and 7. Strikingly, while WT bacteria were fitter than  $\Delta cas7$  in the presence of virulent phage (Fig. 4a, one-tailed Wilcoxon test, relative fitness  $>1$ ;  $p=0.016$ ), they were considerably less fit during temperate phage infection (Fig. 4a, relative fitness  $<1$ ;  $p=0.018$ ), unless the temperate phage carried *acr* genes (Fig. 4a, relative fitness  $\neq 1$ ;  $p=0.16$ ). Hence, in this context *acr* genes not only provide a benefit to the phage during both horizontal<sup>3,17,18</sup> and vertical transmission (Fig. 4b, one-tailed t-test: relative fitness  $\neq 1$ , *acrIF1*;  $t_5=39.30$ ,  $p<0.0001$ ; *acrIF4*;  $t_5=11.61$ ,  $p<0.0001$ ), but also to the host by preventing autoimmunity.

## Bacteria evolve to lose CRISPR-Cas

We next monitored whether WT lysogens evolved to alleviate these autoimmunity costs through mutation of their immune system or the prophage. Lysogens in WT and adaptation-deficient  $\Delta cas1$  backgrounds, which had reduced growth during early infection, were selected from the late infection stage (7 dpi). Growth curves revealed that the negative fitness consequences of CRISPR-Cas immune systems had disappeared in these “late lysogens”, and they now had growth rates comparable to ancestral hosts lacking the prophage (Fig. 4c,d, compare to Fig. 3a,b). A competition experiment confirmed this finding, showing that late lysogens in a WT background were fitter than a surface mutant (Fig. 4e, one-tailed t-test, relative fitness  $>1$ ;  $t_5=5.985$ ,  $p<0.001$ ), and the presence of *acr* genes in the prophage no longer increased the fitness of the host (Fig. 4e, one-tailed t-test: *acrIF1*;  $t_5=-5.5085$ ,  $p=1.00$ ; *acrIF4*;  $t_5=-2.0395$ ,  $p=0.95$ ) (compare to Fig. 3e).

To understand the mechanistic basis for this alleviation in fitness costs, we performed PCR analyses of the CRISPR loci of 6 independent lysogens in WT,  $\Delta cas1$  and  $\Delta cas7$  backgrounds, isolated from early or late time points after infection. Both CRISPR loci (1 and 2) amplified as expected in early lysogens (Extended Data Fig. 4a), however, amplification failed in many late lysogens in WT and  $\Delta cas1$  backgrounds (Extended Data Fig. 4a, negative PCR indicated by red frame), suggesting that the CRISPR-Cas locus was lost in these clones. Whole genome sequencing of late lysogens revealed large genomic deletions associated with prophage integration (between ~ 50 and 230 kb) that encompassed the entire CRISPR-Cas locus - but contained no essential gene<sup>19</sup> - in WT and  $\Delta cas1$  backgrounds, while the genome remained intact in  $\Delta cas7$  late lysogens (Extended Data Fig. 4c-e and Extended Data Table 1). This loss of the CRISPR-Cas locus was clearly driven by the immunopathological effects of CRISPR 2 spacer 1, as the locus was maintained in

lysogens lacking CRISPR 2 ( $\Delta$ CRISPR2) but lost when expression of spacer 1 was restored ( $\Delta$ CRISPR2-sp1) (Extended Data Fig. 2b). The loss of CRISPR-Cas was also avoided when WT bacteria were lysogenized by DMS3 carrying *acr* genes (Extended Data Fig. 4a).

## Generality of the empirical data

Collectively, these data show that temperate phage infection can drive rapid loss of CRISPR-Cas immune systems from bacterial genomes due to immunopathological effects that manifest during vertical transmission. To generalize our findings beyond phage DMS3 (belonging to *Caudovirales*), we introduced a priming spacer with one mismatch against the Pf5 prophage (*Inoviridae*) that is naturally present in the genome of WT PA14<sup>20</sup>. Expression of a Pf5-priming spacer caused reduced growth of the WT strain and strong selection for bacteria carrying a deletion in their CRISPR-Cas immune system (Extended Data Fig. 5). These observations therefore suggest that immunopathological effects generally drive selection for CRISPR loss, whenever hosts carry spacers primed against their prophage. Indeed, when we formalized these ideas in a theoretical framework, we recovered very similar population and evolutionary dynamics as those observed in our experiments (Extended Data Fig. 6; See Supplemental Information for a detailed description of the model).

Crucially, priming is thought to be frequent in nature due to the relaxed sequence identity requirements for triggering this pathway, with up to 13 mismatches between a pre-existing spacer and the target being tolerated<sup>7</sup>. Indeed, analysis of the spacers from >170k bacterial genomes and a dataset of ~20k prophages<sup>21</sup> revealed that pre-existing spacers with perfect or imperfect (1-5 mismatches) targets to temperate phages are common within genera (Extended Data Fig. 7; see also Supplemental Information for further information). On average, 49% of all prophages were targeted by priming spacers carried by bacteria within the same genera as the lysogen (Extended Data Fig. 7c). If mismatched spacers generally cause residual DNA cleavage activity by the CRISPR immune system, they would be expected to cause similar immunopathological effects as those observed for the *P. aeruginosa*-DMS3 interaction. Indeed, when all complete *P. aeruginosa* genomes were assessed, we observed a significant enrichment for an increase in *acr* frequency when self-targeting spacers matched prophages (Extended Data Fig. 8), which is consistent with the idea that these spacers cause immunopathological effects. Together, these bioinformatic analyses suggest that maladaptive effects of CRISPR-Cas against temperate phages are likely common in nature.

In natural ecosystems, bacteria are frequently exposed to both temperate and virulent phages, and the latter may superinfect the lysogens. To further generalize our findings, we explored whether these superinfections would likely change the observed population and evolutionary dynamics. We found that mixed infection of WT PA14 with temperate phage DMS3 and virulent phage LMA2 (which can superinfect DMS3 lysogens) resulted in similar rates of lysogenization (Extended Data Fig. 9d,e) and high fitness costs of CRISPR-Cas (Extended Data Fig. 9g), that drive evolutionary loss of the immune system (Extended Data Fig. 9f). Our theoretical model recovered similar dynamics, independent of whether

CRISPR-based resistance evolves against only one (as in our experiment) or against both phages (Extended Data Fig. 9h-o).

## Discussion

The observation that approximately 60% of all bacterial genotypes lack CRISPR-Cas systems and that closely related strains differ in whether they encode *cas* genes suggests that these systems are frequently gained and lost from bacterial genomes<sup>22</sup>. While phage infection is typically assumed to be an important selective force for the maintenance of CRISPR-Cas immune systems, this work reveals their rapid loss when exposed to a temperate phage, as a result of immunopathological effects when the CRISPR immune system is “primed” against this phage. Certain CRISPR-Cas immune systems may mitigate some of these autoimmunity costs by limiting the spacer acquisition and cleavage of transcriptionally silent elements<sup>15,23</sup>. However, CRISPR-based autoimmunity is frequently reported<sup>24–27</sup>, and the high frequencies at which primed self-targeting interactions occur suggests this is likely a major driver of the evolutionary loss of CRISPR systems in nature.

## Methods

### Bacterial strains and viruses

*P. aeruginosa* UCBPP-PA14 (referred to as WT) and *P. aeruginosa* UCBPP-PA14 *csy3::lacZ* (referred to as  $\Delta cas7$ ) were used in all experiments (described previously<sup>28</sup>). The surface mutant *Tn::pilA* lacking a pilus (referred to as *sm2*) has been described previously<sup>29</sup> and was used in competition experiments with bacteriophage insensitive mutant (BIM) with 2 additional acquired spacers over those present in the WT strain (as described previously<sup>2</sup>).

Lysogens in WT or *cas* mutant backgrounds used in growth curves, fitness and induction experiments were generated in this study and the presence of a prophage was confirmed by PCR. PA14 strains  $\Delta cas3$ ,  $\Delta cas1$ ,  $\Delta CRISPR2$  and CRISPR2  $\Delta spacer1-2$ , respectively identified as SMC4268, SMC4277 and SMC3895 and SMC4707, were described elsewhere<sup>10,28</sup>.

Phage amplifications were carried out on *P. aeruginosa* UCBPP-PA14 *csy3::lacZ*. DMS3 and the obligately lytic variant DMS3 *vir* have been described previously<sup>30</sup>. DMS3-*acrIF1* and DMS3-*acrIF4* phages were generated in this study following the method for hybrid phage construction detailed in an earlier study<sup>17</sup>. DMS3 *vir-acrIF1* was used in downstream analyses and has been described elsewhere<sup>3</sup>. A virulent phage capable of infecting DMS3 lysogens (LMA2, described previously<sup>31</sup>) was used in co-culture experiments.

All bacterial strains were grown at 37°C in LB broth or M9 medium (22 mM Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>; 22 mM KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>; 8.6 mM NaCl; 20 mM NH<sub>4</sub>Cl; 1 mM MgSO<sub>4</sub>; 0.1 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>) supplemented with 0.2% glucose. When appropriate, medium was further supplemented with gentamycin (50 mg/ml) and arabinose (1% w/v).

## Evolution experiments

To monitor the evolution of bacterial resistance in response to phage infection and the associated bacterial and phage population dynamics, microcosms with 6 ml of M9 medium supplemented with 0.2% glucose were inoculated with approximately  $10^6$  colony forming units (CFU) bacteria from fresh overnight cultures of the corresponding bacterial strains. These cultures were infected with  $10^4$  plaque forming units (PFU) of DMS3 *vir*, DMS3, DMS3-*acrIF1* or LMA2 phages, followed by incubation at 37°C and shaking at 180 revolutions per minute (rpm). Cultures were transferred 1:100 into fresh medium every 24 hours for 5-8 days. All experiments were performed in 6 independent replicates.

## Determination of resistance phenotypes

Resistance phenotypes were determined at day 3 or day 7 by streaking individual colonies (24 randomly picked per replicate) through DMS3 *vir* and phage DMS3 *vir-acrIF1*. Surface modification was confirmed by colony morphology, broad-range resistance to DMS3 *vir* and DMS3 *vir-acrIF1*, and a lack of newly acquired spacers. Lysogens were determined by broad resistance to both phage and a positive PCR amplification of the c-repressor gene in bacterial genome, amplified using primers 5'-GCGGAATGAGCGCTAAACC-3' and 5'-CAAGTGCTTTAGCGAGGAATGC-3'. CRISPR-resistance was confirmed by resistance to DMS3 *vir*, but not to DMS3 *vir-acrIF1* and a PCR confirming spacers had been added to one of the CRISPR arrays. Primers 5'-CTAAGCCTTGTACGAAGTCTC-3' and 5'-CGCCGAAGGCCAGCGCGCCGGTG-3' were used to amplify CRISPR array 1, and primers 5'-GCCGTCCAGAAGTCACCACCCG-3' and 5'-TCAGCAAGTTACGAGACCTCG-3' for CRISPR array 2. As a positive control for PCR, primers 5'-GCTTGCAGTTCCTCAACGAG-3' and 5'-CACCAGGAAATTCAGGTAGGG-3' were used to amplify the housekeeping control gene *fimV* involved in pilus formation.

## Bacterial and phage titres

Bacterial densities were determined by plating on LB agar dilutions of samples taken at each transfer in M9 salts (22 mM Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>; 22 mM KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>; 8.6 mM NaCl; 20 mM NH<sub>4</sub>Cl; 1 mM MgSO<sub>4</sub>; 0.1 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>). Phages were extracted at each transfer by chloroform extraction (sample: chloroform 10:1 v/v), and phage titers were determined by spotting serial dilutions of isolated phage samples in M9 salts on a lawn of PA14Δ*cas7*.

## Phage Competition

**Fixed phenotypes**—Competition experiments were performed in glass vials in 6 ml of M9 medium. Experiments were initiated by inoculating a 1:100 dilution of different mixes of overnight cultures of the Δ*cas7* strain and either the surface mutant Δ*pilA*<sup>29</sup> (*sm2*) or BIM strain (2 spacers targeting DMS3). A 50:50 mix of phages DMS3 *vir* and DMS3 was added ( $10^8$  PFU) and the vials were incubated at 37°C with shaking for 8 hours. Phages were extracted by chloroform extraction and spot assays carried out to determine phage titres. To determine phage relative frequencies, plaque assays were carried out by serially diluting phage extractions and adding 200 μl of the selected dilution to 600 μl of Δ*cas7* overnight culture and 6 ml molten top agar (0.5%), which was then poured over a prewarmed LB agar



plate. The plates were incubated overnight at 37°C and the plaques generated by temperate and virulent phages were discriminated by differences in opacity, and a subset confirmed by PCR. All experiments were performed in 6 replicates.

**Coevolution competitions**—Phage competition was also measured in the presence of host evolution. Initially sensitive  $\Delta cas7$  or WT hosts were infected with  $10^4$  PFU of a 50:50 mix of temperate and virulent phages (DMS3 and DMS3 *vir*). The experiment was run as a standard evolution experiment, and bacterial and phage titres measured every day for 7 days. Resistance phenotypes were assessed on days 3 and 7, as described above, and plaque assays used to determine the ratio of temperate to virulent phage at each time point.

**Competition DMS3 x DMS3-*acrIF***—Temperate DMS3 was also competed against a mutant encoding Acr proteins. Initially sensitive  $\Delta cas7$  or WT hosts were infected with  $10^4$  PFU of a 50:50 mix of DMS3 and DMS3-*acrIF1* (or DMS3-*acrIF4*). The experiment was run for 3 days and samples of total phage population (i.e. free phages + prophages, no chloroform extraction) were collected and immediately frozen every day. Phage titres were measured every day by spot test. To determine their relative fitness, the relative frequencies of each phage were determined at T=0 and at T=3 by qPCR, following the method described elsewhere<sup>32</sup>.

### Expression of priming spacers

The expression of the CRISPR RNA (crRNA) encoding spacer 1 of CRISPR2 was restored in strain PA14 $\Delta CRISPR2$  using an arabinose inducible expression vector (pHERD30T-based). Briefly, oligonucleotides containing the sequences of a non-targeting (NT) spacer (5'-GTCTTCTTTGAGCTTCCAGAGAACTGAAGAC-3') or of spacer 1 (5'-ATCAGCCGGACGTTGTAGTAGTCGAGCGCGGT-3') and flanked by two CRISPR2 repeats were annealed and ligated between NcoI/HindIII restriction sites. The resulting plasmids were transformed into PA14 $\Delta CRISPR2$  to generate the strains  $\Delta CRISPR2$ -sp1 and  $\Delta CRISPR2$ -NT, respectively. Similarly, a spacer targeting the natural Pf5 prophage of PA14 (accession number AY324828) with 1 mismatch 5'-AGTCCTTCTAGTGAGCGGAACCAAATCTATT-3' was expressed in WT PA14 strain.

### Measuring prophage induction

Single colonies were picked from plated lysogens and grown in LB media overnight at 37°C with 180 rpm shaking. The overnight culture was diluted 1:100 in fresh M9 media and grown until optical density (OD<sub>600nm</sub>) reached ~0.1. The cultures were then pelleted by centrifugation and the pellet washed 5 times in M9 buffer, then resuspended in 10 ml of M9 media. The cultures were grown at 37°C with shaking and samples taken regularly for phage quantification by spot assay and OD<sub>600nm</sub> measurements using a Biotek synergy 2 plate reader.

### 24-hour growth curves

Single colonies were isolated and grown in M9 media overnight at 37°C with 180 rpm shaking. The following day, this culture was diluted 1:100 and 250  $\mu$ l of this mixture was added to a 96-well plate and growth curves were measured for 23 hours in a Thermo

Scientific Varioskan flash plate reader with continuous shaking at 180 rpm. Readings of  $OD_{600nm}$  were taken every 15 minutes and the plate kept at 37°C. All growth curves were performed in 6-12 replicates.

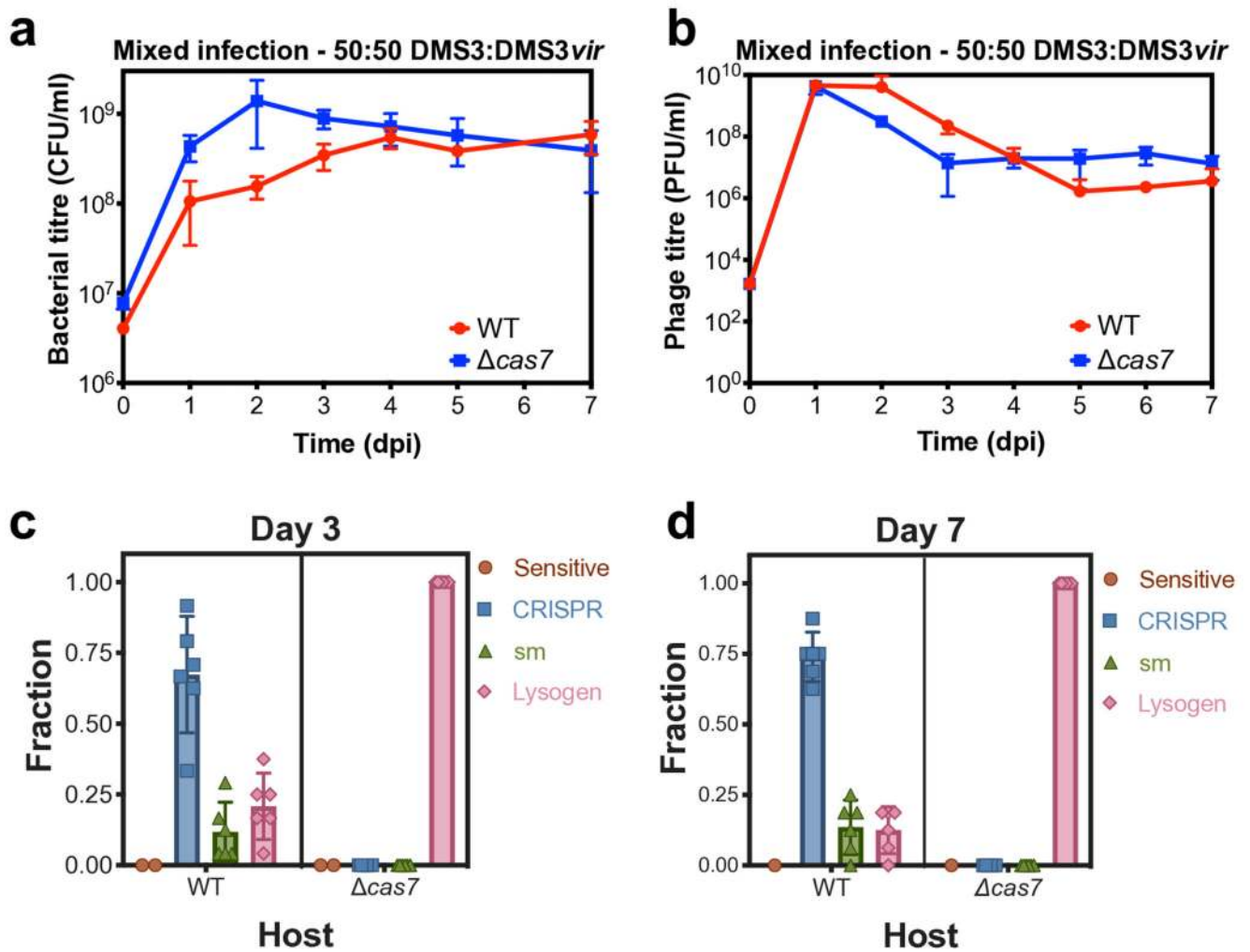
### Bacterial competition

Competition experiments were performed in 6 ml M9 medium supplemented with 0.2% glucose. Competition experiments were initiated by inoculating 1:100 from a 1:1 mixture of overnight cultures (grown in M9 medium + 0.2% glucose) of each strain. If phages were included, they were added at a concentration of  $10^4$  PFU. Cells were transferred 1:100 daily into fresh broth. At varying time points, from 1 to 7 days, samples were taken and cells were serially diluted in M9 salts and plated on LB agar supplemented with  $50 \mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$  X-gal (to allow discrimination between strains carrying the *lacZ* gene (blue) or those without (white)). All experiments were performed in 6 replicates. Relative fitness was calculated from changes in the relative frequencies of blue and white colonies (rel. fitness = [(fraction strain A at t=x) \* (1 - (fraction stain A at t=0))] / [(fraction strain A at t=0) \* (1 - (fraction strain A at t=x))]).

### Whole-genome sequencing and bioinformatic analyses

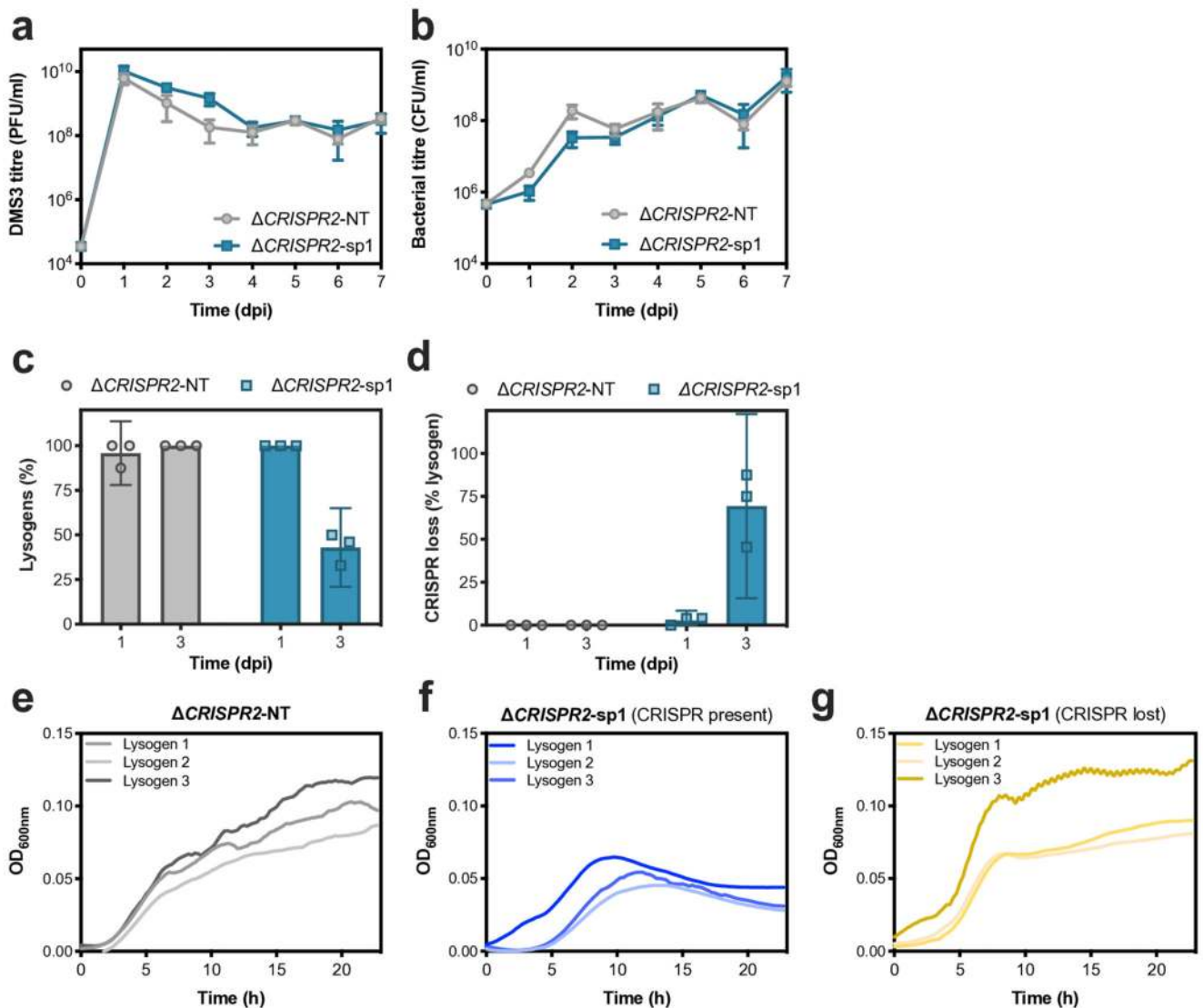
Lysogen clones in WT,  $\Delta cas7$  and  $\Delta cas1$  backgrounds were isolated from the late timepoints of the evolution experiments. Standard genome sequencing and standard bioinformatic analyses were provided by MicrobesNG (as described in <http://www.microbesng.uk>). Raw read sequencing data have been deposited in the European Nucleotide Archive under the study accession number PRJEB34503. Trimmed reads were mapped to WT PA14 reference genome (accession number NC\_008463) with Geneious® 9.1.8 software using Bowtie2 mapper<sup>33</sup> to identify the genomic deletion. Reads were also mapped to DMS3 reference genome (accession number DQ631426) and hybrid reads composed of a 5'-extremity matching PA14 and a 3'-extremity matching the 5'-end of DMS3 (and vice versa, i.e. reads composed of a 5'-extremity matching the 3'-end of DMS3 and a 3'-extremity matching PA14) were extracted. These hybrid reads were then mapped back to PA14 genome to identify prophage insertion sites.

### Extended Data



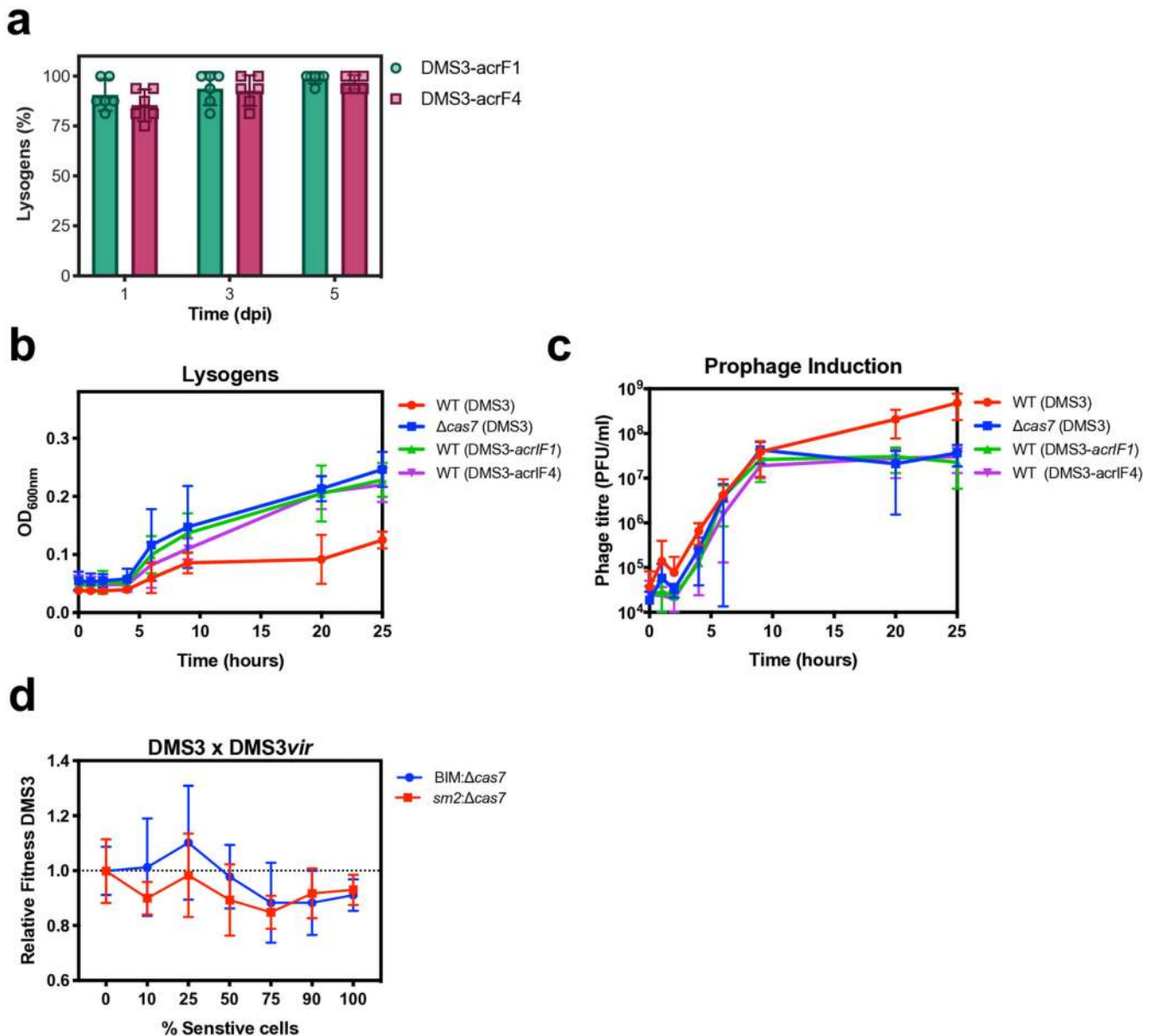
**Extended Figure 1. Infections with a 50:50 mix of temperate:virulent phages.**

(a) Bacterial and (b) phage titres during a co-culture experiment of either WT PA14 (red) or  $\Delta cas7$  mutant (blue) and a 50:50 mix of DMS3 and DMS3vir. (c) Resistance phenotypes at day 3 or (d) day 7 of the co-culture experiment, based on 24 random clones per replicate experiment. Data shown are the mean of 6 biological replicates per treatment. Error bars represent 95% c.i.

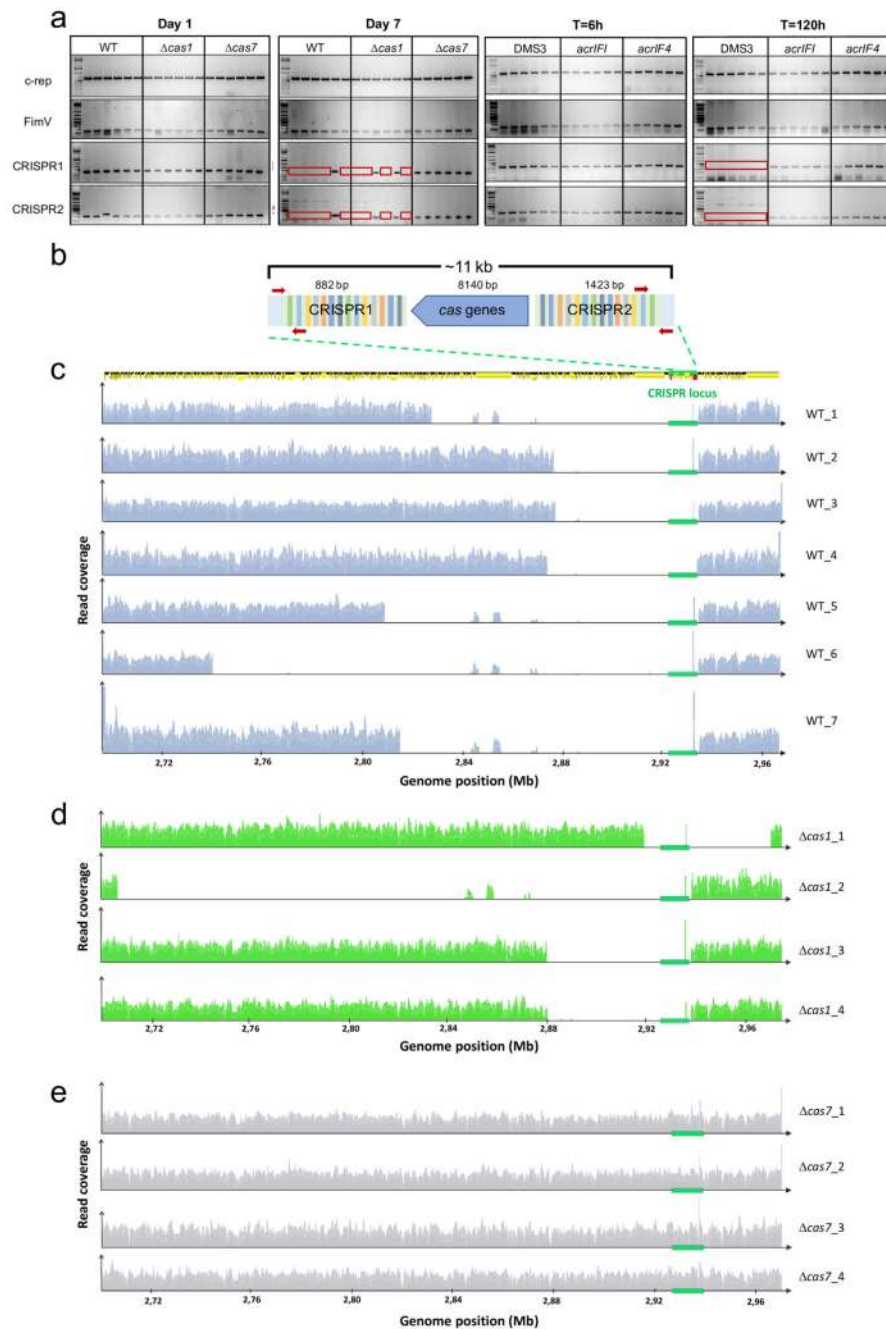


**Extended Figure 2. Suppression of lysogeny and immunopathological effects are due to spacer 1 of CRISPR array 2.**

(a) Phage and (b) bacterial titres during co-culture of phage DMS3 and *P. aeruginosa* PA14 $\Delta$ CRISPR2 expressing either a non-targeting spacer from a plasmid ( $\Delta$ CRISPR2-NT) or the original CRISPR2 spacer 1 ( $\Delta$ CRISPR2-sp1). (c) The proportion of lysogens and (d) the frequency of loss of CRISPR-Cas immune systems at 1 and 3 dpi, based on PCR analyses of 24 random clones per replicate experiment. Panels a to d show the mean of 3 biological replicates (error bars represent 95% c.i.) (e-g) Growth of 3 independent lysogen clones isolated at 3 dpi as determined by OD<sub>600nm</sub> measurements. (e)  $\Delta$ CRISPR2-NT and (f)  $\Delta$ CRISPR2-sp1 lysogen clones carry the ancestral  $\Delta$ CRISPR2 CRISPR-Cas immune system, while (g)  $\Delta$ CRISPR2-sp1 lysogen clones have evolved to lose CRISPR-Cas.



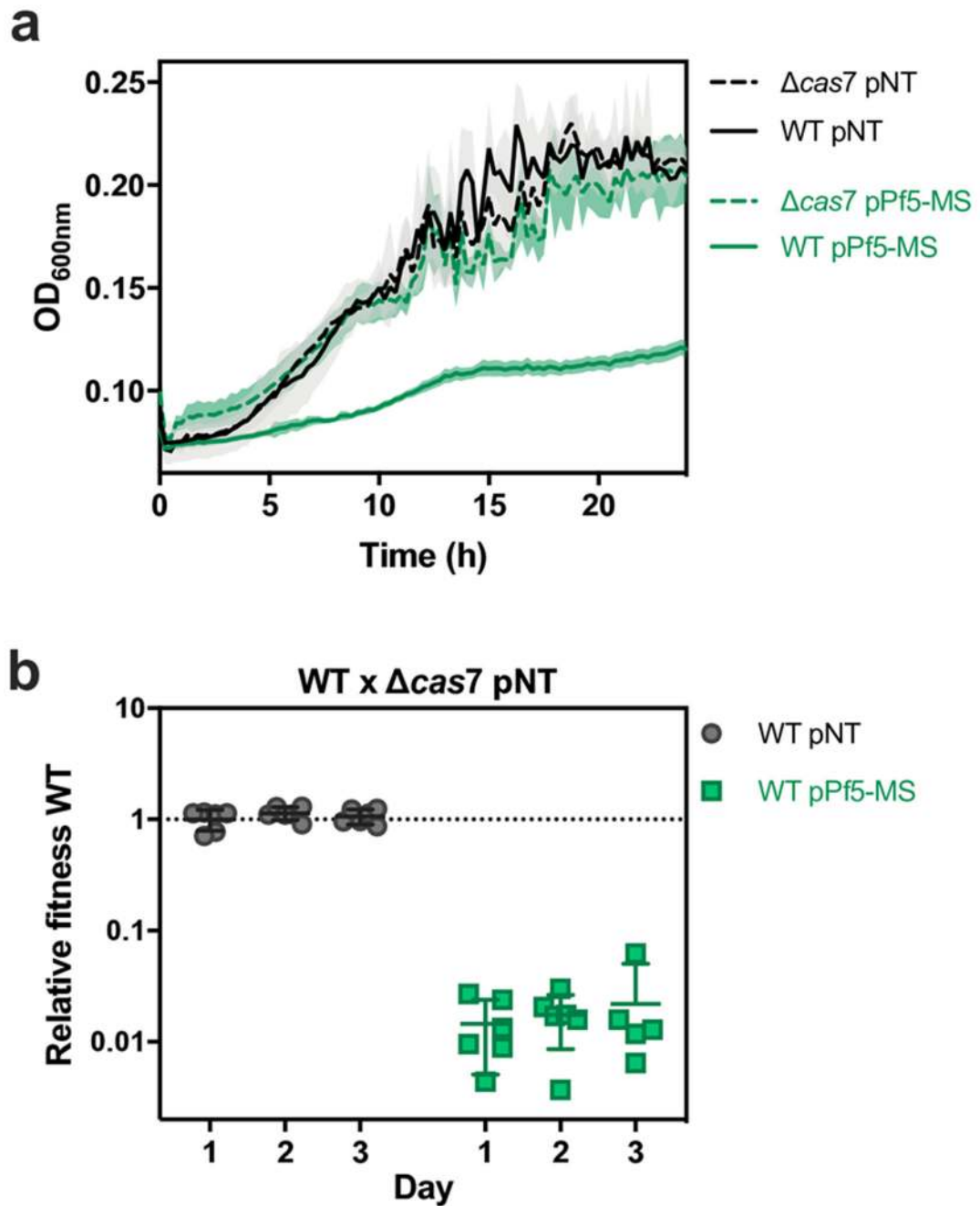
**Extended Figure 3. Prophage induction rates are increased in hosts with active CRISPR-Cas.** (a) Percentage lysogens formed upon infection of WT host with DMS3 phages engineered to produce AcrIF1 or AcrIF4 anti-CRISPR proteins. (b) Optical density and (c) phage titres during growth of lysogens of DMS3, DMS3-*acrIF1* or DMS3-*acrIF4* in a WT PA14 or  $\Delta cas7$  genetic background. (d) Relative fitness of DMS3 phage during competition with the virulent mutant DMS3 *vir* in the presence of varying fractions of sensitive ( $\Delta cas7$ ) host and resistant hosts with either CRISPR- (BIM) or surface-based immunity (*sm2*) against these phages. Data show mean fitness at 8 hours post-infection. All panels show the mean of 6 biological replicates and error bars represent 95% c.i.



**Extended Figure 4. Lysogens lose their CRISPR-Cas immune systems.**

(a) PCR amplification of the c-repressor gene of the prophage (*c-rep*, 611 bp), the *fimV* gene (located ~ 1 Mb from the CRISPR loci, positive control for the PCR, 116 bp) and CRISPR loci 1 (349 bp) and 2 (206 bp) on the host genome. PCRs were performed on 6 independent DMS3 lysogens in WT,  $\Delta cas1$  and  $\Delta cas7$  backgrounds isolated at 1 or 7 dpi as well as on 6 independent lysogens of DMS3, DMS3-*acrIF1* or DMS3-*acrIF4* (WT background) isolated at 6 or 120 hours post infection. Red frames indicate failure to amplify a product. PCR amplifications were performed on clones isolated from 3 biological replicate

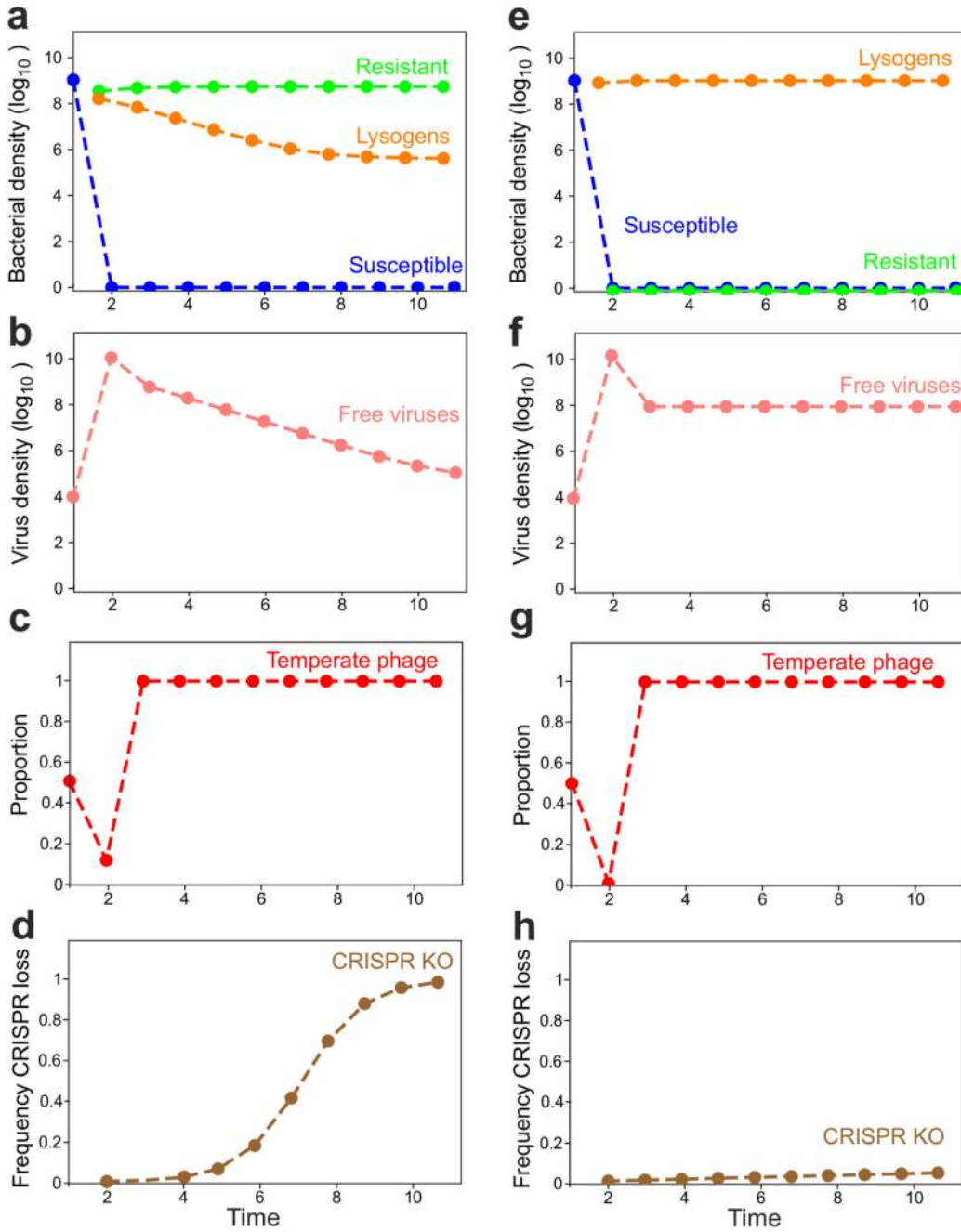
experiments and produced similar results. For gel source data, see Supplementary Figure 1. **(b)** Schematic of the CRISPR-Cas locus of PA14 WT which spans a region of around 11 kb. Primers used to amplify regions of CRISPR arrays 1 or 2 are shown as red arrows. **(c)** Whole genome sequencing of DMS3 lysogens that lost their CRISPR-Cas system (red frames in panel a) in WT PA14, **(d)**  $\Delta cas1$  or **(e)**  $\Delta cas7$  backgrounds. Graphs show the read coverage of the region encompassing positions 2,700,000 – 2,970,000 of WT PA14 genome. CRISPR-Cas locus is indicated by a green box on the x-axis. A genome map depicting coding sequences (yellow arrows) is shown above the graphs. Region comprised between 2.84-2.88 Mb includes sequences that are repeated elsewhere on PA14 genome, explaining why reads mapping these positions are still detected in some of the deletion mutants. High peak at the 3'-end of the CRISPR locus corresponds to the coverage of spacer 20 of CRISPR2 by reads that derive from DMS3 prophage (5'- and 3' extremities of these reads map to phage genome). Spacer 20 of CRISPR2 has 100% identity to DMS3 but is not immunogenic because there is no consensus PAM.



**Extended Figure 5. Expression of Pf5 priming spacer in *P. aeruginosa* PA14.**

(a) Growth of  $\Delta cas7$  (dashed line) or WT (solid line) clones carrying an expression plasmid encoding a non-targeting spacer (pNT) or a spacer targeting PA14 natural prophage Pf5 with one mismatch (pPf5-MS) as determined by OD<sub>600nm</sub> measurements. Graphs show mean curves from 6 biological replicates and shaded areas corresponds to 95% c.i. (b) Relative fitness of WT pNT or WT pPf5-MS during competition with  $\Delta cas7$  pNT. Data shown are the mean of 6 biological replicates per treatment. Error bars represent 95% c.i.

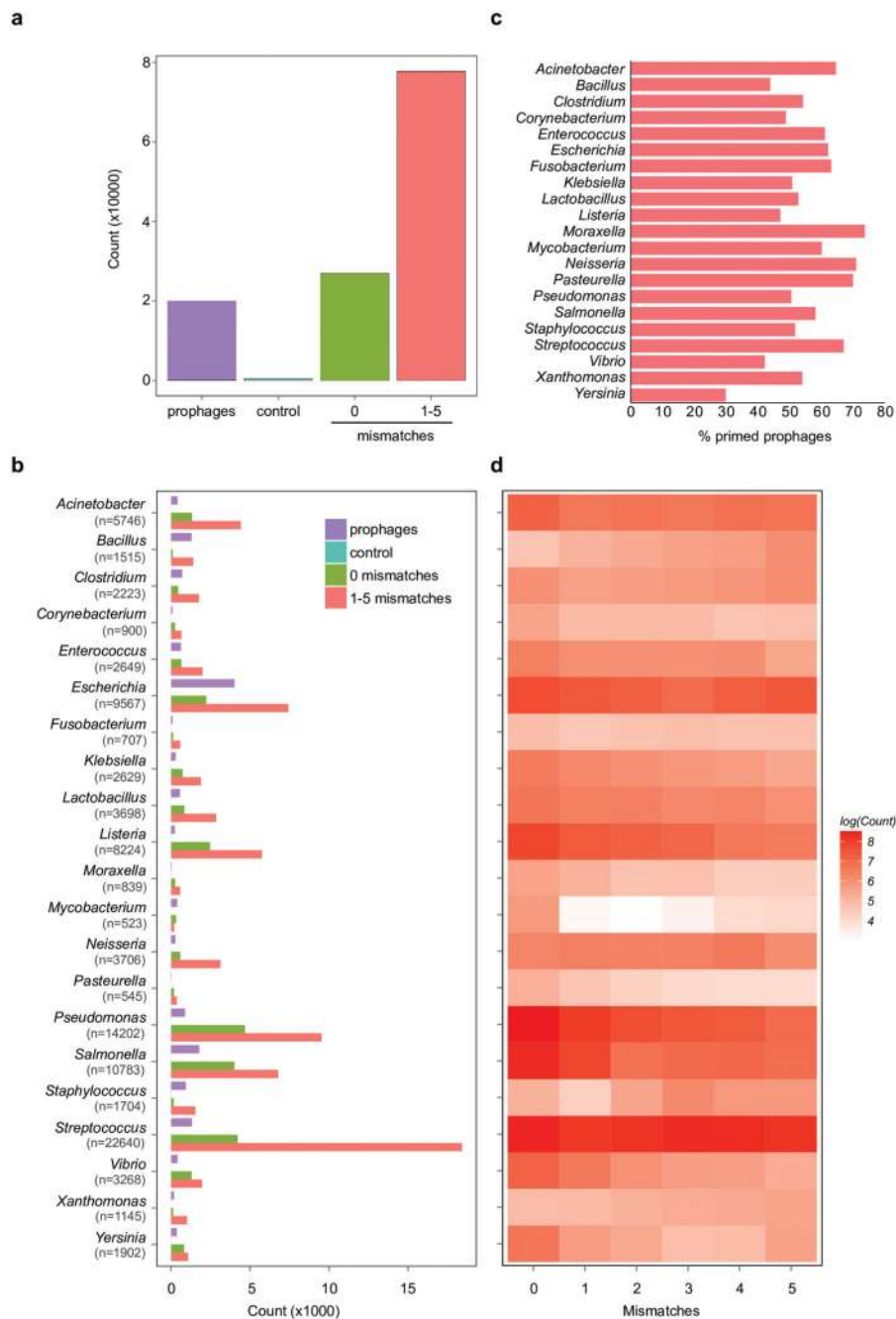




**Extended Figure 6. Simulations of population and evolutionary dynamics of bacteria-phage interactions, when virulent and temperate phages compete on bacteria with CRISPR-Cas system.**

Graphs show densities of (a) susceptible hosts, CRISPR-resistant bacteria and lysogens or (b) free viruses over time, as well as (c) the frequency of temperate phages in a population composed of both temperate and virulent types. Note that temperate phages can transmit both horizontally and vertically, whereas virulent phages can transmit only horizontally and cannot superinfect lysogens. (d) Frequency of evolutionary loss of CRISPR-Cas system in the lysogen population over time. The simulations shown in (a-d) reflect the situation where

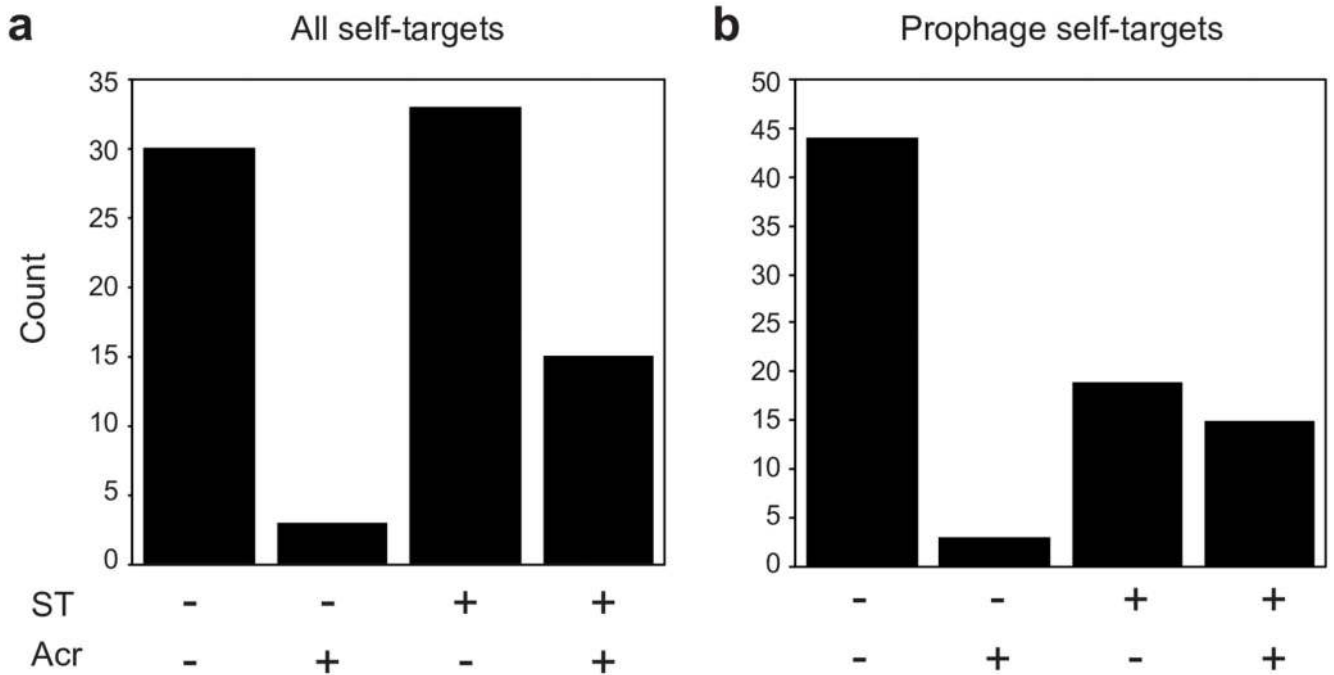
both virulent and temperate phages lack *acr* genes, whereas **(e-h)** reflect the scenario where the temperate type carries an *acr*.



**Extended Figure 7. Matches between spacers and temperate phages are widespread.**

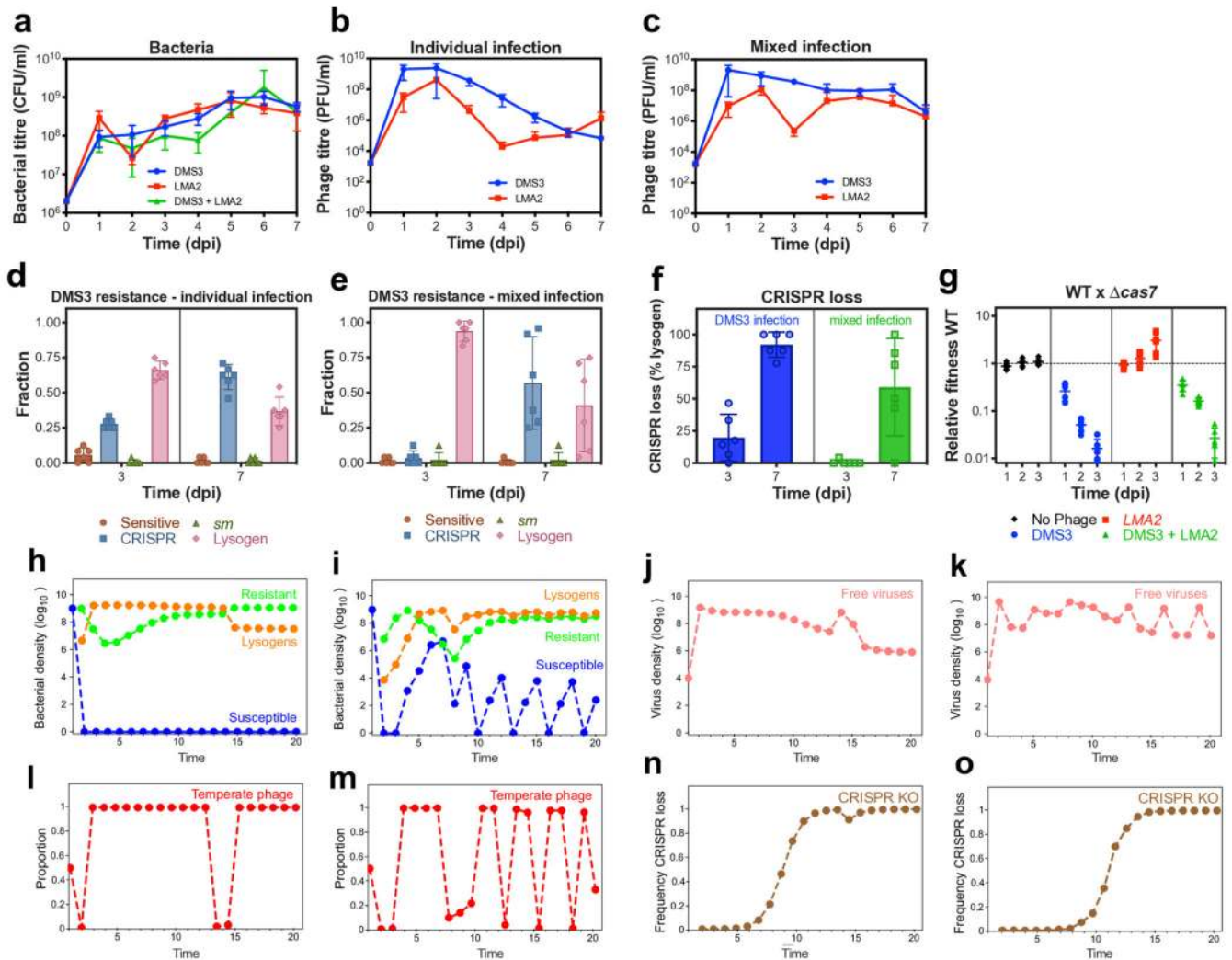
**(a)** Total matches between non-redundant spacers ( $n=1,239,973$ ) from 171,361 RefSeq and Genbank complete genomes and a non-redundant set of temperate phages ( $n=19,996$ )<sup>21</sup>. The counts of perfect (0) or mis-matched (1-5) targets are shown. As a control, the temperate phages were shuffled ten times retaining the hexanucleotide content (Control). **(b)** Counts of spacers matching temperate phages from all genera with over 500 spacer-phage matches. The total number of spacer-phage matches is shown for each genus in brackets (i.e.  $n=X$ ). Counts of matches are shown (0 or 1-5 mismatches, green and red). The number of

temperate phages analysed is plotted (Prophage, purple) and the matches to shuffled prophages (Control, blue; not visible as only 0 to 10 counts). **(c)** Percentage of prophages within each genus that were targeted by self-priming spacers (1-5 mismatches). **(d)** Heatmap of the distribution of mismatches (0-5). Genera are as in (b) and data is shown as  $\log(\text{Count})$  for each genus, as the number of matches varied widely between genera.



**Extended Figure 8. Self-targeting genomes are enriched for *acr* gene(s).**

The number of *P. aeruginosa* genomes with complete CRISPR-Cas systems that contain (+) or lack (-) genes encoding known Acr. For these strains, the total with perfect (0) or mismatched (1-5) self-targeting (ST) spacers to (a) anywhere in the genome or to (b) prophages are shown. For complete *P. aeruginosa* genomes all self-targeting events were analysed for matches to prophages using PHASTER<sup>37</sup>. The greater number of genomes with *acr* genes (Acr +) and self-targeting (ST +) compared to those without ST is significant ( $p = 8.14E-05$ , Fisher's exact test, two sided,  $n=71$ ).



**Extended Figure 9. Presence of a superinfecting virulent phage does not alter immunopathological effects.**

(a) Bacterial and (b-c) phage titres upon (b) individual or (c) mixed infection of WT PA14 with phage DMS3 and virulent phage LMA2. (d-e) Resistance phenotypes evolved by bacteria against DMS3 upon (d) individual or (e) mixed infection. (f) Frequency of loss of CRISPR-Cas immune systems upon infection with phage DMS3 or with both phages DMS3 and LMA2, based on 24 random clones per replicate experiment. (g) Relative fitness of WT PA14 during competition with PA14  $\Delta cas7$  in the presence or absence of phages DMS3 and LMA2. All panels (a-g) show means of 6 biological replicates and error bars indicate 95% c.i. (h-o) Simulations of population and evolutionary dynamics during infection of bacteria carrying CRISPR-Cas systems with a mixed population of unrelated virulent and temperate phages. Graphs show densities of (h,i) susceptible hosts, CRISPR-resistant bacteria, lysogens and (j,k) free viruses over time, as well as (l,m) the frequencies of temperate phages in a population composed of both temperate and virulent types. Note that temperate phage can transmit both horizontally and vertically, whereas virulent phage can transmit only horizontally and can superinfect the lysogens (because temperate and virulent phages

are unrelated). **(n,o)** Frequencies of evolutionary loss of CRISPR-Cas system in the lysogen population over time. The simulations shown in **(h, j, l, n)** reflect the scenario where bacteria can evolve CRISPR-based resistance against both phages, whereas **(I, k, m, o)** reflects the situation where CRISPR-based resistance does not evolve against the virulent phage and bacteria instead evolve costly surface-based resistance (as it is the case in the experiments). See also supplementary information for a detailed description of the simulations.

**Extended Data Table 1**  
**Genomic deletions and prophage insertion sites in DMS3 late lysogen clones.**

Strain	Sample name	Name on ED Fig. 4	Deleted region			Prophage insertion site(s)	
			Start (bp)	End (bp)	Length (bp)	Position (bp)	Proportion of mapped hybrid reads <sup>a</sup>
PA14 WT	WT117	WT_1	2,831,115	2,938,245	107,131	replace deleted region	73
	WT221	WT_2	2,879,871	2,938,280	58,410	replace deleted region	44.2
	WT3213	WT_3	2,880,477	2,938,285	57,809	3,555,252	42.3
	WT4313	WT_4	2,878,050	2,938,509	60,460	replace deleted region	84
	WT566 <sup>b</sup>	-	0	0	0	replace deleted region	72.3
	WT6615	WT_5	2,812,027	2,938,165	126,139	3,944,997	6.3
	WT7AnneD1	WT_6	2,743,638	2,938,176	194,539	4,067,332	3.8
	WT8AnneD2	WT_7	2,818,271	2,938,290	120,020	4,453,953	2.5
	cas11114	$\Delta cas\_1$	2,918,943	2,970,427	51,485	nd	nd
	cas1222	$\Delta cas\_2$	2,706,504	2,938,538	232,035	replace deleted region	42.0
PA14 $\Delta cas I$	cas1333 <sup>c</sup>	-	0	0	0	3,325,229	49.6
	cas14415	$\Delta cas\_3$	2,879,882	2,938,523	58,642	replace deleted region	22.6
						5,214,542	28.9
						5,732,030	24.0
					5,860,538	22.6	
					2,335,454	24.8	
					2,652,167	29.6	
					replace deleted region	21.8	
					3,079,052	21.3	
					3,079,190	84.3	
					replace deleted region	90.6	
					4,478,625	2.8	
					partial	nd	
					2,730,814	44.1	
					replace deleted region	46.0	
					4,481,869	3.1	



Strain	Sample name	Name on ED Fig. 4	Deleted region			Prophage insertion site(s)	
			Start (bp)	End (bp)	Length (bp)	Position (bp)	Proportion of mapped hybrid reads <sup>a</sup>
PA14 $\Delta cas7$	cas1555 <sup>d</sup>	-	2,902,848	2,938,280	35,433	replace deleted region	78.8
	cas16611	$\Delta cas7\_4$	2,879,874	2,938,285	58,412	replace deleted region	7.7
	cas7114	$\Delta cas7\_1$	0	0	0	1,120,809	94.2
	cas72211	$\Delta cas7\_2$	0	0	0	410,059	86.7
	cas73313	$\Delta cas7\_3$	0	0	0	5,725,887	82.9
	cas7442	$\Delta cas7\_4$	0	0	0	5,743,045	74.7
	cas7554	-	0	0	0	905,180	84.5
	cas7669	-	0	0	0	1,667,097	37.9
						75.0	

<sup>a</sup>Sum does not reach 100% as a proportion of hybrid reads that mapped PA14 genome did not allow to define a potential prophage insertion site.

<sup>b</sup>Sample contaminated with a Bacteriophage Insensitive Mutant (BIM) clone; sequencing data not interpretable

<sup>c</sup>Only 2607 bp of DMS3 DNA (including c-repressor gene) are inserted in bacterial genome at position 5,834,730

<sup>d</sup>Mixed population - reads matching the CRISPR locus are still detectable but coverage is very low

## Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

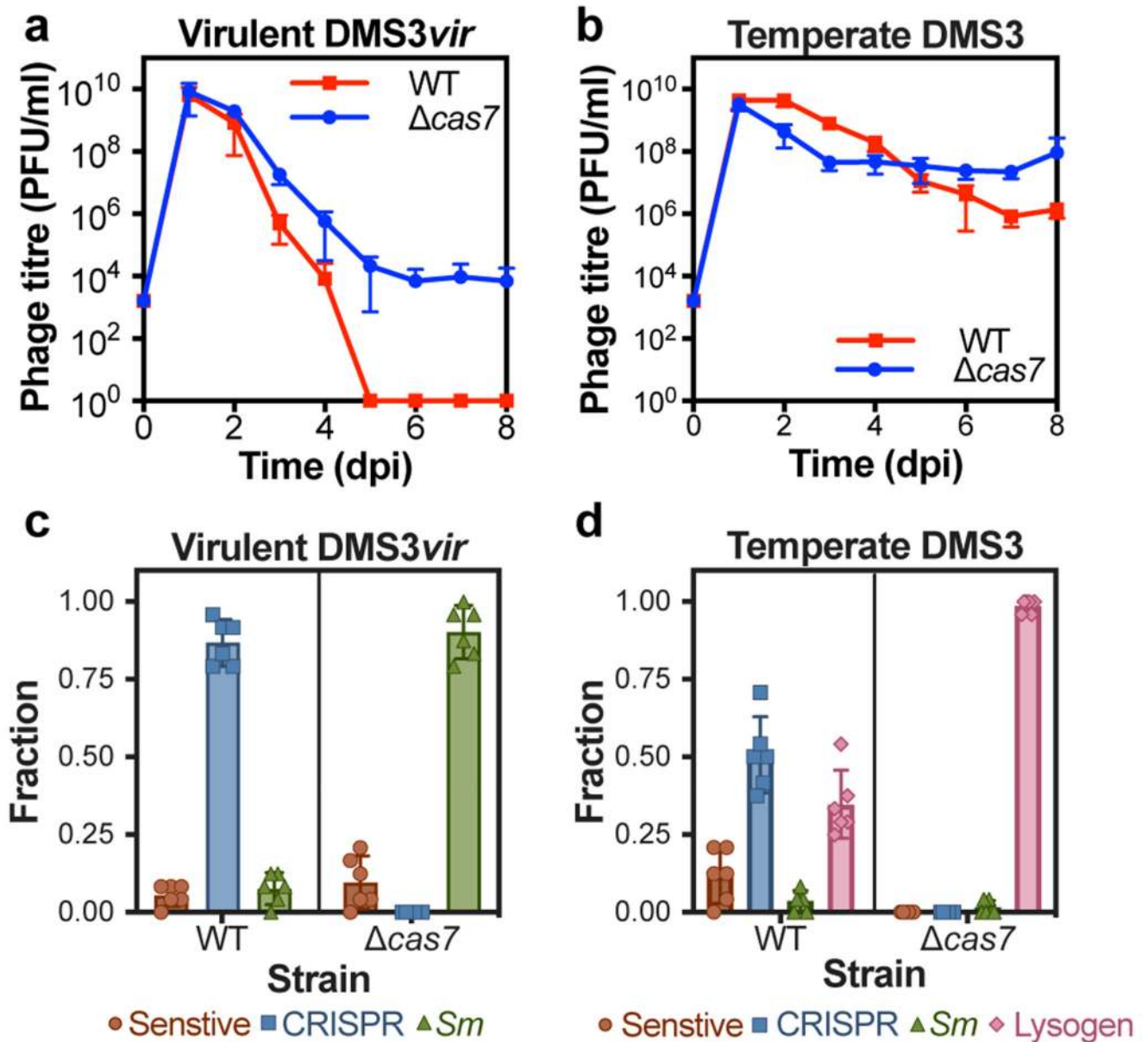
## Acknowledgements

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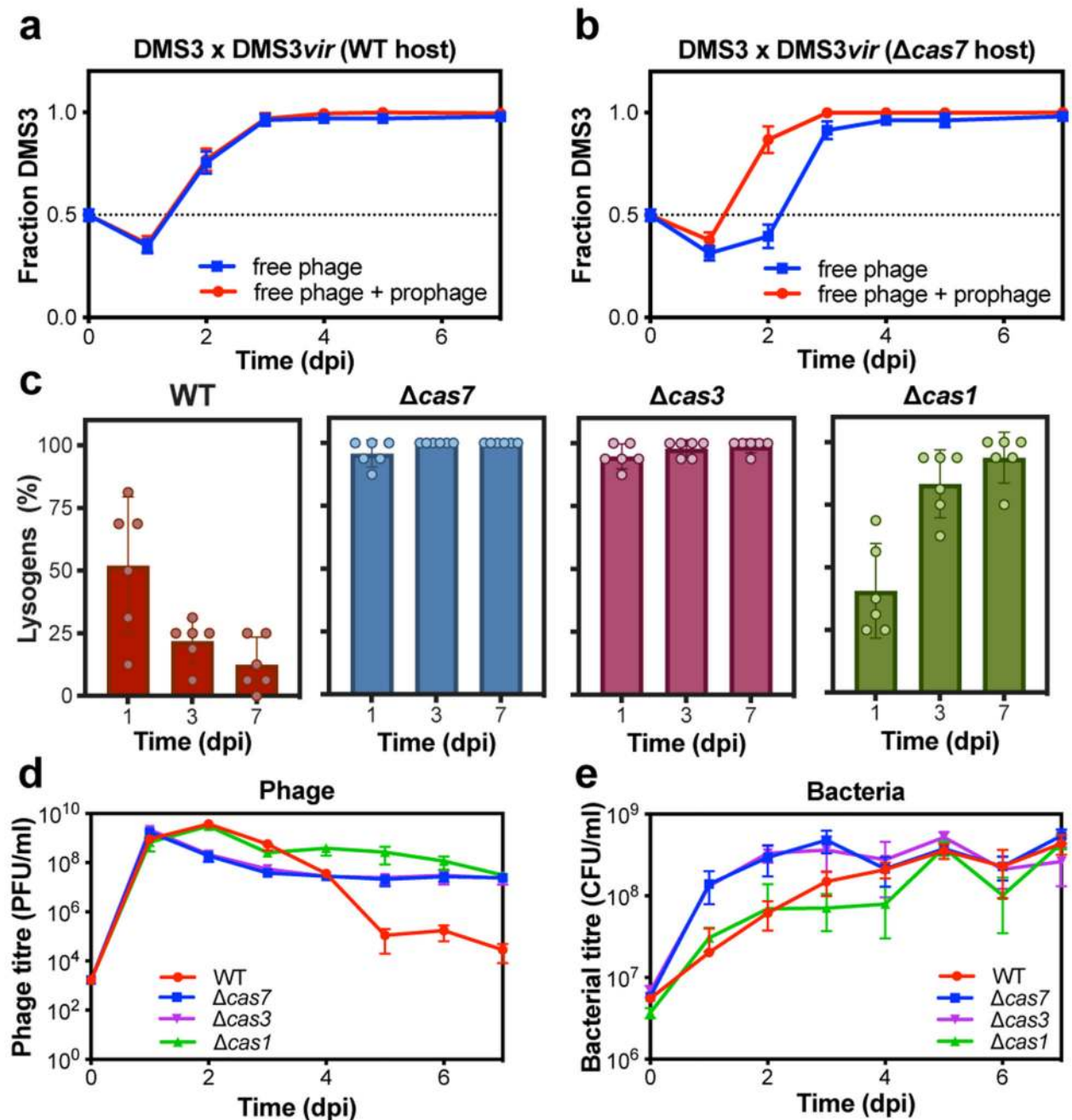
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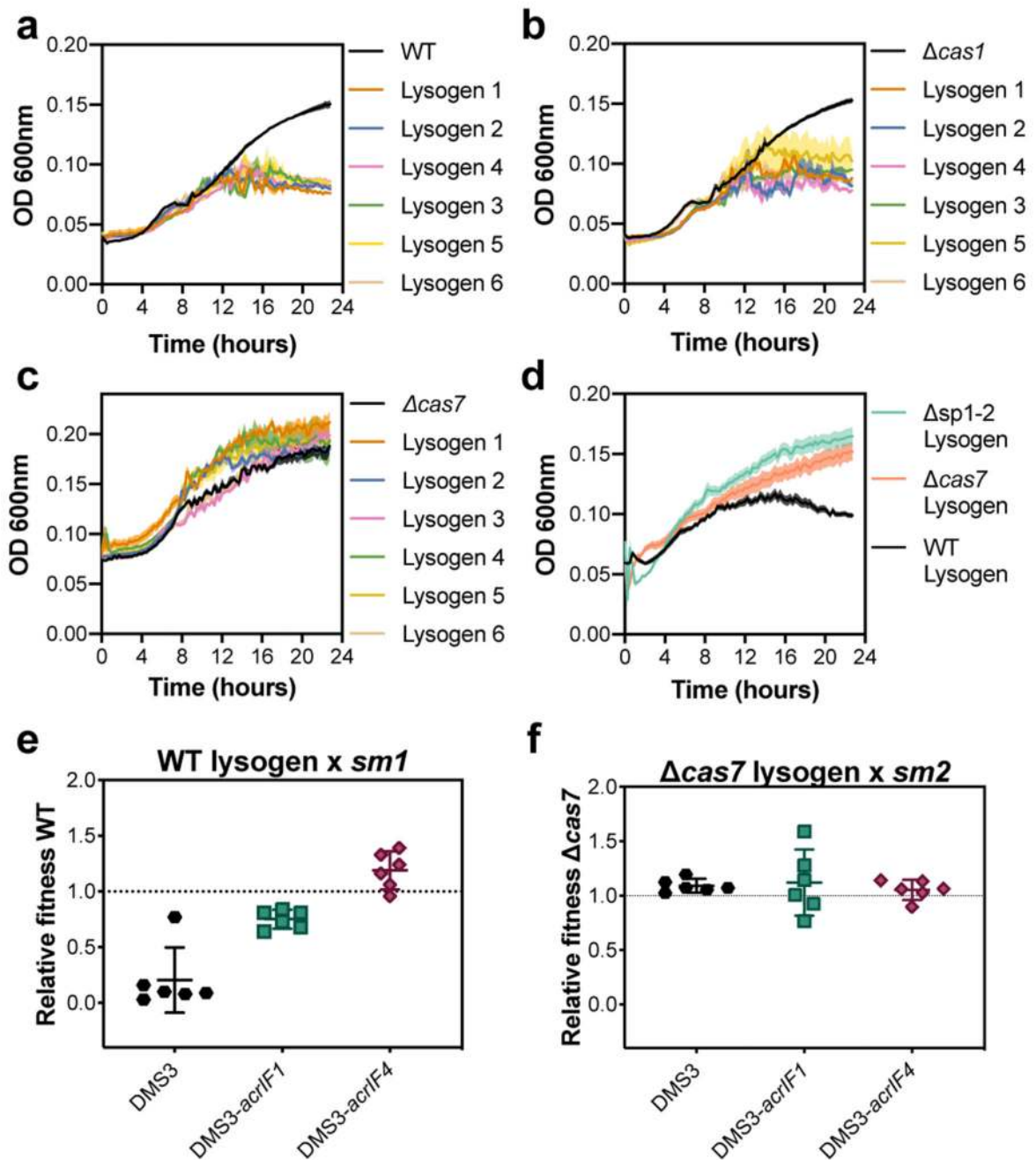
**Figure 1. Phage persistence and host resistance evolution upon virulent or temperate phage infections.**

(a) Phage densities over time following infection of WT PA14 or the  $\Delta cas7$  mutant with DMS3 *vir* or (b) DMS3. The limit of phage detection is 200 PFU/ml. (c) Fraction of bacteria that had evolved resistance at 3 dpi following infection with phage DMS3 *vir* or (d) DMS3, either through CRISPR-Cas (CRISPR), surface modification (*sm*) or lysogeny (Lysogen). Fractions are based on 24 random clones per replicate experiment. In all panels, data shown are the mean of 6 biologically independent replicates per treatment. Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals (c.i.).



**Figure 2. The impact of CRISPR adaptation and interference on lysogeny and phage persistence.** (a) Relative frequency of DMS3 over time following infection of WT PA14 or (b) the  $\Delta cas7$  mutant host with an equal mix of DMS3 and DMS3 *vir*. Relative frequencies are shown both for the free and total (i.e. including lysogens) phage population. (c) Percentage of DMS3 lysogens in the host population at 1, 3, or 7 dpi of either the WT PA14 strain, the isogenic CRISPR-interference deficient mutants  $\Delta cas7$  and  $\Delta cas3$ , or the isogenic CRISPR-adaptation deficient mutant  $\Delta cas1$ , based on 24 random clones per replicate experiment per time point. (d) DMS3 phage and (e) bacterial densities during this co-culture experiment. In

all panels, data shown are the mean of 6 biologically independent replicates per treatment.  
Error bars represent 95% c.i.

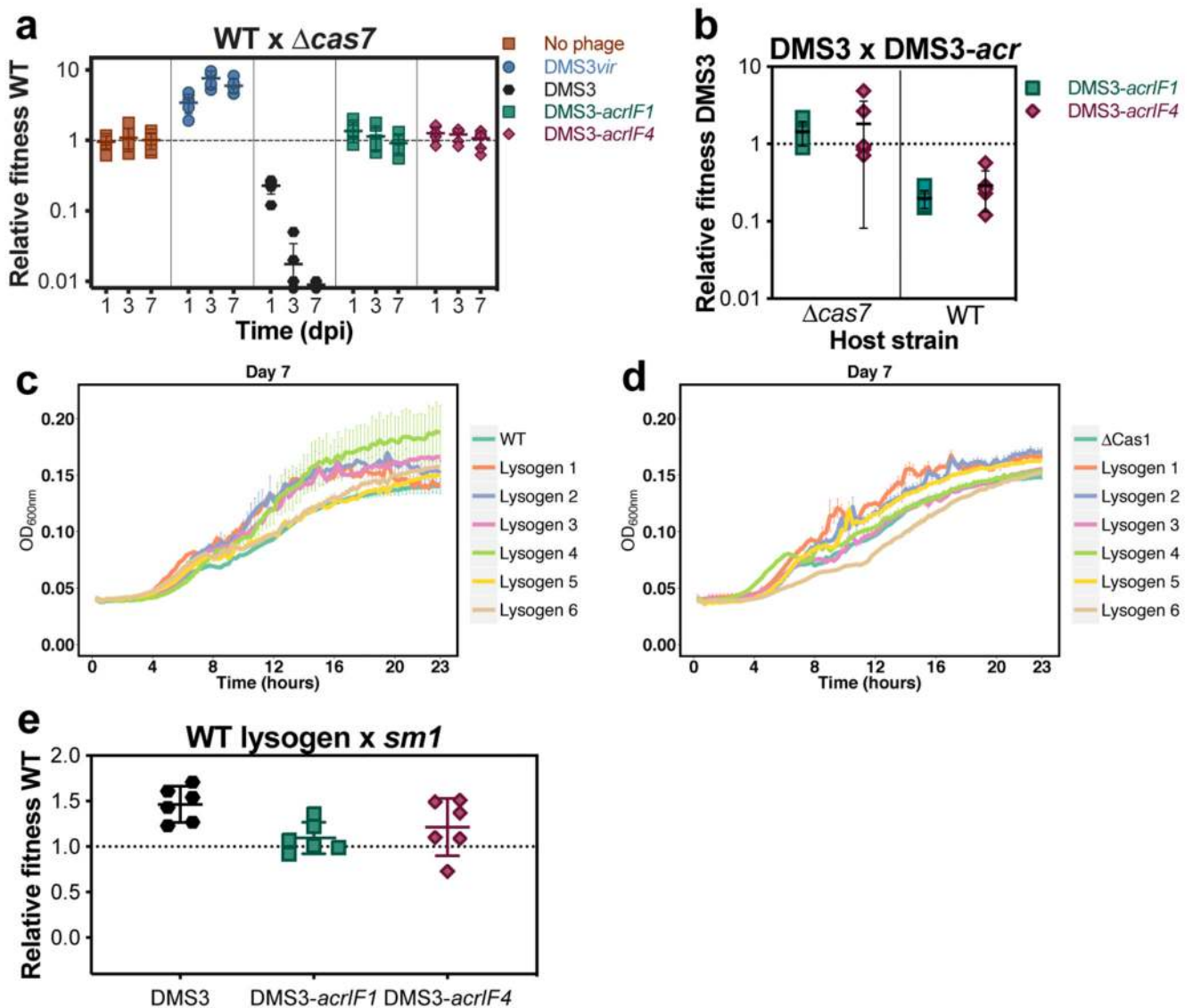


**Figure 3. Fitness of lysogens with an active CRISPR-Cas system is reduced unless they encode *acr* genes.**

(a) 24-hour growth curves of uninfected control cultures, or 6 independent DMS3 lysogens in WT PA14, (b)  $\Delta cas1$  (CRISPR-adaptation deficient), and (c)  $\Delta cas7$  (CRISPR-interference deficient) genetic backgrounds. Lysogens were isolated from day 1 of the co-culture experiment shown in Fig. 2. Curves are the mean of 6 (a,b) or 4 (c) replicates and shaded areas represent standard error of the mean. (d) 24-hour mean growth curves of 6 lysogens in WT,  $\Delta cas7$  and  $\Delta sp1-2$  (carrying a deletion of CRISPR2 spacers 1 and 2) backgrounds

isolated from 6 biological replicates. Each growth curve was performed in 5 technical replicates. Shaded areas represent standard error of the mean. **(e)** Fitness relative to a surface mutant (*sm*) of WT PA14 lysogens isolated 1 day post infection with DMS3 or **(f)** PA14  $\Delta cas7$  lysogens isolated 1 day post infection with DMS3. Relative fitness was determined after 1 day of competition. Each point represents the average relative fitness of one independent lysogen clone measured across 6 biologically independent experiments and error bars indicate 95% c.i.





**Figure 4. Lysogens evolve to mitigate fitness costs.**

(a) Relative fitness of WT during competition with  $\Delta cas7$  hosts following infection with  $10^4$  PFU of either DMS3, the lytic mutant DMS3 *vir*, or the anti-CRISPR-encoding mutants DMS3-*acrIF1* and DMS3-*acrIF4*. (b) Relative fitness of DMS3 (free phages + lysogens) following 3 days of competition with DMS3-*acrIF1* or DMS3-*acrIF4* on either WT PA14 or  $\Delta cas7$  mutant. (c) 24-hour growth curves of uninfected control cultures, or 6 biologically independent DMS3 lysogens in the WT PA14 or (d)  $\Delta cas1$  genetic backgrounds, which were isolated from day 7 of the co-culture experiment shown in Fig. 2. Curves are the mean of 6 replicates and error bars represent standard error of the mean. (e) Relative fitness of a DMS3 lysogen in a WT PA14 genetic background, isolated from day 5 of a co-culture experiment, during competition with a surface mutant. Relative fitness was calculated after 1 day of competition. All panels show the mean of 6 biologically independent replicates per

treatment. Error bars represent 95% c.i. (panels a,b and e) or standard error of the mean (panels c and d).