



[biblio.ugent.be](http://biblio.ugent.be)

The UGent Institutional Repository is the electronic archiving and dissemination platform for all UGent research publications. Ghent University has implemented a mandate stipulating that all academic publications of UGent researchers should be deposited and archived in this repository. Except for items where current copyright restrictions apply, these papers are available in Open Access.

This item is the archived peer-reviewed author-version of:

*Bradyrhizobium neotropale* sp. nov. isolated from effective nodules of *Centrolobium paraense*.

Zilli Jerry E., Alexandre C. Baraúna, Krisle da Silva, Sofie E. De Meyer, Eliane N. C. Farias, Paulo E. Kaminski, Ismaele B. da Costa, Julie K. Ardley, Anne Willems, Natalia N. Camacho, Fernanda dos S. Dourado and Graham O'Hara. *International Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary Microbiology* (2014) 64: 3950-3957.

DOI: 10.1099/ijs.0.065458-0

**To refer to or to cite this work, please use the citation to the published version:**

Zilli J. E., A. C. Baraúna, K. da Silva, S. E. De Meyer, E. N. C. Farias, P. E. Kaminski, I. B. da Costa, J. K. Ardley, A. Willems, N. N. Camacho, F. dos S. Dourado and G. O'Hara. 2014. *Bradyrhizobium neotropale* sp. nov. isolated from effective nodules of *Centrolobium paraense*. *Int. J. Syst. Evol. Microbiol.* 64:3950-3957.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1099/ijs.0.065458-0>

1 **Title**

2 *Bradyrhizobium neotropicale* sp. nov. isolated from effective nodules of *Centrolobium*  
3 *paraense*

4

5 **Short title**

6 *Bradyrhizobium neotropicale* sp. nov.

7

8 **Contents category**

9 New taxa

10

11 **Subsection**

12 Proteobacteria

13

14 Jerri E. Zilli<sup>1</sup>, Alexandre C. Baraúna<sup>2</sup>, Krisle da Silva<sup>3</sup>, Sofie E. De Meyer<sup>4,5</sup>, Eliane N.  
15 C. Farias<sup>3</sup>, Paulo E. Kaminski<sup>3</sup>, Ismaele B. da Costa<sup>3</sup>, Julie K. Ardley<sup>4</sup>, Anne Willems<sup>5</sup>,  
16 Natália N. Camacho<sup>1</sup>, Fernanda dos S. Dourado<sup>1</sup> and Graham O’Hara<sup>4</sup>

17

18 <sup>1</sup>Embrapa Agrobiologia, Rodovia BR 465 km 07, Seropédica, Rio de Janeiro 23891-  
19 000, Brazil.

20 <sup>2</sup>Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro, Rodovia BR 465 km 07, Seropédica,  
21 Rio de Janeiro 23890-000, Brazil.

22 <sup>3</sup>Embrapa Roraima, Rodovia BR 174 km 08, Boa Vista, Roraima 69301-970, Brazil.

23 <sup>4</sup>Centre for Rhizobium Studies, Murdoch University, 90 South Street, Murdoch 6150,  
24 Western Australia, Australia.

25 <sup>5</sup>Laboratory of Microbiology, Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology (WE10),  
26 Ghent University, K. L. Ledeganckstraat 35, B-9000 Ghent, Belgium.

27

28 **\*Corresponding author**

29 e-mail: jerri.zilli@embrapa.br

30 Phone: ++ 55 21 3441-1611

31 Fax: ++ 55 21 2682-1230

32

33 The GenBank/EMBL/DDBJ accession numbers for the 16S rRNA, ITS 16S-23S rRNA,  
34 *dnaK*, *glnII*, *gyrB* *recA*, *rpoB*, *nodC* and *nifH* gene sequences of *Bradyrhizobium*  
35 *neotropicale* sp. nov. BR 10247<sup>T</sup> are KF927051, KJ661686, KJ661693, KJ661700,  
36 KJ661707, KJ661714, KF983829, KJ661727 and KJ661728, respectively. The  
37 accession numbers for all other strains are listed in Table S2.

38

39 **Abstract**

40 Root nodule bacteria were isolated from *Centrolobium paraense* Tul. grown in soils  
41 from the Amazon region, State of Roraima (Brazil). The 16S rRNA gene sequence  
42 analysis of seven strains (BR 10247<sup>T</sup>, BR 10296, BR 10297, BR 10298, BR 10299, BR  
43 10300 and BR 10301) placed them into the genus *Bradyrhizobium* with the closest  
44 neighbouring species *B. paxllaeri* (98.8%), *B. icense* (98.8%), *B. lablabi* (98.7%), *B.*  
45 *jicamae* (98.6%), *B. elkanii* (98.6%), *B. pachyrhizi* (98.6%) and *B. retamae* (98,3%).  
46 This high similarity, however, was not confirmed by the ITS 16S-23S rRNA analysis  
47 nor by MLSA. Phylogenetic analyses of five housekeeping genes (*dnaK*, *glnII*, *gyrB*,  
48 *recA* and *rpoB*) revealed *Bradyrhizobium iriomotense* strain EK05<sup>T</sup> (=LMG 24129<sup>T</sup>) to  
49 be the closest type strain (95.7% sequence similarity or less). Chemotaxonomic data,

50 including fatty acid profiles (with majority being C<sub>16:0</sub> and Summed Feature 8 (C<sub>18:1</sub>  
51 w7c), DNA G+C content (% mol), the slow growth rate and carbon compound utilization  
52 patterns supported the placement of our strains in the genus *Bradyrhizobium*. Results of  
53 DNA-DNA relatedness and physiological data (especially C source utilization)  
54 differentiated our strains from the closest validly named *Bradyrhizobium* species.  
55 Symbiosis-related genes for nodulation (*nodC*) and nitrogen fixation (*nifH*) placed the  
56 new species in a new branch within the *Bradyrhizobium* genus. Based on the current  
57 data, these seven strains represent a novel species for which the name *Bradyrhizobium*  
58 *neotropicale* sp. nov. (BR 10247<sup>T</sup> = HAMBI 3599<sup>T</sup>) is proposed.

59

60 *Centrolobium paraense* Tul. (Leguminosae, Papilionoideae), tribe Dalbergieae,  
61 locally known as “pau-rainha”, is a nodulating Neotropical leguminous tree occurring  
62 from the northern Brazilian Amazonia to Panama (Pirie *et al.*, 2009). It grows in semi-  
63 deciduous forest, gallery forest, forest islands in cerrado and transition cerrado/forest,  
64 and has several ecological roles including nutrient input through symbiotic nitrogen  
65 fixation, protecting soils against erosion, and being a pioneer or early secondary plant  
66 (Marques *et al.*, 2001; Dahmer *et al.*, 2009). This species has also economic and social  
67 importance because its wood is used by indigenous communities and in the industry as  
68 timber or fuel (Dahmer *et al.*, 2009; Pedreira, 2010).

69 *C. paraense* is capable of forming nodules with rhizobia native to the soil of  
70 Amazonia (Souza *et al.*, 1994; Baraúna, 2013) and bacteria belonging to the genera  
71 *Bradyrhizobium* and *Rhizobium* have been reported as symbionts of *Centrolobium* spp.  
72 However, previous studies have not identified the bacteria at species level (Moreira *et*  
73 *al.*, 1998; Pagano, 1995, Baraúna *et al.*, 2013).

74 A recent investigation of the ecology of root-nodulating-bacteria isolated from  
75 *C. paraense* grown in soils collected from different areas in Roraima State-Brazil found  
76 that about 90% of the 178 isolates exhibit phenotypic characteristics similar to species  
77 of *Bradyrhizobium* (Baraúna *et al.*, 2014). Analysis of partial 16S rRNA gene sequences  
78 confirmed these results, but placed these isolates in branches different from previously  
79 described species. Nine of the new isolates also show high efficiency in nitrogen  
80 fixation associated with *C. paraense* (Baraúna *et al.*, 2014).

81 Here we report the results from a polyphasic taxonomic study of seven isolates  
82 (BR 10247<sup>T</sup>, BR 10296, BR 10297, BR 10298, BR 10299, BR 10300 and BR 10301).  
83 This polyphasic study included gene sequence analysis (16S rRNA, ITS, *dnaK*, *glnII*,  
84 *gyrB*, *recA*, *rpoB*, *nodC* and *nifH*), DNA-DNA relatedness, fatty acid profiling and  
85 phenotypic characterization. The strains were obtained from *C. paraense* grown in soil  
86 samples collected in the Mucajaí municipality-State of Roraima (2° 27 12.9 N; 60° 54  
87 11.2 W) (Baraúna *et al.*, 2014). The climate in this region is classified as Aw (Köppen)  
88 with average rainfall of 1600 mm year<sup>-1</sup> and an average temperature of 27°C (Araújo, *et*  
89 *al.*, 2001). The strains were deposited in the Diazotrophic Microbial Culture Collection  
90 -CRB-Johanna Döbereiner- (Embrapa Agrobiologia, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil); strain BR  
91 10247<sup>T</sup>, was also deposited at the Hambi Collection (<http://www.helsinki.fi/hambi>) as  
92 HAMBI 3599<sup>T</sup>. All strains were cultured on YMA medium (Fred & Waksman, 1928) at  
93 28°C and for long-term storage the cultures were lyophilized and maintained at -80°C.

94 For PCR, genomic DNA was prepared using the Promega genomic DNA  
95 purification kit (cat. A1120), according to the manufacturer's instructions. Nearly full  
96 length sequences of the 16S rRNA gene (1336bp) were obtained for all strains using the  
97 primers and conditions described previously (Radl *et al.*, 2013). The intergenic  
98 transcribed spacer (ITS) sequences were also obtained for the new strains following the

99 conditions presented by Menna *et al.*, (2009). Sequence alignment, alignment editing  
100 and phylogenetic analyses were performed using the MEGA5 software package  
101 (Tamura *et al.*, 2011). Phylogenetic trees were constructed using the Maximum-  
102 Likelihood (ML) (Felsenstein, 1981) reconstruction method as recommended by Tindall  
103 *et al.* (2010). The strength of each topology was verified using 1000 bootstrap  
104 replications and the ML trees are provided (Fig. 1 and Fig. 2).

105         The 16S rRNA phylogenetic analysis showed that the seven strains shared more  
106 than 99.5% sequence similarity with each other and formed a separate branch within the  
107 genus *Bradyrhizobium*, with *B. jicamae* PAC68<sup>T</sup> as the closest neighbour (Fig. 1). The  
108 16S rRNA gene sequence similarity between strain BR 10247<sup>T</sup> and other  
109 *Bradyrhizobium* type strains was between 96.0-98.8% (Table S1, available in IJSEM  
110 online). Thus, even though the 16S rRNA is highly conserved in *Bradyrhizobium*  
111 (Menna *et al.*, 2009, Willems *et al.*, 2001b), the analysis showed that our strains form a  
112 separate branch compared to other species.

113         ITS phylogenetic analysis (891bp) showed less than 86.6% similarity between  
114 our strains and other recognized *Bradyrhizobium* type strains, and the similarity  
115 between our strains was greater than 98% (Table S1, available in IJSEM Online). The  
116 ITS phylogenetic reconstruction placed the new strains in a different branch with  
117 *B. iriomotense* EK05<sup>T</sup> as the closest neighbor (Fig. 2). Previous studies have  
118 demonstrated that ITS sequences are a suitable marker to separate *Bradyrhizobium*  
119 species and 95.5% similarity value or more indicates strains belonging to the same  
120 genospecies, corresponding to about 60% DNA: DNA hybridization (Willems *et al.*,  
121 2001a, Willems *et al.*, 2003).

122         To confirm the ITS results we performed a Multi Locus Sequence Analysis  
123 (MLSA), using housekeeping genes that have previously been used for *Bradyrhizobium*

124 species delimitation, and produce phylogenies that are supported by ITS sequence and  
125 DNA: DNA hybridization data (Rivas *et al.*, 2009; Menna *et al.*, 2009). We obtained  
126 sequences and performed the analyses for *dnaK* (238bp), *glnII* (534bp), *gyrB* (591bp),  
127 *recA* (418bp) and *rpoB* (408bp) genes following previous reports (Martens *et al.*, 2008;  
128 Rivas *et al.*, 2009; Menna *et al.*, 2009; Vinuesa *et al.*, 2005). Congruence between the  
129 different gene sequences was firstly checked using the partition homogeneity tests  
130 (Farris, *et al.*, 1994) performed with PAUP software v. 4.0b10 (Swofford, 2002). As  
131 congruence ( $p>0.01$ ) was found only between the genes *gyrB*, *recA* and *rpoB*, the  
132 concatenation (performed by the software SeaView v. 4.0, Gouy *et al.*, 2010) was done  
133 for these three genes, and the other two genes (*dnaK* and *glnII*) were analysed  
134 individually.

135         The phylogenetic tree based on the concatenated sequences of the three genes  
136 confirmed our strains belonged to a monophyletic cluster with high bootstrap support  
137 (100%) (Fig. 3). Similar relationships were also obtained for the genes *dnaK* and *glnII*  
138 when individually analysed (Fig. S1 and S2, available in IJSEM Online). In addition,  
139 the sequence similarities between our strains were more than 99% for all investigated  
140 genes (Table S1, available in IJSEM Online). The closest type strain in the 16S rRNA  
141 analysis, *B. jicamae* PAC68<sup>T</sup>, showed less than 90% similarity with strain BR 10247<sup>T</sup>  
142 in MLSA. However, the closest type strain from the ITS analysis, *B. iriomotense*  
143 EK05<sup>T</sup>, had a similarity between 92.6-95.7% for all five investigated genes in  
144 comparison with strain BR 10247<sup>T</sup>.

145         It is interesting to emphasize that our strains presented a discordance in the 16S  
146 rRNA phylogenetic compared to ITS, which was also confirmed by MLSA analysis.  
147 While in the 16S rRNA gene analysis the closest strain was *B. jicamae*, closely related  
148 to *B. elkanii* (subgroup I), the ITS and concatenated MLSA tree placed our strains

149 together with *B. iriomotense*, belonging to subgroup II (Fig. 1, Fig 2 and Fig. 3). The  
150 *Bradyrhizobium* subgroup division (I and II) is based on DNA: DNA hybridisation and  
151 was used to separate the *B. japonicum* type strain from the *B. elkanii* type strain (Hollis  
152 *et al.*, 1981; Willems *et al.*, 2001). The discordance found for our strains may indicate  
153 either a lateral gene transfer or a gene recombination event, leading to a reticulate  
154 evolutionary history (van Berkum *et al.*, 2003; van Berkum *et al.*, 2009; Parker *et al.*,  
155 2003; Parker *et al.*, 2008).

156 BLAST search (Altschul *et al.*, 1990) revealed, in general, low similarity of the  
157 sequences of our strains with deposited sequences. However, high similarity was  
158 obtained with gene sequences from strain TUXTLAS-14 (16S rRNA, ITS, *dnaK*, *recA*  
159 and *glnII*), isolated from *Vigna unguiculata* in Mexico (Ormeño-Orrillo *et al.*, 2012)  
160 and strain Cp5-3 (16S rRNA, *recA*), isolated from *Centrosema pubescens*, in Panama  
161 (Parker, 2003), and both strains TUXTLAS-14 and Cp5-3 have a phylogenetic pattern  
162 similar to our strains with a discordance between 16S rRNA and housekeeping genes  
163 (Ormeño-Orrillo *et al.*, 2012). This may indicate that strains belonging to this novel  
164 *Bradyrhizobium* species are distributed from Northern Brazil to Panama or Mexico.

165 For phenotypic characterization, the strains were Gram stained and were  
166 incubated for 7 days on YMA at different temperatures (15, 20, 25, 28, 30, 32, and  
167 37°C), pH values (4.0, 5.0, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0 and 11.0) and NaCl concentrations  
168 (0.1, 0.3, 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0 and 2.5% (w/v). Cell motility was observed by light  
169 microscopy of wet preparations of the strains grown in YM medium, and cell  
170 morphology by transmission and scanning electron microscopy. Oxidase activity was  
171 evaluated by touching a colony with a paper impregnated in 1% N,N,N',N'-tetramethyl-  
172 p-phenylenediamine solution and observing the colour change; catalase activity was

173 determined by flooding a colony with 10% (v/v) H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and checking for the presence of  
174 bubbles.

175 Other biochemical tests were performed by inoculating API 20NE strips  
176 (BioMérieux, France) and Biolog GN2 microplates (Biolog Inc, CA, USA) according to  
177 the manufacturer's instructions followed by incubation for 8 days at 28°C. The  
178 antibiotic susceptibility tests were performed on YMA using the antibiotic Sensi-disc  
179 dispenser system (Oxoid) with bio-discs (Oxoid) containing ampicillin (10 µg and 25  
180 µg), chloramphenicol (30 µg and 50 µg), erythromycin (30 µg), gentamicin (10 µg),  
181 kanamycin (30 µg), neomycin (10 µg), penicillin (10 µg), streptomycin (10 µg and 25  
182 µg) and tetracycline (30 µg). The plates were incubated at 28°C and read after 10 days.

183 Discriminating phenotypic characteristics of our strains are given in Table 1 and  
184 the details of carbon source utilization are presented in the Supplementary Table S3,  
185 available in IJSEM Online. Our strains grew between 15 and 37 °C and in pH range 4.0  
186 to 10.0, common characteristics within the *Bradyrhizobium* genus. The optimum growth  
187 was verified at 28-32°C and pH 5-7 (Table 1). All strains were resistant to  
188 chloramphenicol (50 µg) and sensitive to ampicillin (10 µg), penicillin (10 µg),  
189 streptomycin (10 µg and 25 µg) and tetracycline (30 µg), while the closest type strain *B.*  
190 *iriomotense* EK05<sup>T</sup> showed penicillin and streptomycin resistance (Table 1). Enzymatic  
191 reactions were positive for catalase, oxidase, urease, arginine dihydrolase and  
192 hydrolysis of esculin, and negative for nitrate reduction, tryptophan deaminase, glucose  
193 fermentation, hydrolysis of gelatine and β-galactosidase. The *Centrolobium* strains  
194 differed from LMG 24129<sup>T</sup> in β-galactosidase, arginine dihydrolase and nitrate  
195 reduction (Table 1).

196 Whole-cell fatty acid methyl esters of strain BR 10247<sup>T</sup> were extracted  
197 according to the MIDI protocol ([http://www.microbialid.com/PDF/TechNote\\_101.pdf](http://www.microbialid.com/PDF/TechNote_101.pdf),  
198 (Delamuta *et al.*, 2013). Cultures were grown for 5 days at 28°C on YMA prior to  
199 extraction. The profiles were generated using a chromatograph Agilent model 6850 and  
200 identified using the TSBA database version 6.10 (Microbial Identification System -  
201 MIDI Inc.). The most abundant cellular fatty acids detected were C<sub>16:0</sub> (13.56%) and  
202 Summed Feature (SF) 8 (C<sub>18:1</sub> w7c) (66.52%). Moderate amounts of C<sub>18:1</sub> w7c 11-  
203 methyl (11.77%) and C<sub>19:0</sub> cyclo w8c (7.14%) and C<sub>18:0</sub> (1.04%) were also found. The  
204 presence of C<sub>16:0</sub> and SF 8 supports the placement of these strain in the genus  
205 *Bradyrhizobium* (Tighe *et al.*, 2000) and revealed some differences between BR 10247<sup>T</sup>  
206 and *B. iriomotense* EK05<sup>T</sup>, especially the higher abundance of C<sub>16:0</sub> (14.7%) and lower  
207 C<sub>18:1</sub> w7c (80.1%) as was first presented by Islam *et al.* (2008).

208 For DNA-DNA hybridization and determination of DNA G+C content, high-  
209 molecular weight DNA was prepared as described by Pitcher *et al.* (1989). DNA-DNA  
210 hybridizations were performed using a microplate method and biotinylated probe DNA  
211 (Ezaki *et al.*, 1989). The hybridization temperature was 50°C ± 1°C. Reciprocal  
212 reactions (A x B and B x A) were performed in triplicate for each DNA pair and their  
213 variation was within the limits of this method (Goris *et al.*, 1998). The DNA-DNA  
214 relatedness between BR 10247<sup>T</sup> and the closest type strain *B. iriomotense* EK05<sup>T</sup> was  
215 63.8%, confirming that our strains belong to a new species, since the threshold  
216 recommended is 70% (Lindström & Gyllenberg, 2007; Tindall *et al.*, 2010). The G+C  
217 content of DNA was determined by HPLC according to the method of Mesbah *et al.*  
218 (1989) using a Waters Breeze HPLC system and XBridge Shield RP18 column  
219 thermostabilised at 37°C. The solvent was 0.02M NH<sub>4</sub>H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (pH 4.0) with 1.5% (v/v)  
220 acetonitrile. Non-methylated lambda phage (Sigma) and *E. coli* DNA were used as

221 calibration reference and control, respectively. The DNA G+C content of strain BR  
222 10247<sup>T</sup>, was 63.9 mol% (Table 1), differentiating it from the closest type strain LMG  
223 24129<sup>T</sup> for which the G+C mol% was 61.2 (Islam *et al.*, 2008).

224 Nodulation and nitrogen fixation genes are required for effective legume  
225 symbiosis, therefore *nodC* and *nifH* genes were analysed according to Sarita *et al.*,  
226 (2001) and Ueda *et al.*, (1995), respectively. Phylogenetic trees were constructed as  
227 described previously and the results are given in Figs. S3 and S4 (available in IJSEM  
228 Online) for *nodC* and *nifH*, respectively. *NodC* analysis placed strain BR 10247<sup>T</sup> in a  
229 separate branch in relation to other *Bradyrhizobium* species and it was grouped outside  
230 the four recognized symbiovars (Cobo-Díaz *et al.*, 2014) (similarity less than 80%),  
231 possibly indicating a new symbiovar within this genus (Fig. S3, Table S1). *NifH* gene  
232 sequence analysis clustered strain BR 10247<sup>T</sup> in the same branch as *B. iriomotense*  
233 EK05<sup>T</sup> (closest strain in the previous analyses), but the similarity observed was lower  
234 than 90% between both strains (Fig. S4, Table 1), indicating again that it might be a  
235 new symbiovar.

236 To confirm the nodulation ability of the strains investigated in this study, two  
237 glasshouse experiments were performed. In the first experiment, the seven strains were  
238 tested on their original host *C. paraense* and this was performed using Leonard jars  
239 containing N-free nutrient solution according to Radl *et al.* (2013). Secondly, host plant  
240 tests with strain BR 10247<sup>T</sup> were performed on 14 different legume species using the  
241 axenic sand-culture system described previously (Howieson *et al.*, 2013). For both  
242 experiments the seeds were surface sterilized with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (5%; (v/v); 5 min) and  
243 inoculated with 1 mL of YM broth suspension containing approximately 10<sup>9</sup> bacterial  
244 cells grown for 5 days at 28°C. All treatments, plus an uninoculated control were  
245 replicated four times in a split-plot design (Howieson *et al.*, 2013). Nodulation was

246 evaluated 70 days and 35 days after inoculation in the first and the second experiment,  
247 respectively. The seven strains nodulated *C. paraense* (Table S4, available in IJSEM  
248 Online). Strain BR 10247<sup>T</sup> formed effective nitrogen fixing nodules on roots of *Arachis*  
249 *hypogaea*, *Acacia ligulata*, *Cajanus cajan*, *Crotalaria juncea*, *Macroptilium*  
250 *atropurpureum*, *Vigna unguiculata*, *V. angularis*, *V. radiata*, and ineffective (non-  
251 fixing) root nodules on *Ornithopus compressus* and *Phaseolus vulgaris*. No nodulation  
252 was observed for *Glycine max*, *Lupinus angustifolius*, *Pisum sativum* and *Vicia faba*.

253 The genotypic and phenotypic data presented in this study demonstrate that the  
254 strains isolated from *Centrolobium paraense* root nodules collected in the Amazonia  
255 represent a novel species, for which the name *Bradyrhizobium neotropicale* sp. nov. is  
256 proposed, with BR 10247<sup>T</sup> (= HAMBI 3599<sup>T</sup>) as the type strain.

257

#### 258 **Description of *Bradyrhizobium neotropicale* sp. nov.**

259 *Bradyrhizobium neotropicale* (ne.o.tro.pi.ca'le. Gr. adj. *neos*, new; N.L.  
260 adj. *tropicalis* (from L. masc. adj. *tropicus*, tropical), referring to the tropical region;  
261 N.L. neut. adj. *neotropicale* of the neotropics)

262

263 Cells are motile with polar flagella, Gram-negative rods (approximately 2.4 x 0.6 µm),  
264 aerobic, non-spore-forming (Supplementary Fig. S5). Colonies on YMA medium are  
265 circular and translucent, and have a diameter of 1 mm within 7–8 days of incubation at  
266 28 °C. The generation time is 10.8 h in YM broth. The pH range for growth on YMA is  
267 4.0 –10.0, with optimum growth at pH 5.0-7.0. Growth occurs between 15°C and 37°C,  
268 with optimum growth at 28-30°C. Does not grow in the presence of 1.5% (w/v) NaCl or  
269 higher. Positive reactions for carbon source utilization were recorded for L-arabinose,

270 D-arabitol, D-fructose, L-fucose, D-galactose, D-mannitol, D-mannose, L-rhamnose,  
271 acetic acid, citric acid, formic acid, D-galactonic acid lactone, D-galacturonic acid, D-  
272 gluconic acid, D-glucosaminic acid,  $\alpha$ -hydroxybutyric acid,  $\beta$ -hydroxybutyric acid,  $\gamma$ -  
273 hydroxybutyric acid, p-hydroxyphenylacetic acid,  $\alpha$ -ketobutyric acid,  $\alpha$ -ketoglutaric  
274 acid, D,L-lactic acid, malonic acid, quinic acid, D-saccharic acid, sebacic acid, succinic  
275 acid, glycerol, methyl pyruvate, mono-methyl-succinnate, D-alanine, L-asparagine, L-  
276 aspartic acid, L-glutamic acid, L-leucine, L-phenylalanine, urocanic acid, succinamic  
277 acid, glucuronamide and bromo succinic acid. Oxidase, catalase, arginine dihydrolase,  
278 hydrolysis of esculin and urease were also positive, while nitrate reduction, tryptophan  
279 deaminase, glucose fermentation,  $\beta$ -galactosidase and hydrolysis of gelatin were  
280 negative. The most abundant cellular fatty acids are C<sub>16:0</sub> and summed feature 8 (C<sub>18:1</sub>  
281 w7c). The DNA G+C content of the type strain BR 10247<sup>T</sup> is 63.9 mol%. The type  
282 strain BR 10247<sup>T</sup> (=HAMBI 3599<sup>T</sup>) was isolated from nodules of *Centrolobium*  
283 *paraense* grown in soils of Amazonia, Roraima State-Brazil.

284

## 285 **Acknowledgements**

286 The authors would like to thank Rosa Pitard (Embrapa Agrobiologia), Regina Carr and  
287 Rebecca Swift (Murdoch University) and Liesbeth Lebbe (Ghent University) for  
288 technical assistance. We also thank Dr. Itamar Soares Melo (Embrapa Meio Ambiente)  
289 for bacterial fatty acid analysis and Dr. Aharon Oren for help with the naming of the  
290 novel species. This study was financially supported by CNPq, Embrapa and Murdoch  
291 University.

292

293

294 **References**

- 295 **Altschul, S. F., Gish, W., Miller, W., Myers, E. W. & Lipman, D. J. (1990).** Basic  
296 Local Alignment Search Tool. *J Mol Biol* **215**, 403-410.
- 297 **Araújo, W. F., Andrade Júnior, A. S. d., Medeiros, R. D. d. & Sampaio, R. A.**  
298 **(2001).** Precipitação pluviométrica mensal provável em Boa Vista, Estado de Roraima,  
299 Brasil. *Rev Bras Eng Agric Ambient* **5**, 563-567.
- 300 **Baraúna A. C., da Silva, K., Pereira, G. M. D., Kaminski, P. E., Perin, L. Zilli, J. E.**  
301 **(2014).** Diversity and nitrogen fixation efficiency of rhizobia isolated from nodules of  
302 *Centrolobium paraense*. *Pesq Agropec Bras* **49**, 296-305.
- 303 **Dahmer, N., Wittman, M. T. S. & Kaminski, P. E. (2009).** Chromosome number and  
304 karyotype of the endangered Amazonian woody *Centrolobium paraense* Tul. species.  
305 *Crop Breeding App Biotech* **9**, 382-385.
- 306 **Delamuta, J. R. M., Ribeiro, R. A., Ormeño-Orrillo, E., Melo, I. S., Martínez-**  
307 **Romero, E. & Hungria, M. (2013).** Polyphasic evidence supporting the reclassification  
308 of *Bradyrhizobium japonicum* Group Ia strains as *Bradyrhizobium diazoefficiens* sp.  
309 nov. *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* **63**, p.3342-3351.
- 310 **Cobo-Díaz, J. F., Martínez-Hidalgo, P., Fernández-González, A. J., Martínez-**  
311 **Molina, E., Toro, N., Velázquez, E, Fernández-López, M. (2014).** The endemic  
312 *Genista versicolor* from Sierra Nevada National Park in Spain is nodulated by putative  
313 new *Bradyrhizobium* species and a novel symbiovar (*sierranevadense*). *Syst Appl*  
314 *Microbiol* **37**, 177–185.
- 315 **Ezaki, T., Hashimoto, Y. & Yabuuchi, E. (1989).** Fluorometric deoxyribonucleic  
316 acid-deoxyribonucleic acid hybridization in microdilution wells as an alternative to  
317 membrane filter hybridization in which radioisotopes are used to determine genetic  
318 relatedness among bacterial strains. *Int J Syst Bacteriol* **39**, 224–229.

319 **Farris, J. S., Källersjö, M., Kluge, A. G. & Bult, C. (1994).** Testing significance of  
320 incongruence. *Cladistics* **10**, 315-319.

321 **Felsenstein, J. (1981).** Evolutionary trees from DNA sequences: A maximum  
322 likelihood approach. *J Mol Evol* **17**, 368-376.

323 **Fred, E. B. & Waksman, S. A. (1928).** *Yeast extract-manitol agar. Laboratory Manual*  
324 *of General Microbiology*. New York: McGraw Hill.

325 **Goris, J., Suzuki, K., De Vos, P., Nakase, T. & Kersters, K. (1998).** Evaluation of a  
326 microplate DNA - DNA hybridization method compared with the initial renaturation  
327 method. *Can J Microbiol* **44**, 1148–1153.

328 **Gouy, M., Guindon, S. & Gascuel, O. (2010).** SeaView Version 4: A Multiplatform  
329 Graphical User Interface for Sequence Alignment and Phylogenetic Tree Building. *Mol*  
330 *Biol Evol* **27**, 221-224.

331 **Howieson, J. G.; De Meyer S. E.; Vivas-Marfisi, A.; Ratnayake S.; Ardley, J. K.;**  
332 **Yates, R. J. (2013).** Novel *Burkholderia* bacteria isolated from *Lebeckia ambigua* - A  
333 perennial suffrutescent legume of the fynbos, *Soil Biol Biochem* **60**, 55-64.

334 **Islam, M. S., Kawasaki, H., Muramatsu, Y., Nakagawa, Y. & Seki, T. (2008).**  
335 *Bradyrhizobium iriomotense* sp. nov., isolated from a tumor-like root of the legume  
336 *Entada koshunensis* from Iriomote island in Japan. *Biosci Biotechnol Biochem* **72**,  
337 1416-1429.

338 **Lindström, K. & H. Gyllenberg (2007).** The species paradigm: proposal for a cross-  
339 disciplinary species concept. 11th International Congress on Culture Collections. I.  
340 Kurtböke. Goslar, Germany. World Federation of Culture Collections.

341 **Marques, M. S., Pagano, M. & Scotti, M. R. M. M. L. (2001).** Dual inoculation of a  
342 woody legume (*Centrolobium tomentosum*) with rhizobia and mycorrhizal fungi in  
343 south-eastern Brazil. *Agroforestry Systems* **52**, 107-117.

344 **Martens, M., Dawyndt, P., Coopman, R., Gillis, M., De Vos, P. & Willems, A.**  
345 **(2008).** Advantages of multilocus sequence analysis for taxonomic studies: a case study  
346 using 10 housekeeping genes in the genus *Ensifer*. *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* **58**, 200–  
347 214.

348 **Menna, P., Barcellos, F. G. & Hungria, M. (2009).** Phylogeny and taxonomy of a  
349 diverse collection of *Bradyrhizobium* strains based on multilocus sequence analysis of  
350 the 16S rRNA gene, ITS region and *glnII*, *recA*, *atpD* and *dnaK* genes. *Int J Syst Evol*  
351 *Microbiol* **59**, 2934-2950.

352 **Mesbah, M., Premachandran, U. & Whitman, W. B. (1989).** Precise measurement of  
353 the G+C content of deoxyribonucleic-acid by highperformance liquid-chromatography.  
354 *Int J Syst Bacteriol* **39**, 159–167.

355 **Moreira, F. M. S., Haukka, K. & Young, J. P. W. (1998).** Biodiversity of rhizobia  
356 isolated from a wide range of forest legumes in Brazil. *Mol Ecol* **7**, 889-895.

357 **Ormeño-Orrillo, E., Rogel-Hernández, M., Lloret, L., López-López, A., Martínez,**  
358 **J., Barois, I. & Martínez-Romero, E. (2012).** Change in land use alters the diversity  
359 and composition of *Bradyrhizobium* communities and led to the introduction of  
360 *Rhizobium etli* into the tropical rain forest of Los Tuxtlas (Mexico). *Microb Ecol* **63**,  
361 822-834.

362 **Pagano, M.C.** Rhizobia associated with neotropical tree *Centrolobium tomentonsum*  
363 used in riparian restoration (2008). *Plant, Soil Environ* **54**, 498-508.

364 **Parker, M. A. (2003).** Genetic markers for analysing symbiotic relationships and lateral  
365 gene transfer in Neotropical bradyrhizobia. *Mol Ecol* **12**, 2447-2455.

366 **Pedreira, J. L. (2010).** Uso e manejo indígena de pau-rainha (*Centrolobium paraense*  
367 Tul. – Fabaceae) na terra indígena Araçá, RR. Master. thesis – Instituto Nacional de  
368 Pesquisa Amazônicas, Manaus, Brazil.

369 **Pirie, M.D.; Klitgaard, B.B.; Pennington, R.T. (2009).** Revision and biogeography of  
370 *Centrolobium* (*Leguminosae - Papilionoideae*). *Syst Botany*, **34**, p.345–359.

371 **Pitcher, D. G., Saunders, N. A. & Owen, R. J. (1989).** Rapid extraction of bacterial  
372 genomic DNA with guanidium thiocyanate. *Lett Appl Microbiol* **8**, 151–156.

373 **Radl, V., Simões-Araújo, J. L., Leite, J., Passos, S. R., Martins, L. M. V., Xavier,**  
374 **G. R., Rumjanek, N. G., Baldani, J. I. & Zilli, J. E. (2013).** *Microvirga vignae* sp.  
375 nov., a root nodule symbiotic bacterium isolated from cowpea grown in the semi-arid of  
376 Brazil. *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* **63**, 725-730.

377 **Rivas, R., Martens, M., de Lajudie, P. & Willems, A. (2009).** Multilocus sequence  
378 analysis of the genus *Bradyrhizobium*. *Syst Appl Microbiol* **32**, 101-110.

379 **Sarita, S., Sharma, P. K., Priefer, U. B. & Prell, J. (2005).** Direct amplification of  
380 rhizobial *nodC* sequences from soil total DNA and comparison to *nodC* diversity of root  
381 nodule isolates. *FEMS Microbiol Ecol* **54**, 1-11.

382 **Souza, L.A.G.; da Silva, M.F.; Moreira, F.W. (1994).** Capacidade de nodulação de  
383 cem Leguminosas da Amazônia. *Acta Amazonica*, **24**, 9–19.

384 **Swofford, D. L. (2002).** PAUP\*: phylogenetic analysis using parsimony (and other  
385 methods), version 4. Sunderland, MA: Sinauer Associates.

386 **Tamura, K., Peterson, D., Peterson, N., Stecher, G., Nei, M. & Kumar, S. (2011).**  
387 MEGA5: Molecular evolutionary genetics analysis using maximum likelihood,  
388 evolutionary distance, and maximum parsimony methods. *Mol Biol Evol* **28**, 2731-2739.

389 **Tighe, S. W., de Lajudie, P., Dipietro, K., Lindström, K., Nick, G. & Jarvis, B. D.**  
390 **W. (2000).** Analysis of cellular fatty acids and phenotypic relationships of  
391 *Agrobacterium*, *Bradyrhizobium*, *Mesorhizobium*, *Rhizobium* and *Sinorhizobium*  
392 species using the Sherlock Microbial Identification System. *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol*  
393 **50**, 787-801.

394 **Tindall, B. J., Rosselló-Móra, R., Busse, H.-J., Ludwig, W. & Kämpfer, P. (2010).**  
395 Notes on the characterization of prokaryote strains for taxonomic purposes. *Int J Syst*  
396 *Evol Microbiol* **60**, 249-266.

397 **Ueda, T., Suga, Y., Yahiro, N. & Matsuguchi, T. (1995).** Remarkable N<sub>2</sub>-fixing  
398 bacterial diversity detected in rice roots by molecular evolutionary analysis of *nifH* gene  
399 sequences. *J Bacteriol* **177**, 1414-1417.

400 **Vinuesa, P., Silva, C., Werner, D. & Martinez-Romero, E. (2005).** Population  
401 genetics and phylogenetic inference in bacterial molecular systematics: the roles of  
402 migration and recombination in *Bradyrhizobium* species cohesion and delineation. *Mol*  
403 *Phylogenet Evol* **34**, 29–54.

404 **Willems, A., Coopman, R. & Gillis, M. (2001a).** Phylogenetic and DNA-DNA  
405 hybridization analyses of *Bradyrhizobium* species. *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* **51**, 111-  
406 117.

407 **Willems, A., Doignon-Bourcier, F., Goris, J., Coopman, R., de Lajudie, P., De Vos,**  
408 **P. & Gillis, M. (2001b).** DNA-DNA hybridization study of *Bradyrhizobium* strains. *Int*  
409 *J Syst Evol Microbiol* **51**, 1315 - 1322.

410 **Willems, A., Munive, A., de Lajudie, P. & Gillis, M. (2003).** In most *Bradyrhizobium*  
411 groups sequence comparison of 16S–23S rDNA internal transcribed spacer regions  
412 corroborates DNA–DNA hybridizations. *Syst Appl Microbiol* **26**, 203–210.

413

414

**Table 1.** Different features of *Bradyrhizobium neotropale* sp. nov. strains and closest related strain *Bradyrhizobium iriomotense* EK05<sup>T</sup>.

Characteristic	BR 10247 <sup>T</sup>	BR 10296	BR 10297	BR 10298	BR 10299	BR 10300	BR 10301	EK05 <sup>T(1)</sup>
<i>C source utilization</i>								
Adonitol	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
D-Cellobiose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
L-Rhamnose	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
N-Acetyl-D-glucosamine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
D-Glucuronic acid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
Glycyl-L-aspartic acid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
Glycyl-L-glutamic acid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
L-Proline	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
L-Threonine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
γ-Aminobutyric acid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
<i>Enzymatic reaction</i>								
β-galactosidase	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
Arginine dihydrolase	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
<i>Antibiotic resistance</i>								
Erythromycin (30 μg)	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+
Gentamicin (10 μg)	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+
Penicillin (10 μg)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
Streptomycin (10)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
Temperature Growth range (°C)	15-37	15-37	15-37	15-37	15-37	15-37	15-37	15-32 <sup>(2)</sup>
pH growth range	4-10	4-10	4-10	4-10	4-10	4-10	4-10	4.5-9 <sup>(2)</sup>
Generation Time (h)	10.8	ND	Nd	Nd	Nd	Nd	Nd	7-9 <sup>(2)</sup>
NaCl tolerance (%)	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	<1.0 <sup>(2)</sup>
DNA G+C content (% mol)	63.9	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	61.2 <sup>(2)</sup>

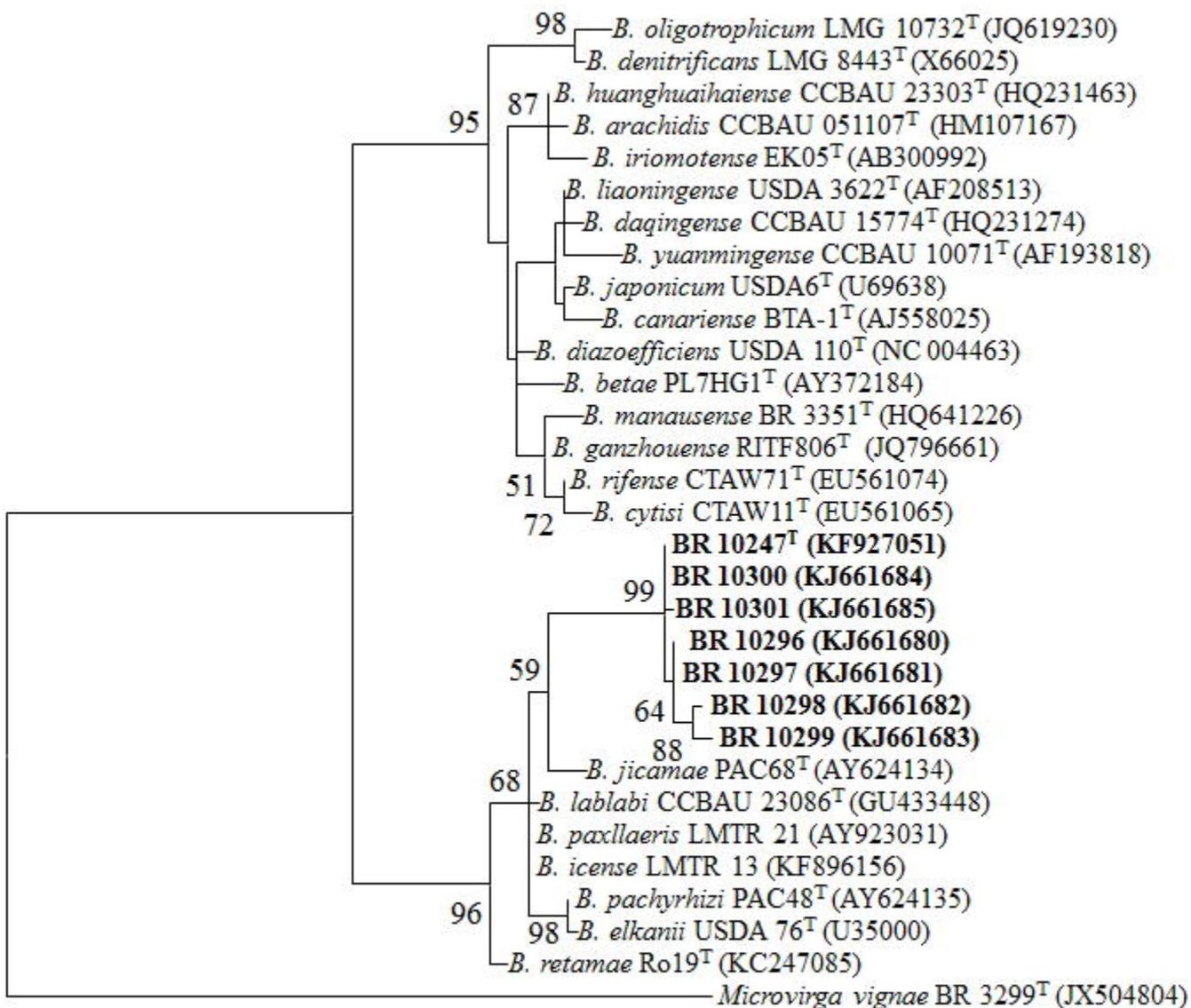
(1) The strain LMG 24129<sup>T</sup> (formal deposit of the strain EK05<sup>T</sup>) were obtained from the LMG culture collection.

(2) Data from (Islam *et al.*, 2008); ND = not determined

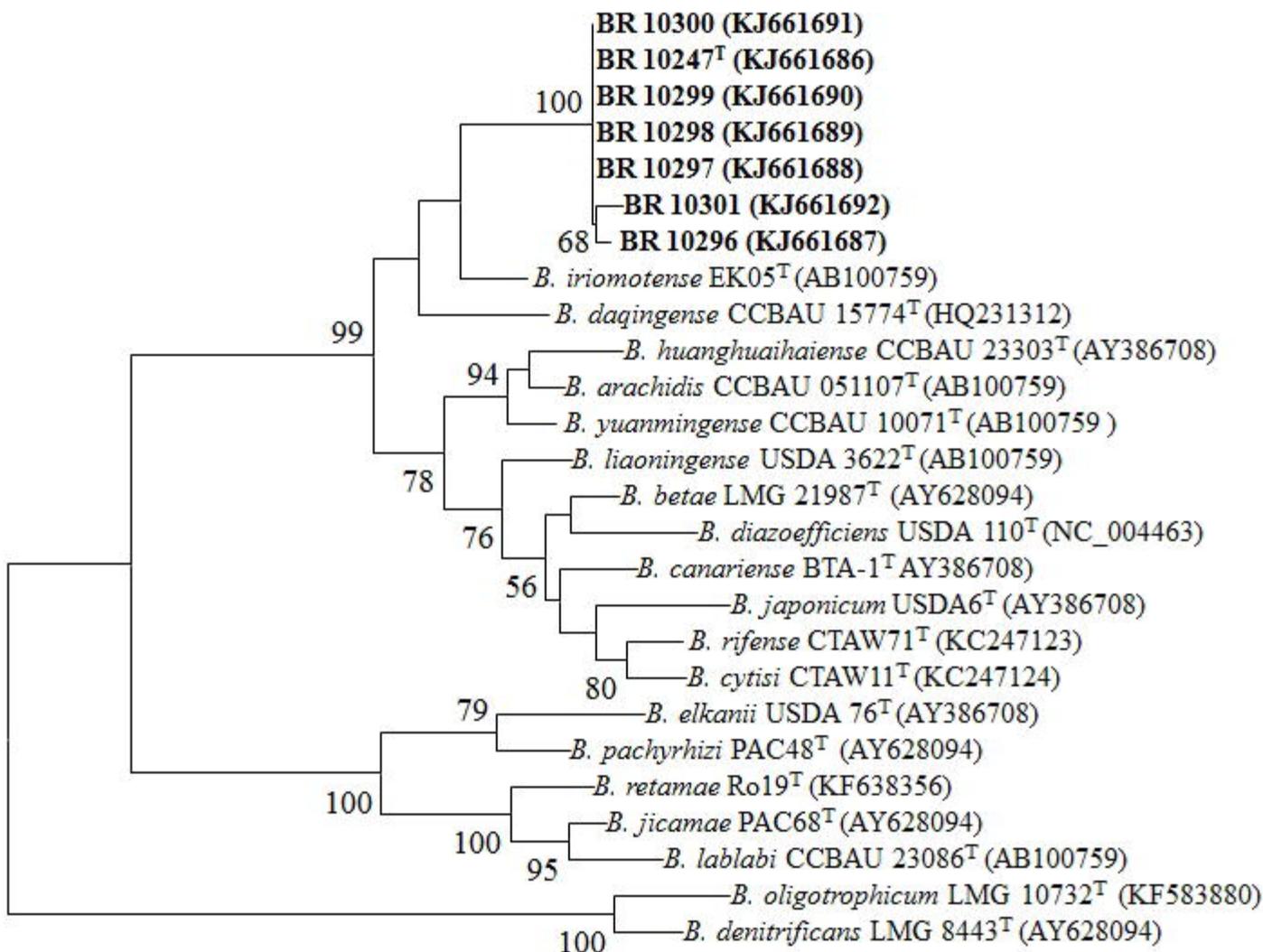
**Fig. 1** - Maximum likelihood phylogeny based on 16S rRNA gene sequences showing the relationships between *Bradyrhizobium neotropicale* strains (shown in bold) and other members of the *Bradyrhizobium* genus. The significance of each branch is indicated by a bootstrap value (greater than 50% showed) calculated for 1000 subsets. Bar, 1 substitution per 100 nucleotide positions. Sequence accession numbers of the 16S rRNA genes are presented in parenthesis.

**Fig. 2.** Maximum likelihood phylogeny based on intergenic transcribed spacer (ITS) sequences showing the relationships between strains from the novel species (shown in bold) and other members of the *Bradyrhizobium* genus. The significance of each branch is indicated by a bootstrap value (greater than 50% showed) calculated for 1000 subsets. Bar, 5 substitutions per 100 nucleotide positions. Sequence accession numbers of the ITS are presented in parenthesis.

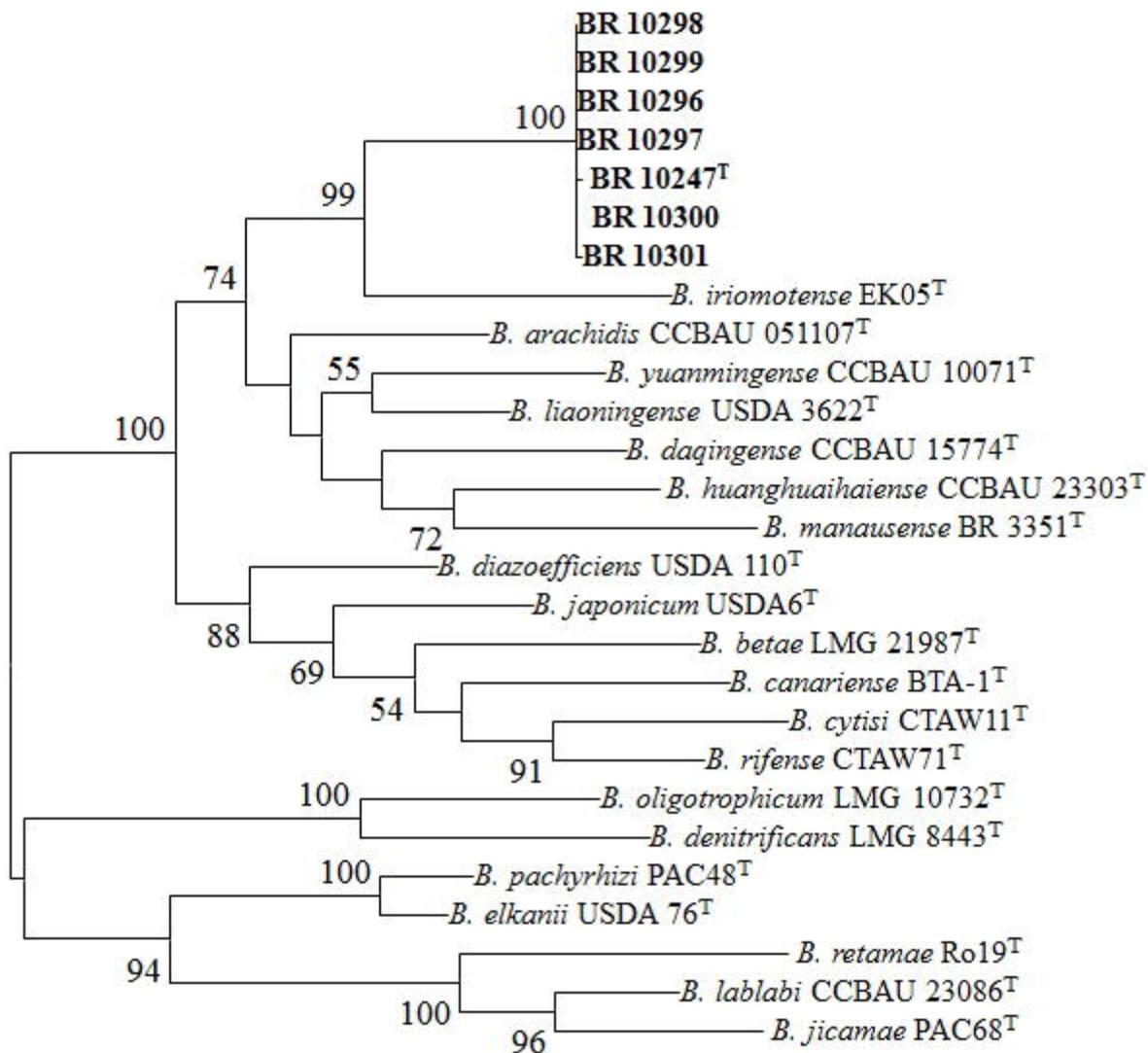
**Fig. 3.** Maximum likelihood phylogeny based on concatenated *gyrB*, *recA* and *rpoB* gene sequences showing the relationships between strains from the novel species (shown in bold) and other members of the *Bradyrhizobium* genus. The significance of each branch is indicated by a bootstrap value (greater than 50% showed) calculated for 1000 subsets. Bar, 2 substitutions per 100 nucleotide positions.



0.01



0.05



0.02