

# Bb Genome



**Borrelia burgdorferi (Bb)  
is the aetiologic agent of Lyme disease.**

Bb contains approximately 1738 genes,  
101 more than its cousin, syphilis. Of 430 genes on  
11 plasmids, most have no known function.  
The genomic sequence of Bb identified 21 different plasmids,  
the largest number of plasmids known in any bacteria.

Over 90% of the plasmid genes of Bb are unique and  
do not exist in any other organism. The biological  
significance of multiple plasmid-encoded genes is not clear,  
although they may be involved in  
antigenic variation or immune evasion.



**#lymestats**