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### ► To cite this version:

Alex Rivera-Millot, Stéphanie Slupek, Jonathan Chatagnon, Gauthier Roy, Jean-Michel Saliou, et al.. Streamlined copper defenses make *Bordetella pertussis* reliant on custom-made operon. *Communications Biology*, 2021, 4, pp.46. 10.1038/s42003-020-01580-2 . hal-03097387v1

**HAL Id: hal-03097387**

**<https://cnrs.hal.science/hal-03097387v1>**

Submitted on 5 Jan 2021 (v1), last revised 24 Aug 2021 (v2)

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## **Streamlined copper defenses make *Bordetella pertussis* reliant**

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### **on custom-made operon**

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18 **Keywords:** *Bordetella pertussis*, Copper homeostasis, Phagocytosis, Oxidative stress,

19 Evolution, Metallochaperone, Host-restricted pathogen, CopZ

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21 **Abstract**

22 Copper is both essential and toxic to living beings, which tightly control its intracellular  
23 concentration. At the host-pathogen interface, copper is used by phagocytic cells to kill  
24 invading microorganisms. We investigated copper homeostasis in *Bordetella pertussis*, which  
25 lives in the human respiratory mucosa and has no environmental reservoir. *B. pertussis* has  
26 considerably streamlined copper homeostasis mechanisms relative to other Gram-negative  
27 bacteria. Its single remaining defense line consists in a metallochaperone diverted for copper  
28 passivation, CopZ, and two peroxide detoxification enzymes, PrxGrx and GorB, which  
29 together fight stresses encountered in phagocytic cells. Those proteins are encoded by an  
30 original, composite operon assembled in an environmental ancestor and which is under  
31 sensitive control by copper. This system appears to contribute to persistent infection in the  
32 nasal cavity of *B. pertussis*-infected mice. Combining responses to co-occurring stresses in a  
33 tailored operon reveals a strategy adopted by a host-restricted pathogen to optimize survival at  
34 minimal energy expenditure.

35

## 36 **Introduction**

37 Copper is an essential trace element bioavailable in its soluble  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  form in oxygen-rich  
38 environments <sup>1</sup>. As the redox potential of the  $\text{Cu}^{1+}/\text{Cu}^{2+}$  pair is exquisitely tuned for  
39 enzymatic reactions, most living organisms use copper for oxidation reactions and in electron  
40 transfer chains. However, copper excess is highly toxic. In the reducing environment of the  
41 cytoplasm,  $\text{Cu}^{1+}$  displaces iron and other transition metals from their sites in metalloenzymes,  
42 causing loss of function and deregulating metal import systems <sup>2,3</sup>.  $\text{Cu}^{1+}$  also indirectly  
43 generates intracellular oxidative stress <sup>4,5</sup>. Because of its toxicity, living organisms have  
44 evolved a variety of systems to fend off excess of this metal. As such, ubiquitous copper-  
45 specific  $\text{P}_{\text{IB}}$ -type ATPases remove copper from the cytoplasm, in partnership with  
46 cytoplasmic copper chaperones in both eukaryotes and prokaryotes <sup>1,6,7</sup>.

47 Eukaryotic organisms take advantage of copper toxicity to kill invading microorganisms  
48 <sup>8,9</sup>. Predatory protists, such as amoebae, and phagocytic cells of higher eukaryotes import  
49 copper for bactericidal purposes <sup>10,11</sup>. In turn, bacteria have developed various resistance  
50 mechanisms against copper excess <sup>12,13</sup>. Copper extrusion systems include CopA-type  
51 ATPases, as well as CusABCF-type Resistance-Nodulation-Cell Division (RND) transporters  
52 in Gram-negative bacteria, and other less well characterized proteins <sup>1,14</sup>. Oxidation of  $\text{Cu}^{1+}$  in  
53 the periplasm is catalyzed by PcoA-type multi-copper oxidases (MCO) <sup>15</sup>. Specific  
54 metallochaperones also contribute to copper homeostasis as part of export systems or by  
55 copper sequestration <sup>16,17</sup>.

56 Environmental bacteria are likely to encounter occasional copper excess or predation by  
57 protists. Therefore, they have developed large resistance arsenals against copper intoxication.  
58 Conversely, bacteria with restricted ecological niches, such as pathogens or commensals,  
59 appear to have fewer copper homeostasis genes <sup>18</sup>. Here, we investigated copper homeostasis

60 in the whooping cough agent *Bordetella pertussis*, a predominantly extracellular pathogen  
61 whose sole natural niche is the human upper respiratory tract <sup>19</sup>. Unlike its relative *Bordetella*  
62 *bronchiseptica*, whose lifestyles alternate between the environment and a mammalian host, *B.*  
63 *pertussis* is host-restricted and was thus used here as a model to study how genomic reduction  
64 by niche specialization affects copper homeostasis at the host-pathogen interface. We  
65 discovered that *B. pertussis* has eliminated most resistance systems typically found in Gram-  
66 negative bacteria. Its only line of defense consists of an original operon to withstand copper  
67 excess and peroxides, both encountered in phagocytic cells.

68

## 69 **Results**

70 **Loss of copper homeostasis systems in *B. pertussis*.** Comparative genomic analyses  
71 revealed that the exclusively human pathogen *B. pertussis* and its close relative *B.*  
72 *bronchiseptica* share common sets of copper-homeostasis genes, including genes coding for a  
73 CopA ATPase, a PcoA-PcoB-type MCO system, and CopZ, CopI and CusF copper  
74 chaperones, but both lack *cusABC* genes <sup>18</sup>. A copper storage protein (*csp*) gene is present in  
75 the *B. bronchiseptica* but not in the *B. pertussis* genome <sup>18</sup>. Both species also have genes  
76 coding for CueR-type regulators and CopRS-type two-component systems that control copper  
77 homeostasis genes in other bacteria <sup>20,21</sup>.

78 Nevertheless, growth of the two species in the presence of copper revealed distinct  
79 phenotypes (Fig. 1). After a prolonged lag, Cu-treated *B. pertussis* started growing at the same  
80 rate as the untreated culture, suggesting that copper has a bacteriostatic effect, whereas growth  
81 of Cu-treated *B. bronchiseptica* started at the same time as the control but at a slower pace,  
82 indicating a rapid adaptation to copper-rich conditions. The apparent resistance of both  
83 species to high concentrations of copper is misleading and due to growth medium compounds

84 chelating the metal ion, in particular Tris, amino acids and glutathione, which markedly  
85 reduces its effective concentration. We hypothesized that *B. pertussis* started growing after  
86 the toxic  $\text{Cu}^{1+}$  ion resulting from the reduction of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  by ascorbate, another component of the  
87 growth medium, was re-oxidized thanks to strong oxygenation of the cultures. This was  
88 confirmed by the observation that the addition of fresh ascorbate after a few hours to *B.*  
89 *pertussis* cultured in the presence of 5 mM copper prevented bacterial growth (Supplementary  
90 Figure S1).

91 RNA sequencing (RNA-seq) analyses of *B. pertussis* grown in the presence of 2 mM  
92  $\text{CuSO}_4$  showed altered expression of a number of stress response and metabolic genes and of  
93 a few Cu-specific genes (Fig. 2a and b and Supplementary Data S1). They include *bp2860*  
94 and *bp2722* that code for  $\text{P}_{\text{IB}}$ -type ATPases, the latter being Zn-specific<sup>22</sup>, and *bp1727*,  
95 *bp1728* and *bp1729* that form an operon (Supplementary Figure S2) and code for a CopZ-like  
96 copper chaperone, a putative glutaredoxin and a putative oxidoreductase, respectively.  
97 Copper-repressed *bp2921* and *bp2922* were not further investigated here. A 30-min Cu  
98 treatment of *B. pertussis* confirmed up-regulation of *bp2860* and *bp1727-bp1728-bp1729*  
99 (Fig. 2c and Supplementary Data S2). In contrast, *bp3314-bp3315-bp3316* coding for CopI,  
100 PcoA, and PcoB homologues were hardly expressed and not regulated by copper in *B.*  
101 *pertussis*, in contrast to their orthologues in *B. bronchiseptica* (Figs. 2b and 2d and  
102 Supplementary Data S3). Proteomic analyses of the two organisms in the presence of copper  
103 showed increased production of the proteins coded by the upregulated genes in both bacteria,  
104 except for the membrane protein CopA and the small protein CopZ (Fig. 2b, Supplementary  
105 Data S4 and S5). Because the size of CopZ might have hampered its detection in global  
106 proteomic analyses, we analyzed extracts of copper-treated *B. pertussis* by denaturing  
107 electrophoresis and mass fingerprinting of the putative CopZ protein band (Fig. 3). This  
108 confirmed that CopZ is strongly overproduced by *B. pertussis* in the presence of copper.

109 To investigate the role of copper homeostasis genes, we inactivated *bp3314-bp3315-*  
110 *bp3316* (*pcoA* operon), *bp0157-bp0158* (*copRS*), *bp2860* (*copA*) and *bp1727* (*copZ*) in *B.*  
111 *pertussis*. Except for the latter, growth of those mutants was affected by the addition of copper  
112 to the medium to the same extent as that of the parental strain (Supplementary Figure S3). In  
113 all available *B. pertussis* genomes, three IS481 sequences are present upstream of *bp3314* and  
114 one is located within the 5' end of *bp2860* (Supplementary Figures S4 and S5), which most  
115 likely inactivated the *pcoA* and *copA* operons, as evidenced by their low expression levels  
116 both in the presence and in the absence of copper (Fig. 2b). In contrast, the *copA* and *pcoA*  
117 operons are strongly upregulated by copper and probably functional in *B. bronchiseptica*.  
118 Altogether thus, *B. pertussis* has considerably streamlined its response to copper excess,  
119 maintaining only one system functional.

120

121 **Function of the *copZ* operon.** A strong effect of copper excess on growth was observed with  
122 the  $\Delta$ *bp1727* (*copZ*) mutant, and therefore we focused on that operon. We generated two  
123 additional knock-out mutants ( $\Delta$ *bp1727-bp1728-bp1729* and  $\Delta$ *bp1728-bp1729*) and measured  
124 their growth in the presence or absence of copper. Copper excess caused a major growth  
125 defect to two of the mutants,  $\Delta$ *bp1727* and  $\Delta$ *bp1727-bp1728-bp1729*, and the phenotype of  
126 the latter was complemented by ectopic expression of the operon (Fig. 4a). Glutathione is a  
127 major player in Cu homeostasis<sup>23</sup>. *B. pertussis* cannot synthesize glutathione but actively  
128 imports it, as indicated by the high expression levels of the glutathione-specific ABC  
129 transporter genes *bp3828-3831* in all conditions (Supplementary Data S1 and S2). The growth  
130 defect of *B. pertussis* in the presence of copper was exacerbated in the absence of glutathione  
131 in the culture medium, supporting its role for copper tolerance in *B. pertussis* (Fig. 4b).  
132 Altogether the growth data show that CopZ, encoded by the first gene of the operon, plays a  
133 major role in copper resistance, unlike the other two proteins.

134 In other bacteria, CopZ binds  $\text{Cu}^{1+}$  and transfers it to an ATPase partner for export <sup>24</sup>.  
135 Inductively Coupled Plasma Atomic Emission Spectroscopy (ICP-AES) analyses were  
136 performed with purified CopZ incubated with Cu or with Fe as a control. Three Cu ions and  
137 one Fe ion were bound per CopZ monomer, respectively (Fig. 5a). We reasoned that in both  
138 cases one ion was chelated by the 6-His tag used for recombinant CopZ purification.  
139 Therefore, subtraction of a Cu ion yields a ratio of 2 Cu per CopZ monomer. This value is  
140 consistent with crystal structures of homologues (pdb accession numbers 6FF2 and 2QIF)  
141 showing CopZ dimerization mediated by 4 Cu ions bound by conserved Cys and His residues  
142 <sup>25</sup> (Supplementary Figure S6). Thus, CopZ is a copper binding protein, which in the absence  
143 of a functional CopA in *B. pertussis* most likely sequesters cytosolic copper to counter its  
144 toxicity.

145 Homology searches indicated that *bp1728* and *bp1729* code for a chimeric peroxiredoxin-  
146 glutaredoxin protein <sup>26</sup> and a glutathione reductase, respectively. Orthologues of these  
147 enzymes were shown to reduce peroxides at the expense of glutathione and to regenerate  
148 glutathione using NAD(P)H, respectively <sup>27,28</sup>. Using purified recombinant BP1728 and  
149 BP1729 proteins in *in vitro* enzymatic assays <sup>27,28</sup>, we confirmed that these proteins are a  
150 glutathione-dependent peroxidase and a glutathione reductase, respectively (Fig. 5b-d). We  
151 thereafter called them PrxGrx (<http://peroxibase.toulouse.inra.fr/>) and GorB.

152 To test whether the PrxGrx-GorB system protects bacteria against peroxides, we  
153 determined mutant survival after oxidative stress <sup>29</sup>. A 30-min exposure killed each of the  
154 three mutant strains to a greater extent than their parental strain, and the phenotype of the  
155 three-gene mutant was complemented by ectopic expression of the operon (Fig. 4c). The  
156 phenotype of the  $\Delta\text{copZ}$  mutant indicated that, in addition to PrxGrx-GorB, CopZ also  
157 protects *B. pertussis* against reactive oxygen species (ROS). Together, the three proteins



158 might endow *B. pertussis* with some capability to fend off both copper and peroxides (Fig.  
159 5e).

160 As a human-restricted pathogen, *B. pertussis* may simultaneously encounter oxidative and  
161 copper stresses in phagosomes of phagocytic cells. We thus tested the role of the operon in  
162 intracellular survival within human macrophages and in a murine model of lung and nasal  
163 colonization. The deletion mutant was killed faster by macrophages than its parental strain  
164 (Fig. 4d). We also subjected the *copZ* and *prxgrx-gorB* mutants to this assay. Both were killed  
165 faster than the wild type (wt) strain in macrophages, especially at the 1-hour time point  
166 (Supplementary Figure S7). This shows that both CopZ and the Prxgrx-GorB system  
167 contribute to survival early after phagocytosis. Finally, we tested the effect of deleting the  
168 entire operon in an animal model of colonization. The profiles of colonization in the lungs  
169 over time by the mutant and the wt strains were not significantly different, although at the late  
170 time point (21 days) more animals appeared to have cleared the mutant bacteria. Furthermore,  
171 the deletion mutant was cleared more quickly from nasopharynxes than the parental strain  
172 (Figs. 4e and f).

173

174 **Copper regulation of the *copZ-prxgrx-gorB* operon.** Quantitative RT-PCR (qRT-PCR) on  
175 *prxgrx* showed a 30-fold up-regulation of the operon by copper, even at micromolar  
176 concentrations (Fig. 6a and Supplementary Figure S8). qRT-PCR experiments on the very  
177 small *copZ* gene were unsuccessful, as no qRT-PCR primer pairs were found to work.  
178 Inactivation of *bp1726*, in antisense orientation of the *copZ-prxgrx-gorB* operon and coding  
179 for a putative CueR regulator <sup>20</sup>, resulted in a markedly decreased but not abolished  
180 transcriptional response of *prxgrx* to copper (Fig. 6a). The three genes are co-transcribed  
181 (Supplementary Figure S2) and up-regulated by copper (Fig. 2 and Supplementary Data S1  
182 and S2), and we showed that the second is controlled by CueR. We can thus reasonably

183 assume that the entire operon is under the control of CueR. Interestingly, though, the  
184 remaining copper-induced up-regulation of *prxgrx* in the *cueR* KO mutant indicates that the  
185 operon may also be controlled by a second system directly or indirectly activated by copper.

186 We determined the transcriptional start site of the operon by 5' rapid amplification of  
187 cDNA ends (5' RACE). The 5' UTR is 61-nucleotides long, and putative CueR binding sites  
188 were identified within the promoter, as described for *Escherichia coli*<sup>30</sup> (Supplementary  
189 Figure S5). Attempts to produce a recombinant CueR protein in *E. coli* to be used for  
190 electrophoretic migration shift assays (EMSA) were unsuccessful, suggesting that its over-  
191 production may be toxic to *E. coli*.

192 We then turned to human macrophages to determine if the operon is up-regulated upon  
193 phagocytosis. It was shown earlier that the ATP7A Cu-transporting ATPase is overexpressed  
194 and localizes to phagosomes in activated murine macrophages<sup>9</sup>. We thus reasoned that  
195 copper might trigger expression of the *copZ-prxgrx-gorB* operon in *B. pertussis* early after  
196 phagocytosis. By using epifluorescence microscopy, we showed that differentiation and  
197 activation of THP1 cells cause overproduction of ATP7A. In addition, the Cu transporter  
198 partially redistributes from a mainly ER/Golgi localization in resting cells to a more  
199 punctuated localization corresponding to cytosolic vesicles (Supplementary Figure S9).  
200 Endosomes are thus likely to be loaded with copper. Then, to visualize the activation of the  
201 operon in intracellular bacteria, we introduced a transcriptional fusion between the promoter  
202 of the operon and an mRFP1 reporter gene in *B. pertussis* and put the bacteria in contact with  
203 differentiated THP1 cells deprived of copper or supplemented with copper. After one hour of  
204 contact, fluorescence of bacteria engulfed by copper-replete macrophages was significantly  
205 more intense than in copper-deprived macrophages (Fig. 7a and b). The rapid induction of the  
206 *copZ-prxgrx-gorB* promoter indicates that copper is an early signal for intracellular bacteria,  
207 and that CopZ-PrxGrx-GorB serves as a defense system in early phagosomes. This is

208 supported by the role of that system for bacterial survival at early time points after  
209 phagocytosis (Fig. 4d).

210

211 **Regulation by peroxides.** As shown above, residual regulation of *prxgrx* by copper was  
212 observed in the *cueR* KO strain (Fig. 6a). Since copper excess generates oxidative stress<sup>4</sup>, we  
213 hypothesized that a ROS-sensing regulator might be involved in this residual control of  
214 *prxgrx*. We examined all known prokaryotic PrxGrx homologues and searched for putative  
215 regulatory genes in the corresponding loci. An *oxyR* gene was found directly adjacent and in  
216 antisense orientation in 19.4 % of cases (Supplementary Data S6). OxyR regulators have been  
217 shown to control bacterial responses to peroxides<sup>31,32</sup>.

218 Treatment of *B. pertussis* with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> resulted in a 4-fold upregulation of *prxgrx*, which was  
219 abolished by inactivation of the putative *oxyR* gene, *bp1613* (Fig. 6b). Using EMSA, we  
220 detected a protein-DNA complex between recombinant OxyR and the *copZ-prxgrx* intergenic  
221 region but not the *cueR-copZ* intergenic region (Fig. 6c and Supplementary Figure S10).  
222 Putative OxyR binding boxes can be found in the *copZ-prxgrx* intergenic region  
223 (Supplementary Figure S11). Thus, two transcriptional activators control the expression of  
224 this operon in response to distinct signals (Fig. 6d). The three genes are strongly up-regulated  
225 by copper through CueR, and in addition, the last two genes are more modestly up-regulated  
226 by peroxides through OxyR.

227 Finally, we searched  $\beta$  proteobacterial genomes for similar composite operons to determine  
228 the phylogenetic context in which they arose. Out of 86 bacterial genera, 16 harbor a *prxgrx*  
229 gene, of which 11 have *prxgrx-gorB* operons. Only *Bordetella* and *Achromobacter* have  
230 complete *copZ-prxgrx-gorB* operons. The latter two genera encompass pathogenic or  
231 opportunistic species. Occurrence of this operon thus appears to be linked to eukaryotic cell-  
232 associated lifestyles.

233

## 234 **Discussion**

235 Copper is both an essential and toxic metal for living organisms, including bacteria, yet  
236 copper homeostasis has been studied only in a few model organisms. We describe here that *B.*  
237 *pertussis*, a host-restricted, mostly extracellular bacterium that lives on human mucosal  
238 surfaces, has considerably streamlined its resistance against copper intoxication. *B. pertussis*  
239 mainly relies on a composite, three-protein system strongly upregulated by copper to counter  
240 both copper excess and peroxide stress. This system evolved from an environmental bacterial  
241 ancestor by diverting a ubiquitous cytoplasmic metallochaperone for copper sequestration and  
242 recruiting genes involved in protection against oxidative stress in an operon regulated by  
243 copper. This assembly enables the bacterium to mount a strong response against two stresses  
244 simultaneously encountered in the endosomal compartment. Molecular traces of this evolution  
245 can be found in the OxyR-mediated regulation of the last two genes of the operon in response  
246 to peroxide stress. Persistence of this ancestral control may be useful to a strictly aerobic  
247 bacterium when it resides outside of the phagosomal environment, as respiration also  
248 generates ROS<sup>33</sup>.

249 Genomic, transcriptomic and proteomic analyses demonstrated the loss in *B. pertussis* of  
250 most well-known resistance mechanisms against copper excess. This contrasts with other  
251 respiratory tract pathogens such as *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*  
252 and *B. bronchiseptica*<sup>34,35</sup>. Unlike *B. pertussis*, *M. tuberculosis* is a genuine intracellular  
253 bacterium that resides within macrophages and other cell types, *P. aeruginosa* can occupy  
254 various niches including environmental milieus, and *B. bronchiseptica* alternates between  
255 pathogenic and environmental life cycles<sup>36</sup>. In humans, copper is not free but complexed with  
256 proteins such as ceruloplasmin or metallothionein. Therefore, *B. pertussis* is unlikely to

257 experience copper excess, except when it is engulfed by phagocytic cells, a fate it actively  
258 tries to avoid<sup>37,38</sup>. *B. pertussis* could thus afford the loss of most defense mechanisms against  
259 copper intoxication, because of its specialization to a restricted niche.

260 *B. pertussis* is mainly an extracellular pathogen, with limited survival rates upon  
261 phagocytosis<sup>39</sup>. Therefore, it may be surprising that it has nonetheless conserved an active-  
262 defense system. Nevertheless, *B. pertussis* has been shown to occasionally reside within  
263 phagocytic cells<sup>39-41</sup>. We propose thus that *B. pertussis* adopts a two-pronged strategy with  
264 respect to phagocytic cells while limiting energy expenditure. The major arm of this strategy  
265 uses immunomodulatory virulence factors to target neutrophils and macrophages by disabling,  
266 delaying or dysregulating their responses to infection<sup>37,38,42-45</sup>. The second arm is to  
267 overproduce specific proteins, including those identified here, that enable bacteria to survive  
268 to some extent within specific compartments in macrophages, probably with early endosomal  
269 characteristics<sup>39</sup>, while those phagocytes face the virulence factors produced by extracellular  
270 bacteria. Absence of the *copZ-prxgrx-gorB* operon had little effect on *B. pertussis*  
271 colonization of the lungs but shortened colonization of the nasal cavity of mice. Interestingly,  
272 in murine nasal tissues, a large influx of immune cells occurs after one to two weeks of  
273 infection, and a sizeable proportion of bacteria appear to reside within immune cells in that  
274 organ (V. Dubois, personal communication). This might contribute to explain the detrimental  
275 effect of inactivating the operon on nasal cavity colonization.

276 Copper and peroxide stresses are interlinked, as copper excess indirectly causes oxidative  
277 stress<sup>4</sup>. Placing the *copZ*, *prxgrx* and *gorB* genes under copper control is thus an efficient way  
278 of fighting co-occurring threats, especially considering that CopZ also protects the bacterium  
279 from peroxide stress. This activity most likely stems from CopZ's ability to form redox-  
280 sensitive Cys-mediated dimers<sup>46</sup>. This property is reminiscent of the eukaryotic CopZ  
281 homologue, Atox1, both an anti-oxidant protein and the copper chaperone partner of the

282 CopA homologues ATP7A/B<sup>47,48</sup>. In *B. pertussis*, CopZ sequesters copper but no longer  
283 participates in its export. In some bacteria, these two functions are performed by distinct  
284 CopZ paralogues<sup>17</sup>.

285 Pathogenic *Bordetella* species are thought to have derived from environmental ancestors<sup>49</sup>.  
286 The *copZ-prxgrx-gorB* operon was only found in two closely related genera, *Bordetella* and  
287 *Achromobacter*, arguing that it originated in a common environmental ancestor. Known  
288 *Achromobacter* species are environmental bacteria or opportunistic pathogens. The need to  
289 survive predation by protists, which employ killing mechanisms similar to those of  
290 macrophages, including the use of copper<sup>10</sup>, exerts a strong selective pressure on  
291 environmental bacteria. This selective pressure most likely accounts for the panoply of  
292 resistance systems found in *Achromobacter*<sup>18</sup>, which most likely were already present in the  
293 environmental ancestor of *Achromobacter* and *Bordetella*. Persistence in amoeba could  
294 constitute one of the evolutionary steps allowing *Bordetellae* to infect mammals. *B.*  
295 *bronchiseptica* exemplifies an intermediate in this evolution, as this respiratory pathogen of  
296 mammals which is able to multiply in amoebae and potentially uses them as transmission  
297 vectors has conserved ancestral genes for intracellular persistence<sup>36,50</sup>. As a host-restricted  
298 pathogen, *B. pertussis* has traded most of this ability for a lighter coding potential. *B. pertussis*  
299 has a number of cuproproteins<sup>18</sup> and therefore requires copper for growth. It might thus also  
300 use CopZ for nutritional passivation<sup>51</sup>, i.e. as a copper store for future needs.

301

## 302 **Methods**

303 **Culture conditions.** Modified Stainer-Scholte (SS) liquid medium and Bordet-Gengou blood-  
304 agar (BGA) medium were used with the appropriate antibiotics to grow *B. pertussis* BPSM  
305 and its derivatives. As copper ions are Lewis acids and *B. pertussis* requires buffered medium

306 close to pH 7, a stock solution (62 mM of CuSO<sub>4</sub>, 100 mM Tris, pH 5.5) in the fraction A of  
307 SS medium was used to supplement the medium with copper. The control cultures were  
308 prepared by adding the same volumes of 100 mM Tris-HCl (pH 5.5) to SS medium. To record  
309 growth curves, the optical density at 630 nm was continuously measured using an Elocheck  
310 device (Biotronix). For growth yields, the *B. pertussis* cultures were started at OD<sub>600</sub> of 0.1,  
311 and after 24 h of growth optical density values at 600 nm (OD<sub>600</sub>) were determined using an  
312 Ultrospec 10 spectrophotometer (Biochrom) with five biological replicates for each condition  
313 and strain. Glutathione was omitted from the culture medium where indicated. The turbidities  
314 measured using the Elocheck and Ultrospec apparatuses, which use different wavelengths and  
315 pathlengths, cannot be directly compared. For transcriptomic, proteomic and qRT-PCR  
316 experiments, the *B. pertussis* cultures were started at OD<sub>600</sub> of 0.1 to reach OD<sub>600</sub> values of 1.5  
317 after 16-20 h, and *B. bronchiseptica* cultures were started at OD<sub>600</sub> of 0.08 to reach OD<sub>600</sub>  
318 values of 1.5-1.8 after 10-12 h. To subject *B. pertussis* to oxidative stress for qRT-PCR  
319 analysis, the bacteria were grown to OD<sub>600</sub> of 1.5, and 10 mM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was added to the cultures  
320 for 30 minutes. To measure survival to oxidative shock, the bacteria were grown for 36 h on  
321 BGA from standardized stocks, resuspended in PBS (pH 7.2) containing 500 μM of  
322 hypoxanthine, and then diluted in the same solution to obtain ~ 50,000 bacteria in 300 μl in  
323 15-ml tubes. 0.05 U.ml<sup>-1</sup> xanthine oxidase was added to produce H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub><sup>-•</sup><sup>29</sup>, and the  
324 bacteria were incubated for 30 minutes at 37 °C with shaking. Serial dilutions were plated  
325 onto BGA to count CFUs, using control suspensions incubated as above. Three biological  
326 replicates and three technical replicates were made. CFU counts of the initial suspensions  
327 were used as references.

328 **Construction of strains and plasmids.** Deletion mutants were obtained by allelic exchange  
329 <sup>52</sup>. Complementation was performed at the *ure* chromosomal locus <sup>52</sup>. The inactivation  
330 mutants were constructed using the suicide vector pFUS2 <sup>53</sup>. For pProm1727-mRFP1, the

331 *cueR-copZ* intergenic region including the first 7 codons of *copZ*, and the *mRFPI* gene  
332 without its initiation codon were amplified by PCR and cloned as BamHI-XbaI and XbaI-  
333 HindIII restriction fragments, respectively, to generate a translational fusion in pBBR1-MCS5  
334 <sup>54</sup>. All primers are listed in the Supplementary Data S7.

335 **RNA sequencing and qRT-PCR.** For RNA extractions, the cultures were stopped by adding  
336 2 mL of a mixture of phenol:ethanol (5:95) to 8 mL of bacterial suspensions. Bacteria were  
337 pelleted, and total RNA was extracted with TriReagent (InVitrogen) <sup>55</sup>. Genomic DNA was  
338 removed by a DNase I treatment (Sigma Aldrich). DNA-depleted total RNA was treated with  
339 the RiboZero rRNA Removal kit (Illumina). The rRNA-depleted RNA was then used to  
340 generate the Illumina libraries using the TrueSeq RNA library, followed with sequencing on  
341 an Illumina NextSeq 500 benchtop sequencer on SR150 high output run mode. The RNA-seq  
342 data were analyzed using Rockhopper v2.0.3 with the default parameters to calculate the reads  
343 per kilobase per million base pairs (RPKM) values for each coding sequence using the *B.*  
344 *pertussis* Tohama I BX470248 genome annotation. All RNA-seq experiments were performed  
345 on biological duplicates. The results fully supported preliminary microarray analyses for *B.*  
346 *pertussis*. qRT-PCR were performed on 3 or 4 separate cultures with at least 3 technical  
347 replicates for each condition. To map the transcriptional initiation site by rapid amplification  
348 of cDNA 5' ends (RACE), total RNA obtained as described above was treated with the  
349 GeneRacer kit (Invitrogen) using appropriate RACE primers (Supplementary Data S7).

350 **Mass spectrometry proteomic analyses.** *B. bronchiseptica* and *B. pertussis* were grown in  
351 SS medium supplemented or not with 2 mM CuSO<sub>4</sub> for 10 h and 16 h, respectively, and the  
352 cultures were stopped at OD<sub>600</sub> of 1.6-1.8. The bacteria were collected by centrifugation,  
353 resuspended in 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.2), 100 mM NaCl, with Complete protease inhibitor  
354 (Roche) and lysed with a French Press. Clarified lysates were ultracentrifuged for 1 hour at  
355 100,000 g at 4 °C to separate soluble and insoluble fractions. Both fractions were heated at



356 100°C in 5% SDS, 5% β-mercaptoethanol, 1 mM EDTA, 10% glycerol, 10 mM Tris (pH 8)  
357 for 3 min and loaded on a 10% acrylamide SDS-PAGE gel. The migration was stopped soon  
358 after the samples entered the separating gel. The gel was briefly stained with Coomassie Blue,  
359 and one gel slice was taken for each sample. The gel plugs were washed twice in 25 mM  
360 NH<sub>4</sub>HCO<sub>3</sub> (50 μL) and acetonitrile (50 μL), the Cys residues were reduced and alkylated by  
361 adding 50 μL dithiothreitol (10 mM solution) and incubating at 57°C before the addition of 50  
362 μL iodoacetamide (55 mM solution). The plugs were dehydrated with acetonitrile, and the  
363 proteins were digested overnight at room temperature using porcine trypsin (12.5 ng/50 μL) in  
364 25 mM NH<sub>4</sub>HCO<sub>3</sub>. Tryptic peptides were extracted first with 60% acetonitrile and 5% formic  
365 acid for 1 h, and then with 100% acetonitrile until dehydration of the gel plugs. The extracts  
366 were pooled and excess acetonitrile was evaporated before analysis. Peptide fractionation was  
367 performed using a 500-mm reversed-phase column at 55 °C and with a gradient separation of  
368 170 min. Eluted peptides were analyzed using Q-Exactive instruments (Fisher Scientific)<sup>56</sup>.  
369 Raw data collected during nanoLC-MS/MS analyses were processed and converted into \*.mgf  
370 peak list format with Proteome Discoverer 1.4 (Thermo Fisher Scientific). MS/MS data were  
371 interpreted using search engine Mascot (version 2.4.0, Matrix Science, London, UK) installed  
372 on a local server. Searches were performed with a tolerance on mass measurement of 10 ppm  
373 for precursor ions and 0.02 Da for fragment ions, against two target decoy databases  
374 composed of all potential open reading frames of at least 30 residues between stop codons of  
375 *B. pertussis* or *B. bronchiseptica* (54890 and 74418 entries, respectively), plus sequences of  
376 recombinant trypsin and classical contaminants (118 entries). Cys carbamidomethylation or  
377 propionamidation, Met oxidation, and protein N-terminal acetylation were searched as  
378 variable modifications. Up to one trypsin missed cleavage was allowed. Peptides were filtered  
379 out with Proline 2.0 according to the cutoff set for proteins hits with 1 or more peptides larger  
380 than 9 residues, ion score > 10 and 2% protein false positive rates<sup>56</sup>. Spectral counting

381 analyses were performed with Proline 2.0. The p-values were calculated with a Student's T-  
382 test (confidence level: 95%). To obtain q-values, the p-values were adjusted for multiple  
383 testing correction to control the false discovery rate by following the Benjamini-Hochberg  
384 procedure (Q= 5%)<sup>57</sup>.

385 To identify CopZ, *B. pertussis* extracts were separated by electrophoresis using  
386 commercial Tricine 16% gels (InVitrogen) and stained with colloidal Coomassie blue dye.  
387 The fast-migrating protein band was digested in the gel with trypsin, and the peptide  
388 fingerprints were obtained by matrix assisted laser desorption/ ionization time-of-flight mass  
389 spectrometry.

390 **Protein production.** For the production of CopZ, PrxGrx and GorB, recombinant pQE30  
391 derivatives (Qiagen) were introduced into *E. coli* M15(pREp4). The cells were grown in LB  
392 medium at 37°C under orbital shaking, and expression was induced at OD<sub>600</sub> of 0.8 with 1  
393 mM IPTG for 3 hours. Production of recombinant OxyR was done in *E. coli*  
394 SG13009(pREp4) in M9 medium with 2% casaminoacids and 250 μM ascorbate. At OD<sub>600</sub> of  
395 0.4, 100 μM IPTG was added, and the culture was continued for 16 hours at 14 °C. The  
396 bacteria were collected, and the pellets were resuspended in 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5), 100  
397 mM NaCl, 10 mM imidazole, plus 1 mM TCEP for CopZ and OxyR. The bacteria were lysed  
398 with a French press, and the lysates were clarified by centrifugation. The proteins were  
399 purified by chromatography on Ni<sup>++</sup> columns. Concentrations were measured using the BCA  
400 assay kit (ThermoFisher Scientific) for PrxGrx and GorB, and with the Qbit protein assay kit  
401 for CopZ and OxyR (ThermoFisher Scientific).

402 **Metal binding to CopZ.** Purified CopZ (30 μM) was incubated in 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5),  
403 100 mM NaCl, 1 mM TCEP and 100 mM EDTA for 30 minutes with stirring at room  
404 temperature to remove bound metal ions and then dialyzed against the same buffer without

405 EDTA, using 3.5-kD cutoff membranes. The apo form of the protein precipitated in the  
406 absence of TCEP. Iron sulfate or copper chloride solutions were prepared in the same buffer  
407 containing 1 mM TCEP and 25 mM ascorbate. CopZ was mixed with 125  $\mu$ M of either metal  
408 for 5 minutes at room temperature, the samples were then dialyzed against the same buffer  
409 and finally acidified with 6% nitric acid. Elemental Cu and Fe analyses were performed by  
410 ICP-AES (Agilent, model 5110) in axial mode. The wavelengths selected for Cu and Fe  
411 analyses were 327.395 nm and 238.204 nm, respectively.  $^{63}\text{Cu}$  and  $^{65}\text{Cu}$  concentrations were  
412 both analysed to evidence potential interferences. To remove polyatomic interferences, a 100  
413  $\text{mL min}^{-1}$  He flow was added at the collision reaction interface. Impurity of  $^{129}\text{Xe}$  in the Ar  
414 gas used for generating the plasma was chosen as internal standard to detect any instrumental  
415 drift. External calibrations were performed from standard solution at  $1\text{g L}^{-1}$  (Astasol),  
416 adequately diluted and acidified to be in the range of the unknown concentrations.

417 **Enzymatic assays.** Buffer exchange was performed to obtain the purified recombinant  
418 proteins in 0.1 M sodium/potassium phosphate (pH 7.6). Enzymatic activity of GorB was  
419 followed at 25 °C in the same buffer containing 0.3 mM NADPH, 8 mM GSH, and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  at  
420 concentrations ranging from 100  $\mu$ M to 2 mM. The latter was used to generate the  
421 corresponding concentrations of oxidized glutathione, before starting the reaction by adding  
422 the enzyme at a concentration of 0.5 nM <sup>27</sup>. The decrease of NADPH concentration was  
423 followed by measuring the absorbance of the solution at 340 nm. Activity of PrxGrx was  
424 detected in a coupled assay performed at 25°C in the same buffer with 0.3 mM NADPH, 6  
425 mM GSH, 0.25 nM GorB and 1  $\mu$ M PrxGrx <sup>28</sup>. 4 mM  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  was added last as the substrate of  
426 the first reaction to generate the substrate of the second reaction, oxidized glutathione.  
427 However, as  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  also directly generates oxidized glutathione, the activity of PrxGrx was  
428 detected by the increased rate at which NADPH was consumed when both enzymes were

429 present in the reaction relative to the reaction rate with GorB only. No enzymatic constants  
430 were determined because of the coupled reaction set up.

431 **EMSA.** Amplicons of 127 bp and 139 bp, corresponding to the *cueR-copZ* (IGR 1) and *copZ-*  
432 *prxgrx* (IGR 2) intergenic regions, respectively, were mixed at 1  $\mu$ M with 0, 2 or 20  $\mu$ M  
433 recombinant OxyR, in 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5), 100 mM NaCl, 10 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 1 mM  
434 TCEP. After 30 min at 37°C, the samples were loaded onto a 6% acrylamide gel containing  
435 25 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.8), 200 mM glycine, 10 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>. Electrophoresis was performed  
436 on ice for 90 min at 25 mA in the same buffer. DNA was detected by ethidium bromide  
437 staining.

438 **Phagocytosis assays.** THP1 cells were cultured in RPMI medium with 10% fetal bovine  
439 serum (RPMI/FBS). They were then treated with 50 ng/mL phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate  
440 (PMA, Sigma) for 24 h to induce differentiation into macrophages and washed in PBS before  
441 adding fresh medium. The bacteria were grown at 37°C on BGA for 48 hours, resuspended in  
442 PBS and incubated with the macrophages at a multiplicity of infection (MOI) of 100 for 30  
443 min at 37°C with 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. The macrophages were then washed with PBS containing 100  
444  $\mu$ g/ml polymyxin B to eliminate extracellular bacteria. For the following incubation the  
445 concentration of polymyxin was lowered to 5  $\mu$ g/ml in RPMI/FBS, and one and three hours  
446 later macrophages were washed with PBS and lysed with 0.1% saponine. Serial dilutions were  
447 plated onto BGA for CFU counting. The experiments were performed at least in biological  
448 triplicates.

449 **Fluorescence microscopy.** To detect intracellular bacteria, the THP1 cells were cultured as  
450 described above. RPMI/FBS was supplemented with 50  $\mu$ M bathocuproine disulfonate (BCS)  
451 or 20  $\mu$ M CuCl<sub>2</sub> during THP1 differentiation and for the following 12 hours, and after  
452 washing the cells in RPMI, fresh RPMI/FBS was added 1 hour before contact. Bacteria

453 harboring the reporter plasmid pProm1727-mRFP1 were grown for 12-13 hours in SS  
454 medium containing 50  $\mu$ M BCS. They were collected by centrifugation, resuspended in PBS  
455 to an OD<sub>600</sub> of 1 and incubated with macrophages at a MOI of 100. After one hour of contact,  
456 extracellular bacteria were eliminated, RPMI/FBS supplemented with copper or BCS was  
457 added, and the incubation was continued for one hour at 37°C. Finally, the cells were fixed  
458 with Formalin (Sigma) for 15 minutes at room temperature and washed three times with PBS.  
459 The cell nuclei and the plasma membranes were labeled with DAPI at 30  $\mu$ g/ml (Sigma) and  
460 Wheat Germ Agglutinin Alexa Fluor™ 488 Conjugate (Invitrogen) at 5  $\mu$ g/ml for 10 minutes  
461 at room temperature. Cells were then washed twice with PBS. Images were captured by  
462 confocal microscopy with a spinning disk microscope Nikon/Gatca system csu-w1. The  
463 images were analyzed with the Fiji software<sup>59</sup>. All parameters were set to the same values on  
464 all images. The bacteria were identified and counted with the 3D Object Counter module, and  
465 the fluorescence intensity was calculated by evaluating the average gray levels of the red  
466 objects. Three images containing each between 200 and 266 detectable bacteria were analyzed  
467 for each condition.

468 For ATP7A labeling, THP1 cells were cultured as above. One million cells were placed  
469 on top of coverslips in each well of a 24-well plate. The cells were then treated for 24 h with  
470 PMA in RPMI/FBS as above, with PMA + LPS (500 ng/mL), or with PMA for 24 h and then  
471 placed in contact with bacteria at a MOI of 100 for 2 h. The cells were then centrifuged for 3  
472 minutes at 300 g, and the supernatant was removed. The centrifugation step was necessary to  
473 pellet the non-differentiated, non-adherent control cells. Fixation was performed for 45 min at  
474 room temperature with the eBioscience Fixation buffer (ThermoFisher Scientific). The cells  
475 were then washed three times by centrifugation and addition of eBioscience Permeabilization  
476 buffer (ThermoFisher Scientific). They were then incubated for 35 min with 5% goat serum in  
477 the permeabilization buffer, followed by an incubation of 2 h with a monoclonal antibody

478 against ATP7A (Invitrogen MA5-27720) diluted 600 folds. The cells were washed three times  
479 as above, before adding Alexa Fluor 488-AffiniPure Donkey Anti-Mouse IgG (Jackson: 715-  
480 545-151) diluted 1/500 in permeabilization buffer with 5% goat serum also containing DAPI  
481 as described above. After 1 h incubation the cells were washed three times with PBS. Images  
482 were obtained using an Evos M5000 microscope with an apochromatic X60 Olympus  
483 objective. The final image is a projection of 100 Z stacks with 0.2- $\mu$ m steps. All images were  
484 captured with the same exposure parameters. The fluorescence intensity of the cells was  
485 calculated with the Fiji software (ImageJ) in two dimensions.

486 **Animal experiments.** The bacteria were grown on BGA for 48 h and resuspended in sterile  
487 PBS to  $10^6$  bacteria per 20  $\mu$ L. Female, 6-weeks-old JAX <sup>TM</sup> BALB/ cByJ mice (Charles  
488 River) were anesthetized intraperitoneally with a mixture of ketamine, atropine and valium  
489 and infected by intranasal inoculation with  $10^6$  bacteria. Groups of 3-5 animals per bacterial  
490 strain were sacrificed 3 h, and 4, 7, 14, or 21 days post-inoculation. Their lungs and naso-  
491 pharynxes were removed in a sterile manner and homogenized using an Ultra Thurax  
492 apparatus <sup>60</sup>. The suspensions were serially diluted in PBS and plated onto BGA for CFU  
493 counting. All the experiments were carried out in accordance with the guidelines of the  
494 French Ministry of Research regarding animal experiments, and the protocols were approved  
495 by the Ethical Committees of the Region Nord Pas de Calais and the Ministry of Research  
496 (agreement number APAFIS#9107±201603311654342 V3).

497 **Bioinformatic analyses.** The regions upstream of CueR-regulated genes in *E. coli* and  
498 *Rubrivivax gelatinosus* (*copA* and *cueO*) were aligned, and Glam2 from the MEME 5.1.0  
499 suite <sup>61</sup> was used to define a pattern. This motif was sought on the genome of *B. pertussis*  
500 using Glam2scan. To identify homologues of PrxGrx, the NCBI nr database was searched  
501 with the HMMER software <sup>62</sup> for proteins carrying both Redoxin (Pfam: PF08534) and  
502 Glutaredoxin (Pfam: PF00462) domain signatures. The corresponding genes and the five

503 upstream and downstream genes were retrieved from databases of prokaryotic DNA  
504 sequences found in the NCBI site (GenBank, RefSeq and WGS).

505 **Statistics and Reproducibility.** Three to six independent biological samples were used to  
506 determine growth yields and survival to oxidative stress or macrophages. For the animal  
507 colonization experiments, 4 and 5 mice per time point were used for the wt and mutant  
508 bacteria, respectively. To determine the Cu/CopZ ratios, three individual samples were  
509 processed. For experiments using samples of small sizes, statistical tests were performed with  
510 the GraphPad Prism software using non-parametric two-tailed Mann-Whitney tests  
511 (confidence level 95%). For qRT-PCR 3 independent biological samples were used. Given  
512 that the *cueR* and *oxyR* KO bacteria grew poorly in the presence of copper or hydrogen  
513 peroxide, respectively, the error bars were large. No statistical analyses were performed in  
514 those cases. For quantification of the fluorescence of intracellular bacteria, large numbers of  
515 bacteria were used (>600). In that case, the sample sizes allowed to use a parametric two-  
516 tailed Student T-test (confidence level 95%; 1381 degrees of freedom) of the GraphPad Prism  
517 software.

518 **Data availability statement.** The transcriptomic data have been deposited in the GEO  
519 repository of NCBI (GEO accession: GSE145049). The mass spectrometry proteomics data  
520 have been deposited in the ProteomeXchange Consortium via the PRIDE<sup>58</sup> partner repository  
521 with the dataset identifier PXD020900 and 10.6019/PXD020900. The data used to generate  
522 the graphs and charts can be found in Supplementary Data S8.

523 **Code Availability statement.** The code generated in this work to retrieve the genetic  
524 environment of genes of interest is available to readers without restriction. It can be accessed  
525 using the following link: <https://github.com/rudantoine/GeneEnv.git>

526

527 **Competing interests.** The authors declare no competing interests.

528 **Authors contributions.** A.R.-M., R.A and F.J.-D. designed the study. A.R.-M., J.C., S.S.  
529 G.R., J.-M.S., G.B., V.A., D.H., S.S.-D. performed the experiments. A.R.-M., R.A and F.J.-D.  
530 analyzed the data. A.R.-M. and F.J.-D. wrote the manuscript. C.L. provided advise. All  
531 authors read and made corrections to the manuscript.

## 532 **Acknowledgments**

533 We thank Violaine Dubois for sharing unpublished data, Hervé Drobecq for mass  
534 fingerprinting analyses and Blanche Daunou for preliminary work with recombinant proteins.  
535 A. R.-M. and G. R. acknowledge the support of doctoral fellowships from the University of  
536 Lille- Region Hauts-de-France and from the University of Lille, respectively. A. R.-M. also  
537 thanks the Fondation de la Recherche Médicale (FRM) for their support. This work was  
538 funded by the Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM) and the  
539 University of Lille. ICP-AES measurements were performed on the Chevreul Institute  
540 Platform (U-Lille / CNRS). The Region Hauts de France and the French government are  
541 acknowledged for co-funding this equipment.

542

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677

678 **Figure 1. Effect of copper on *B. pertussis* and *B. bronchiseptica* growth.** Growth curves of  
679 *B. pertussis* BPSM and *B. bronchiseptica* RB50 in SS medium supplemented (blue curves) or  
680 not (orange curves) with 5 mM CuSO<sub>4</sub> are shown. The turbidity of the cultures was measured  
681 using an Elocheck device. The values shown in ordinate (absorbency units) do not correspond  
682 to optical density measurements classically obtained with a spectrometer, since the Elocheck  
683 instrument uses distinct pathlength and wavelength.

684

685 **Figure 2. Copper regulation of homeostasis systems in *B. pertussis* and *B. bronchiseptica*.**  
686 **(a, c and d)** RNAseq analyses of *B. pertussis* grown for 16 hours in the presence of 2 mM  
687 CuSO<sub>4</sub> in SS medium **(a)**, *B. pertussis* grown in SS medium and treated for 30 minutes with 2  
688 mM of CuSO<sub>4</sub> **(c)**, and *B. bronchiseptica* grown for 12 hours in the presence of 2 mM CuSO<sub>4</sub>  
689 **(d)**. Comparisons were made with bacteria grown in standard conditions. Each gene is  
690 represented by a dot. The x and y axes show absolute levels of gene expression in reads per  
691 kilobase per million base pairs (RPKM) in standard and copper conditions, respectively. The  
692 genes indicated in blue indicate genes of interest with the strongest regulation factors. The full  
693 sets of data are shown in Supplementary Tables S1, S2 and S3. **(b)** Summary of the  
694 transcriptomic and proteomic analyses performed after growing bacteria as in **(a)** and **(c)** in  
695 medium supplemented with 2 mM CuSO<sub>4</sub>. Standard culture conditions were used for  
696 comparisons. \* indicates small proteins difficult to detect by global proteomic approaches.

697

698 **Figure 3. Identification of CopZ in *B. pertussis*.** **(a)** Lysates of wild type *B. pertussis* (wt) or  
699 the deletion mutant ( $\Delta bp1727$ ) grown in SS medium supplemented (+ Cu) or not with 2 mM  
700 CuSO<sub>4</sub> were subjected to SDS-PAGE electrophoresis in Tris-tricine gels for the detection of  
701 CopZ. The gel was stained with colloidal Coomassie blue dye. CopZ migrates below the 10  
702 kDa band of the markers. **(b and c)** The protein band was cut from the gel, and CopZ was  
703 identified by mass fingerprinting analyses. The m/z ratios of the peptides identified by  
704 MALDI-TOF are shown in panel b, and the sequences of the peptides are in panel c. This  
705 experiment complements the proteomic analyses, because the small size of CopZ hampered  
706 its detection in global proteomic approaches (see Fig. 2b and Supplementary Data S4).

707

708 **Figure 4. Role of the operon in *B. pertussis* and in host-pathogen interactions.** **(a and b)**  
709 Growth yields of *B. pertussis* after 24 h in SS medium **(a)** or in SS medium devoid of  
710 glutathione **(b)**, supplemented or not with 2 mM CuSO<sub>4</sub>. The cultures were inoculated at

711 initial OD<sub>600</sub> values of 0.1, and after 24 h the OD<sub>600</sub> were determined. Note the different y axis  
712 scales between (a) and (b). wt, wild type (parental) strain; Δ27, Δ28-29 and Δ27-29, KO  
713 mutants for *bp1727 (copZ)*, *bp1728-bp1729 (prxgrx-gorB)* and the three genes, respectively.  
714 The various strains are represented using different symbols and shades of grey. Δ27-29/+27-  
715 29 represents the latter mutant complemented by expression of the operon at another  
716 chromosomal locus. The horizontal orange lines represent mean values. (c) Survival of the  
717 same strains to an oxidative shock of 30 minutes. (d) Intracellular survival of *B. pertussis* in  
718 THP1 macrophages. The horizontal orange lines represent mean values. See Supplementary  
719 Figure S6 for the data of the individual *copZ* and *prxgrx-gorB* KO mutants. (e and f)  
720 Colonization of mice lungs (e) and nasopharynxes (f) after nasal infections with the parental  
721 strain and the *copZ-prxgrx-gorB* KO mutant. The numbers of bacteria are indicated for each  
722 mouse and organ (black circles: parental bacteria, red squares: mutant). The lines connect the  
723 geometric means of the counts at each time point, and the dotted lines indicate the thresholds  
724 of detection. For all the assays, statistical analyses were performed using two-tailed Mann-  
725 Whitney tests (\*,  $p < 0.05$ ; \*\*,  $p < 0.005$ ). For panels a and b, 5 biologically independent  
726 samples were used. For panels c and d, 4 and 6 biological samples were used, respectively.  
727 For panels e and f, 5 and 4 animals per time point were used for the KO and wt strains,  
728 respectively.

729

730 **Figure 5. Activities of the proteins coded by the *bp1727-1728-1729 (copZ-prxgrx-gorB)***  
731 **operon.** (a) The metal/protein ratios of recombinant CopZ were determined by ICP-AES. The  
732 apo form of CopZ was incubated or not with iron (gray) or copper (black), and both ions were  
733 measured. Three independent samples were processed. (b) Oxidation of NADPH by  
734 recombinant GorB over time. H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was added at the indicated concentrations to generate the  
735 glutathione disulfide (GSSG) substrate of GorB, before adding the enzyme. The reaction was  
736 followed by the decrease of absorbency at 340 nm. (c) Plot of the reaction rate as a function of  
737 substrate concentration. A  $k_{cat}/K_m$  value of  $323,000 \pm 46,000 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  for GSSG was estimated  
738 based on Michaelis-Menten kinetics. One or two measurements were performed at each  
739 substrate concentration. (d) Effect of recombinant PrxGrx on the rate of oxidation of NADPH  
740 by GorB. The red and blue curves show reaction rates when GorB was present alone or when  
741 both enzymes were present, respectively. H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was added last as a substrate of the first  
742 reaction. However, as H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> also generates GSSG, which initiates the second reaction, PrxGrx  
743 activity was detected by the increased rate of the reaction when both enzymes are present, and

744 no enzymatic constants could be determined. (e) Schematic representation of the functions of  
745 the three proteins. By chelating  $\text{Cu}^{1+}$ , CopZ prevents the ion from generating hydroxyl  
746 radicals through the Fenton reaction.  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  is reduced to  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  through the activity of PrxGrx,  
747 at the expense of reduced glutathione (GSH). The product of that reaction, glutathione  
748 disulfide, is reduced through the activity of GorB at the expense of NADPH.

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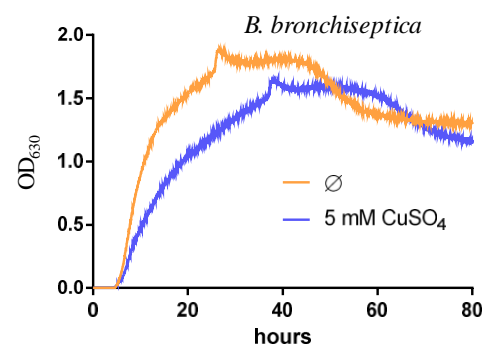
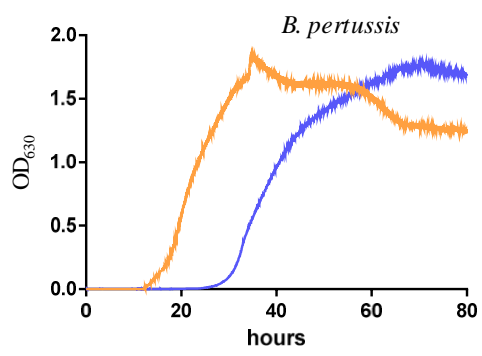
750 **Figure 6. Regulation of the operon.** (a and b) qRT-PCR analyses of the parental and the  
751 *cueR* KO strains treated for 30 min with 2 mM  $\text{CuSO}_4$  (a) or 10 mM  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  (b), showing the  
752 expression levels of *prxgrx* relative to untreated controls. Data were normalized with the  
753 housekeeping gene *bp3416*. Three biological replicates were performed. (c) EMSA with  
754 recombinant OxyR and DNA fragments of the *cueR-copZ* and *copZ-prxgrx* intergenic regions,  
755 IGR 1 and IGR 2, respectively. The uncropped gel is shown in Supplementary Figure S10. (d)  
756 Schematic representation of the locus, with sequences of the putative CueR and OxyR boxes.  
757 The site of transcription initiation was determined by 5'RACE (Supplementary Figure S5).  
758 The putative OxyR binding sites were identified by their similarity with the *E. coli* consensus  
759 sequences, and alignments of the *Bordetella* and *Achromobacter* sequences were used to build  
760 the consensus motif (Supplementary Figure S11).

761

762 **Figure 7. Upregulation of the operon in macrophages.** (a) Representative images of THP1  
763 macrophages having engulfed *B. pertussis* harboring the *mRPF1* gene under the control of the  
764 *copZ-prxgrx-gorB* operon promoter. Macrophages were either starved of copper using a  
765 chelator or treated with copper chloride prior to contact with bacteria. The bacteria are red,  
766 cell membranes are green, and nuclei are blue. In the two fields shown at the left, the bacteria  
767 were projected as objects, showing that similar numbers are present in both conditions. All  
768 image panels are shown at the same magnification. (b) Levels of fluorescence (arbitrary units)  
769 of intracellular bacteria in the two conditions. Statistical analyses were performed using a  
770 two-tailed Student T-test (\*\*\*\*,  $p < 0.0001$ ). The horizontal orange lines represent median  
771 values ( $n > 500$  in both cases).

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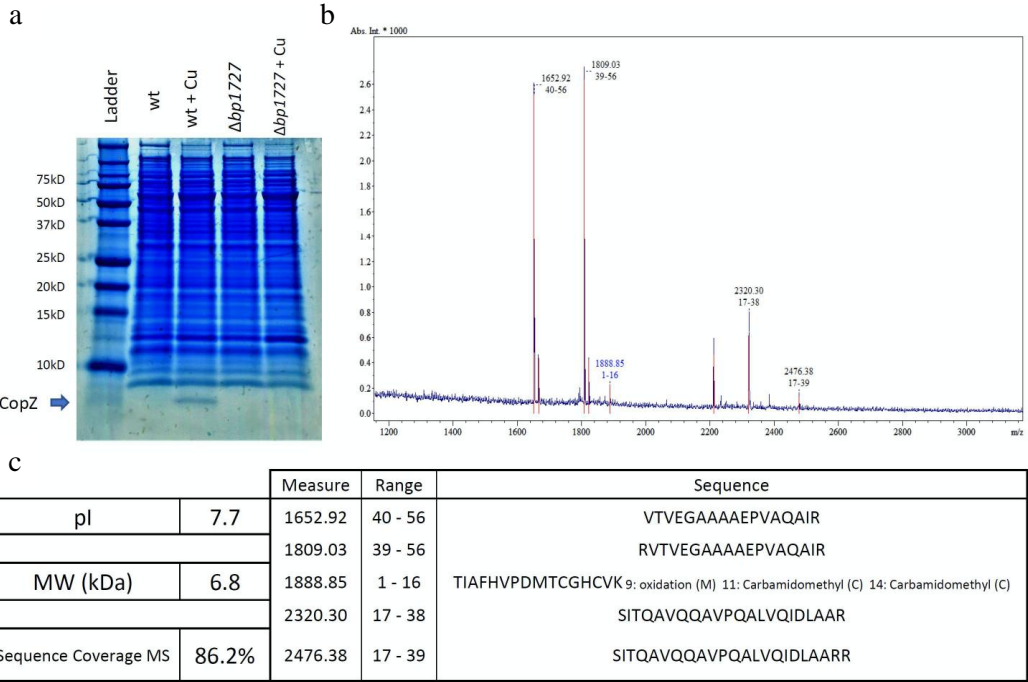
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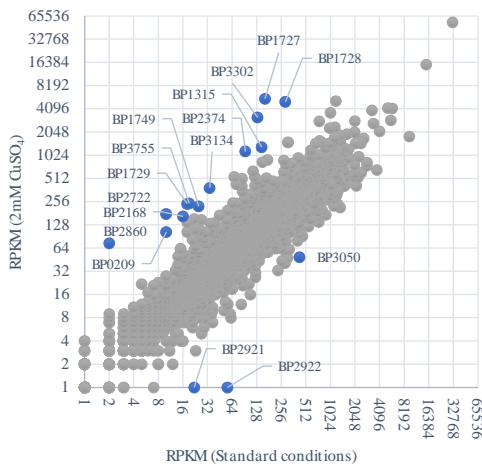
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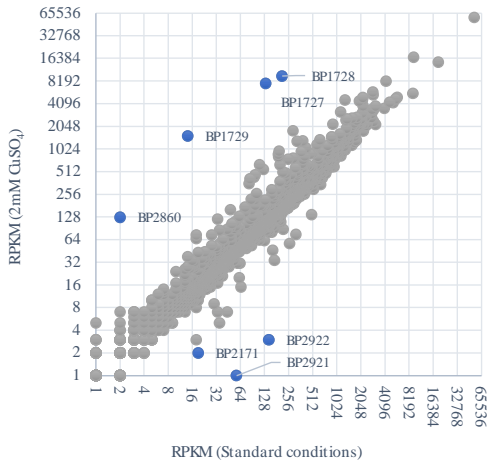
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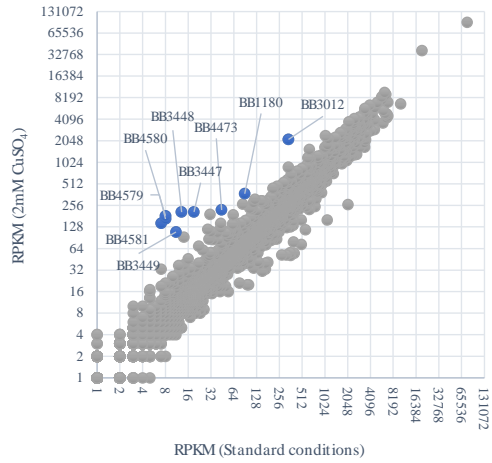
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Protein	Gene	<i>B. pertussis</i>				<i>B. bronchiseptica</i>				
		Transcriptomics (RPKM)		Proteomics (Spectral count)		Transcriptomics (RPKM)		Proteomics (Spectral count)		
		standard	Copper	standard	Copper	standard	Copper	standard	Copper	
CopZ <sup>*</sup>	<i>bp1727</i>	162	5550	0	2	<i>bb3012</i>	338	2145	0	0
PrxGrx	<i>bp1728</i>	288	5059	1	6	<i>bb3011</i>	478	664	10	22
GorB	<i>bp1729</i>	18	241	0	57	<i>bb3010</i>	42	23	1	8
CopA	<i>bp2860</i>	2	74	0	0	<i>bb1180</i>	89	373	0	0
CopI <sup>*</sup>	<i>bp3314</i>	1	1	0	0	<i>bb4581</i>	7	145	0	17
PcoA	<i>bp3315</i>	2	2	0	0	<i>bb4580</i>	8	183	0	52
PcoB	<i>bp3316</i>	1	2	0	0	<i>bb4579</i>	8	166	0	18
Blue copper protein <sup>*</sup>	<i>bp0156</i>	34	26	0	4	<i>bb4473</i>	44	222	0	17
CopS	<i>bp0157</i>	4	5	0	0	<i>bb4472</i>	12	12	1	0
CopR	<i>bp0158</i>	13	12	0	0	<i>bb4471</i>	25	27	1	1
CueR	<i>bp1726</i>	78	181	0	2	<i>bb3013</i>	138	208	0	0
CusF <sup>*</sup>	<i>bp3088</i>	820	989	0	0	<i>bb0177</i>	160	144	0	0
Csp <sup>*</sup>						<i>bb2842</i>	7	8	0	0
CusABC										

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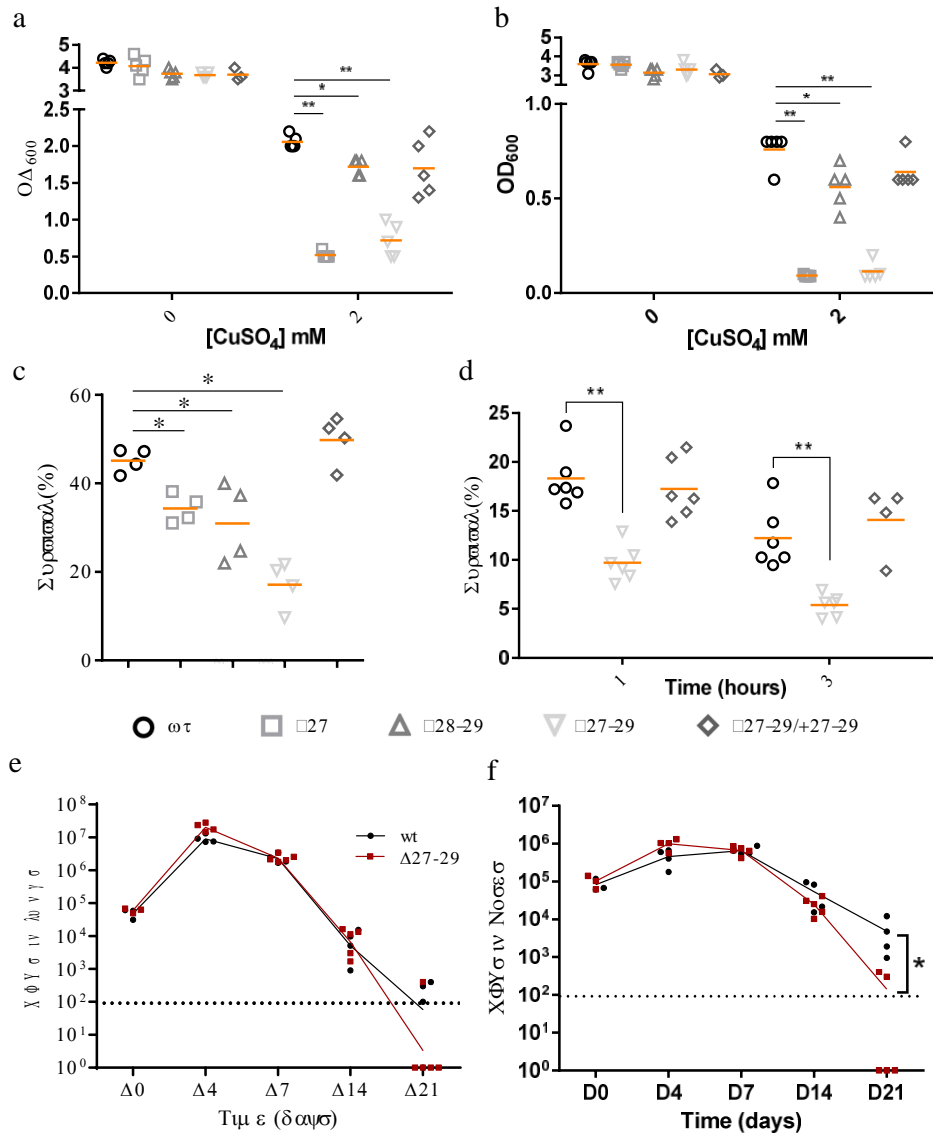
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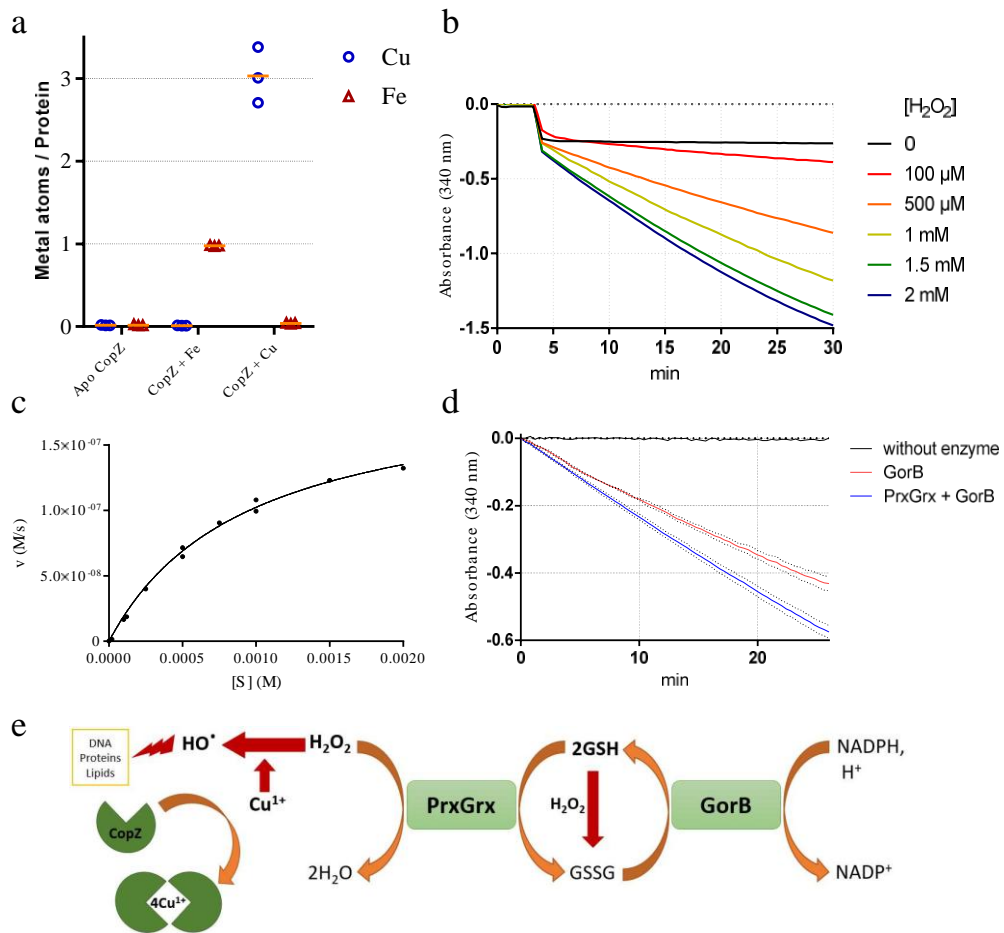
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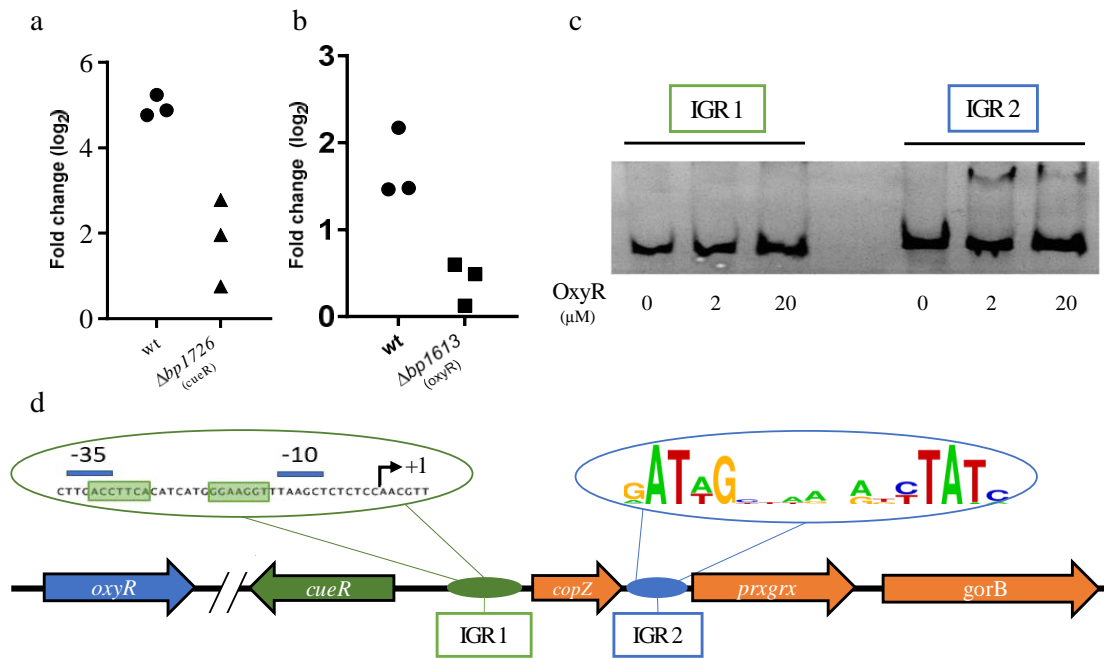


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