

As detailed by Andersson et al. [12], amino acid metabolism is deficient in *Rickettsia*. Among all complete bacterial genomes, *Chlamydia* is the sole genus exhibiting exactly the same pattern. In *Rickettsia*, glutamate metabolism is lacking (MAP00251) with the exception of aspartate aminotransferase A (aatA, EC 2.6.1.1) which is responsible for converting 2-oxoglutarate into L-glutamate. All other bacteria, including *T. whipplei*, *Coxiella burnetti* and *Borrelia burgdorferi* are much better equipped with enzymes for amino acid metabolism.