

SHORT COMMUNICATION

Isolation and typing of *Pasteurella multocida* poultry isolates from Iran

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Pasteurella multocida has been known as a causative agent of fowl cholera disease for many years.

The most prevalent strains which are responsible of acute and chronic fowl cholera disease have been reported as type A with various somatic antigens (1,2).

The cases reported here are seven *P. multocida* isolates from poultry in Iran which have been serotyped as types A, D and B. These strains have been isolated from separate epidemics in different parts of Iran during the recent years. Isolated strains namely, 110, D2, C3, No. 5, G2, No. 4 and 3A, mostly belonged to the northern parts, central and western areas of Iran. Biological and biochemical tests were carried out for identification of fowl cholera strains at the Diagnostic Laboratory of the Razi Institute.

The serotyping procedures for determination of capsular and somatic antigens of *P. multocida* were carried out at the Veterinary Research Institute, Ipoh, Malaysia by Roberts mouse protection test and Carter's haemagglutination test (3). Counter-immunoelectrophoresis and the slide agglutination methods (4,5) were also employed for the type B strain. Results were reconfirmed and completed in the National Animal Diseases Centre Ames, Iowa, USA. Table shows the poultry-isolates which have been typed using somatic antigen and corresponding capsular types.

Somatic and capsular antigenic characteristics of *P. multocida* isolated from avian species.

Strains	Origin	Place	Somatic type	Corresponding to capsular type
110	Poultry	Tehran	1	A
D2	Poultry	Astara	1	A
C3	Poultry	Astara	1	A
No5	Poultry	Rasht	10	D
G2	Poultry	Astara	1	A
No4	Poultry	Kordistan	1	A
3A	Poultry	Bandar Anzali	2	B

Strain 3A which has been typed both capsularly and somatically as type B2 is an unusual nonpathogen case in avian species that previously has been reported by Chandrasekaran, S and others (6). Strains C3 and No. 5 were found to be less virulent for mice than strain 3A.

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