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Technical Report

P.MULTOCIDA TYPE B:2 ISOLATED FROM POULTRY IN IRAN.*

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SIR. - Pasteurella multocida has a wide range of hosts and infections caused by it are commonly encountered in different species of animal.It is well known that P Multocida Carter s capsular type B with Heddleston and others' (1972) somatic antigen 2 is the aetiological agent of haemorrhagic septicaemia of cattle and buffaloesin South East Asia (Carter and Chengappa 1981a). The case reported here is of a P multocida isolate from poultry in Iran which has been serotyped as type B:2.

The procedures employed for the serotyping at the Veterinary Research Institute. Ipoh. Malaysia were the Roberts mouse protection test and Carter's haemagglutination test as previously described by Chandrasekaran and

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Yeap (1982) . In addition to this two other typing methods were conducted. For types B and E strains the new counterimmunoelectrophoresis of Carter and Chengappa (1981b) and the slide agglutination of Little and lyon (1943) . Which is now considered inadequate, were carried out.The work done in Ipoh confirmed only the capsular nature of the organisms. To ascertain their somatic composition the cultures were sent to the National Animal Disease Centre. Ames. Iowa. USA.

Carter and Chengappa (1981a) suggest that both the capsular and somatic serotyping methods be employed when classifying P multocida. It is interesing to note that the isolate. Namely 3A. Has been typed both capsularly and somatically as type B:2 which is unusual in the avian species.The organism was isolated from a fowl in northern Iran 10 years ago. When it was inoculated into susceptible chickens there were neither symptoms of pasteurellosis nor deaths among them. It is probable that P multocida type B:2 is non-pathogenic for chickens.

We are aware of only one such previous report of a type B P multocida of poultry origin(Dhanda 1959).However, its somatic classification was not reported. Other domestic animals such as sheep, goats and pigs have been proved to harbour P multocida type B which may have caused sporadic outbreaks of haemorrhagic septicaemia in cattle and buffaloes. The experimental reproduction of haemorrhagic septicaemia in susceptible bovine animals using these isolated from other species has not been attempted. With the isolation of P multocida type B:2 from poultry the latter can also be included as a possible reservoir host of this organism.

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