

## Isolation and Molecular Typing of Isolated *Salmonella* Species from Poultry in Egypt

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### Abstract

The aim of this study is to determine the prevalence of pathogenic *Salmonella* isolates recovered from poultry farms in Egypt. A total of 36 (29%) *Salmonella* isolates were recovered from 124 samples of poultry (broilers, layers, and breeders) from different governorates in Egypt. The *Salmonella* isolates were confirmed by *invA* gene detection. The molecular characterization was done by using *spvA* gene to identify *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *fliC* gene to identify *Salmonella* Typhimurium by PCR. The 36 isolates (29%, 36/124) were genotyped by sequence analysis of *invA* gene PCR product. The sequence analysis revealed that, the isolates belonged to three different serotypes, including *S. Heidelberg* (n = 17), *S. Gallinarum* (n = 6), and *S. Newport* (n = 1). Whereas *spvA* gene was used for detection of *S. Enteritidis* (n = 8).

**Keywords:** *Salmonella*- Serotyping – Molecular – Prevalence - Egypt.

### Introduction

Salmonellosis is considered as one of the major bacterial problems in the poultry industry worldwide (Duchet-Suchaux et al., 1995). Most of the outbreaks in developed and developing countries produced by this bacterium indicate its importance and impact (Bell and Kyriakides, 2002). *Salmonella* spp. cause asymptomatic intestinal infections in birds but acute outbreaks exhibiting clinical disease along with high levels of mortality occur in chicks younger than 2 weeks old (Duchet-Suchaux et al., 1995). *Salmonella* specific PCR with primers for *invA* and/or *hilA* is rapid, sensitive and specific for detection of *Salmonella* in many clinical samples (Lampel et al., 2000). The rapid detection of *Salmonella enterica*, coupled a culture procedure with PCR amplification of the genus-specific *invE/invA* genes was done by (Schrack et al., 2001).

There are, little information about the prevalence of *Salmonella* in broiler carcasses from Egypt. The objectives of this study were (i) to determine the prevalence of *Salmonella* in poultry farms in Egypt; and (ii) to determine *Salmonella* isolate serotype by molecular technique using sequence analysis method.

## Material and Methods

### **Samples:**

One hundred twenty four chicken tissue (liver) samples were collected randomly from different local farms (broiler, layer & breeder) in Alexandria, Cairo, Monofya, Behera, Sharqia and Fayoum in Egypt (Table 1).

### **Microbiological analysis:**

According to OIE Manual 2010(OIE, 2010) samples were enriched directly in two different selective enrichment broths, Rappaport Vassiliadis (RV) (Oxoid) at 41.5°C, tetrathionate (TT) (Oxoid) at 37°C for 18-24 hr., then plating on XLD (Oxoid) and brilliant green (BG) agar (Oxoid). All plates were aerobically incubated at 37°C overnight (24-48 hr). The colonies of *Salmonella* appear as shiny pink with black centers and sometimes glossy large 3-5mm in diameter on XLD agar or reddish/pink and slightly convex on BGA. Five typical colonies from each agar plate were picked and streaked on nutrient agar and incubated for 24 hours at 37°C to confirm the purity of the culture, then submitted to biochemical tests.

### **Salmonella isolates genomic DNA extraction:**

Positive samples were confirmed by PCR of *invA* gene (Rahn et al., 1992). An extraction of isolated *Salmonella*: Bacteria were cultured on nutrient agar for 24 hrs at 37°C. Extraction of DNA was performed by dry heat at 98°C for 10 min and cooled at freezer (-20°C) for 10 min and centrifuged at 6000 rpm for 5 min. supernatant were used for amplification by PCR of *Salmonella* specific primers.

### **Molecular characterization of Salmonella isolates:**

*Salmonella* specific primers, have respectively the following nucleotide sequence based on the *invA* gene of *Salmonella* 5' GTG AAA TTA TCG CCA CGT TCG GGC AA 3' and 5' TCATCG CAC CGT CAAAGG AAC C -3' (Rahn et al. 1992). Reaction with these primers were carried out in a 25µl amplification mixture consisting of 12.5µl of PCR Master mix (Thermo Scientific), 0.5 µl of each primer, 9 µl of grade water and 3 µl of extraction for each isolate were used in the reaction. The cycle conditions were as follow: An initial denaturation at 94°C for 5 min. Followed by 35 cycles of denaturation at 94°C for 30 sec, annealing at 64°C for 30 sec and elongation at 72°C for 1 min, followed by 7 min final extension period at 72°C. The *Spv A* gene F 5'-GCCGTACACGAGCTTATAGA-3' and *Spv A* gene R 5'-ACCTACAGGGGCACAATAAC-3' for *Salmonella* Enteritidis according to (Pan and Liu, 2002) while, the used *fli C* gene, *Fli C* gene F 5'-CGGTGTTGCCAGGTTGGTAAT-3' and *Fli C* gene R 5'-ACTGGTAAAGATGGCT-3' according Olivera et.al. 2003 for detection of *Salmonella* Typhimurium (Oliveira et al. 2003).

The thermal cyclic conditions were as *invA* but annealing was at 56°C for 2 min. The amplified DNA products from *Salmonella* specific-PCR were analysed with electrophoresis on 1.2% agarose w/v gels stained with ethidium bromide and visualized by UV illumination. A current of 120 V was applied to each gel.

### **Molecular genotyping by sequence analysis of invA gene:**

Other isolates than *S. Enteritidis* and *S. Typhimurium* serovars were identified by sequence analysis of *invA* gene sequencing and Identification of homologies between nucleotide sequences of the detected *Salmonella* strains and other strains

published on GenBank was done using BLAST 2.0 search programs (National Center for Bio-technology Information, 'NCBI'; <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>). The maximum scores designated in the BLAST search have a well-defined statistical interpretation, making matches easier to distinguish from random background hits (Altschul et al. 1997).

### Results

*Salmonella* was detected in 36 samples of the 124 examined chicken liver samples (29 %). Total number of positive samples of *Salmonella* isolation from chicken liver from (broiler, layer and breeder) with 57 % from broilers, 2 % from layers and 0 % from breeders. Shown in table (2).

The molecular identification of *Salmonella* Enteritidis isolates by amplification of *spvA* gene specific for *Salmonella* Enteritidis. Eight isolates were identified as *S. Enteritidis* by amplification of PCR product at 250 bp Fig (2). All examined isolates were negative for *fliC* gene of *Salmonella* Typhimurium. *Salmonella* was detected in 36 samples of the 124 examined chicken liver samples (29 %). Total number of positive samples of *Salmonella* isolation from chicken liver from (broiler, layer and breeder) with 57 % from broilers, 2 % from layers and 0 % from breeders Table (2).

Sequencing of PCR products for identify the other *Salmonella* spp. and genotypes. 3 serovars of *Salmonella* were identified by sequencing for 25 isolates, *Salmonella* Heidelberg was the most identified serovar (50 %), then *Salmonella* Gallinarum (16 %) and *Salmonella* Newport (3 %) Table (3). Fourteen *Salmonella* strains identified by sequencing of *invA* gene and obtained accession number in GenBank Shown in table (4)

Table (1) Number of examined samples and its governmental distribution:

Governorates	Chicken type	Age	Collected	Total
Behera Monofya	broiler	1-8 days	22	
		17-days	9	
		24-days	5	
Alexandria Sharqia	layer	1-11 days	25	
		28 weeks	41	
Fayoum Cairo	breeder	55 weeks	2	124
		4 weeks	20	

Table (2) Number of positive Salmonella and prevalence percent:

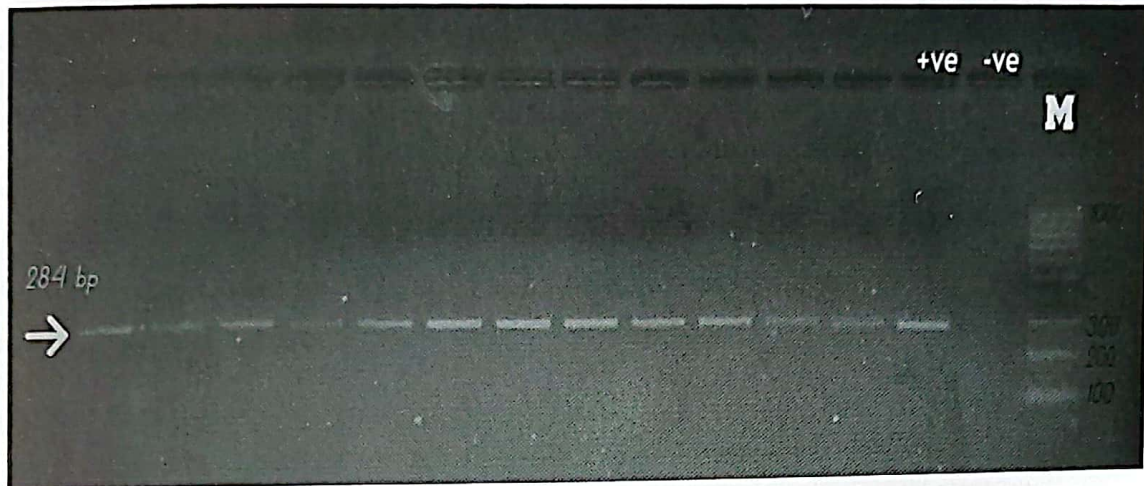
Type	No. of samples	Positive samples	Prevalence %
Broiler	61	35	57
Layers	43	1	2
Breeder	20	0	0
Total no.	124	36	29

Table (3): Number of identified *Salmonella* isolates from sequencing

Serovars	No. of isolates	%
<i>S. Gallinarum</i>	6	16
<i>S. Heidelberg</i>	18	50
<i>S. Newport</i>	1	3

Table (4): accession number of *Salmonella* isolates:

Samples No.	Code	Serovars
KJ718882	2Alx-B	<i>S. Gallinarum</i>
KJ718883	7Alx-B	<i>S. Gallinarum</i>
KJ718884	11Alx-B	<i>S. Gallinarum</i>
KJ718885	42Beh-B	<i>S. Heidelberg</i>
KJ718886	47Beh-B	<i>S. Gallinarum</i>
KJ718887	50Beh-B	<i>S. Heidelberg</i>
KJ718874	52Beh-B	<i>S. Heidelberg</i>
KJ718875	54Beh-B	<i>S. Heidelberg</i>
KJ718876	55Beh-B	<i>S. Heidelberg</i>
KJ718877	56Beh-B	<i>S. Heidelberg</i>
KJ718878	58Beh-B	<i>S. Heidelberg</i>
KJ718879	70Shar-L	<i>S. Newport</i>
KJ718880	105Mo-B	<i>S. Heidelberg</i>
KJ718881	107Mo-B	<i>S. Heidelberg</i>



**Fig : (1) PCR of *inv A* gene:** Lane M: DNA ladder from 100-1000, lane C-: *E.coli* ATCC 25922, lane C+:*S.Enteritidis* ATCC 13076, and other lanes positive *inv A* gene (284 bp) *Salmonella* isolates.



**Fig : (2) PCR of *spvA* gene:** Lane M: DNA ladder from 100-1000, lane C-: *E.coli* ATCC 25922, lane C+:*S.Enteritidis* ATCC 13076, and other lanes : positive *S. Enteritidis* isolates (250bp).

### Discussion

One of the most problematic zoonosis in terms of public health all over the world not only because of the high endemicity, but also because of the obstacles in controlling the disease in addition to significant morbidity and mortality rates (Tessari et al. 2013). Avian salmonellosis is responsible for considerable loss in poultry industry through the death of birds and loss in production (Martin et al., 2011 and Nogrady et al., 2012). Salmonellosis can result in several disease symptoms including gastroenteritis, bacteremia, typhoid fever and focal infection (Rotimi et al., 2008 and Gordon, 2011). Depending on molecular techniques (PCR and sequencing) after conventional isolation is a very useful method to identify *Salmonella* strains. Skwark and coworker proved that PCR is a very useful

method to identify *Salmonella* strains and to determine their virulence factors by amplification of characteristic genetic markers (Fig 1 and 2)(Skwark et al. 2004 ). In the present study, the rate of *Salmonellae* isolation in poultry farms (liver organs) was investigated. *Salmonellae* were isolated from different types (broiler, breeder & layer) with incidence of 29 %, these results in agree with(Authman, 1992 and Hegazi, 2002)as 26 % and 30 % respectively (Table 2).

The contamination rates were observed in other countries, 23-34% in Belgium(Uyttendaele et al. 1998), 25% in United Kingdom(Plummer et al. 1995), 26% in Ireland(Duffy et al. 1999) and 36% in Malaysia(Rusul et al. 1996). The difference in the prevalence rates may be due to socio-economic factors. Moreover, the highest percent of isolation was from broiler 57% (Table 2), it might be attributed to horizontal and/or vertical transmission of *Salmonella* to the chicks.

The horizontal transmission of *Salmonellae* can be mediated by mechanisms including direct bird-to-bird contact, ingestion of contaminated feeds, water or litter, or using contaminated equipment. While vertical transmission to the progeny of infected breeder flocks can result from internal or external contamination of eggs (Gast, 2003), as they were small in age and *Salmonella* is high in ages less than 2 weeks. The highest percentage of isolation was *S. Heidelberg* serovar (50 %), then *S. Enteritidis* (22 %), *S. Gallinarum* (16 %) and *S. Newport* (3 %). The most frequently isolated serotypes from chickens were *Salmonella Heidelberg*, and *Salmonella Enteritidis* (CDC, 2004). The result of this study may indicate the challenge, intensification of poultry production may face in the future in the country from salmonellosis disease unless due attention is given to the prevention and control of these diseases. Therefore concerted efforts such as organized national regulatory programs should be established to mitigate the losses and control the diseases.

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## العزل والتوصيف الجزيئي والنوعي السالمونيلا المعزولة من الدواجن في مصر

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الهدف من هذه الدراسة هو تحديد مدى انتشار السالمونيلا المسببة للأمراض من مزارع الدواجن في مصر. تم عزل عدد 36 (29%) من عزلات السالمونيل امن واقع 124 عينه من عينات الدواجن (الدجاج اللحم، والبيض ، والامهات) من مختلف المحافظات في مصر. تم تأكيداً لعزلات السالمونيلا التي تم عزلها عن طريق الكشف الجيني لجين *invA*. تم الانتهاء من التوصيف الجزيئي بالكشف الجيني لجين *spvA* الجين لتحديد السالمونيلا انترتيديس واستخدم *fliC* جين لتحديد السالمونيلا التيفية بواسطة PCR. تم تحديد النوع الجيني لعدد (29%)، (124/36) من العزلات عن طريق تحليل التسلسل لمنتج PCR لجين *invA*. وكشف تحليل التسلسل ذلك، ان العزل انتمي إلى ثلاثة أنماط مصلية مختلفة، بما في ذلك S. Heidelberg (ن = 17)، S. Gallinarum (ن = 6)، و S. Newport (ن = 1). فيجين *pv A s* جين استخدم للكشف عن S. Enteritidis (ن = 8).