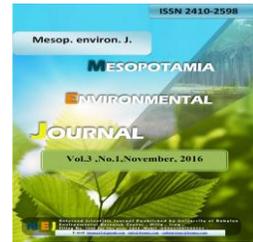




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The study characters of *Aeromonas hydrophila* on some media

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to investigate the study characters of *Aeromonas hydrophila* on some media +isolated from clinical sources in Hilla city, Iraq. A total of 822 samples were collected from fecal specimens from patients. Samples were collected from rectal swab and from those who suffering from diarrhea. The period of the research was from October 2013 to February 2014 at public health lab, Hilla city. Results of this study revealed that out of 822 fecal samples, 13 isolates (1.58%) were belonged to *Aeromonas* spp. However, other bacterial isolates belonged to other genera similar to *Aeromonas* were also recovered. Out of 13 *Aeromonas* spp., eight *A. hydrophila* isolates (61.53%) were obtained, while the other isolates were distributed as: four isolates of *A. salmonicida* (30.76%), and one of *A. sobria*. Isolation and detection of *A. salmonicida* species was first recorded in Iraq. The efficacy of routine enteric agars for supporting the growth of *Aeromonas hydrophila*, MacConkey, and xylose lysinedeoxycholate appeared to be the most satisfactory routine agars for *Aeromonas* spp. recovery when used in conjunction with blood agar. bacterial isolation showed a good growth of *A. hydrophila* on TCBS medium .

Introduction

Diarrhea disease is an important cause of morbidity and mortality in developing countries, particularly in infants and elders [1].

Diarrheas are produced by viral, bacterial, and parasitic infections, as well as food intolerances, reaction to medicines, and other physiological and immunological disorders. Bacterial infections are responsible for 20-40% of diarrhea illness, and several bacterial species have been frequently ascribed to diarrhea episodes, including *Campylobacter jejuni*, *E. coli*, *Salmonella* spp., *Vibrio cholera*, *Yersinia enterocolitica*, *Aeromonas* spp., and *Plesiomonas* spp. [2].

In the last decades, *Aeromonas* have been increasingly recognized as relevant etiological agents in gastrointestinal infections [3]. *Aeromonas* species are pathogens that cause foodborne gastroenteritis in human and extraintestinal symptoms such as septicemia, meningitis, endocarditis [4,5]. Among *Aeromonas* species, *Aeromonas hydrophila* is the most commonly associated with human infections, leading to intestinal and non-intestinal diseases. Furthermore, increased resistance of this organism to antibiotics and chlorination in water presents a significant threat to public health. [6,7]. Isolation of *A. hydrophila* from contaminated samples such as feces requires the use of selective and differential plating media such as MacConkey agar, cefsulodin-irgasan-novobiocin (CIN) agar, or blood ampicillin agar (10 mg/l ampicillin). To facilitate recovery of *A. hydrophila* from heavily contaminated specimens such as feces, used different media for the isolation, and differential this bacteria from other bacteria.

Material and methods

Collection of fecal samples

This cross sectional study was designed to assess the occurrence of *A. hydrophila* in patients with diarrhea. A total of 822 fecal samples were collected. They were collected from rectal swab (routine work) and from patients suffering from diarrhea who attending public health lab, Hilla city, Iraq.

Specimen collection and analysis was carried out from October 2013 to February 2014.

Isolation and identification of bacterial isolates

All specimens were cultured on alkaline peptone water, then transfer to TCBS and MacConkey agar by swabbing and incubated at 37°C for 24 hr. Each primary positive culture identified depending on the

morphological properties such as (Shape, swarming, odor and lactose or non-lactose fermentation on MacConkey) [9]. Different Biochemical tests were used for identification of bacterial isolates according to standard methods [9,10] The Vitek 2 system was used to confirm the biochemical test according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Results and discussion

Isolation of *Aeromonas hydrophila*

Results of this study revealed that out of 822 clinical sample 13 isolates (1.58%) were belonged to *Aeromonas* spp., however other bacterial isolates belong to other genera similar to *Aeromonas* were also recovered (Table 1).

Table 1:The percentages of *Aeromonas* spp. recovered from fecal specimens

Sample	Bacteria type	NO. of isolates	%
Positive	<i>Aeromonas</i> spp.	13	1.58%
Negative	<i>Pseudomonas</i> Spp., <i>Pantoea</i> spp. and <i>Proteus</i> Spp. and <i>Enterobacter cloacae</i>	809	98.4%
Total		822	100 %

The low isolation rate of this bacteria 1.58% may be attributed to the fact that most cases of diseases caused by this bacteria are occurred usually in warm months , while the collection of samples in this study was in cold months. Aggeet *al.* 1985 [11] reported that *A. hydrophila* similar to other enteric pathogens was seen more often in hot months. the frequency of *A. hydrophila* cases during warm months was 1.25 case per month, whereas during cold months it was 0.83 case per month[12] .

The other reason of this result may be due to fact that *A. hydrophila* infects mainly children, elderly, and immunocompromised persons, while this study was focused on subjects of youth age group. Most studies are

focusing isolating bacteria from feces of children only, and the fact that bacteria *Aeromonas* occur in children under two years at high rates, because of lack immune system completely, and abase infant formula of milk plays role in promoting the growth and reproduction of bacteria.

In a local study, Obaid (2013)[12] reported that 2.7% of *A. hydrophila* isolates were recovered from 479 patients from different ages and sexes. Naji (2013)[13] isolated this bacteria from children, the isolation rate of *A. hydrophila* was 4.08%. However, several authors found higher isolation rate of *Aeromonas* from clinical cases. AL-Fathlawy (2012) [14]obtained 20.17% of *A. hydrophila*from clinical and environmental sample. On contrast, Borchardt *et al* (2003)[15] showed low isolation rate (0.66%) of *A.hydrophila*among 2565 diarrheic stool specimens submitted to a Wisconsin clinical reference laboratory.

Results showed that (8) isolates were diagnosed as *A. hydrophila* (61.53%), while the other isolates were distributed as (4, 30.7%) *A. salmonicida* and (1, 7.6%) *A. sobria*.

Result of isolation rate in the present study was similar to many studies conducted worldwide,Kannan *et al.*,(2001) [16] which found that the isolation rates of *A. hydrophila* were 60%, and 58.8% respectively, also he found that several species of *Aeromonas* were detected from acute diarrhea which were *A. caviae* (20%), *A. veronii* (10%), *A. schubertii* (4%), *A. jandaei* (3%), and *A. trota* (3%).

A. hydrophila and *A. sobria* tended to cause acute infection in human [17], while *A. salmonicida* cannot grow at 37°C, it is not pathogenic to humans [18].

Authors also referred to isolate *Aeromonas* spp. from different clinical specimens like blood (63%), wounds (11%), ascites (9%), feces (8%), and bile (3%). In addition to different unknown body sites [19]

3.2 Identification of *A. hydrophila*

Members of the genus *Aeromonas* are not difficult to isolate from clinical specimens in the diagnostic laboratory, but are often misidentified as belonging to the genus *Vibrio* or *Plesiomonas* [19]. Results of the phenotypic characteristics of the colonies *Aeromonas* has shown conformity with what was reported by[20,21 and,22].The microscopic examination of the bacteria stained by gram stain showed that the cells were gram negative, rod shaped, and the cells appeared singly to pairs, or as short chains [23].

Results of biochemical tests carried out for identification of isolates were compared with standard methods [11,9]. All isolates were positive for oxidase, and catalase .Oxidase test is used for differential of *A. hydrophila* from other enteric bacteria. Results also found that *A. hydrophila* isolates had the ability to ferment glucose on Kligler iron ager (Alk/acid). They appeared positive to heamolysis test, motility test, and

utilization of citrate, but they were negative to string test and urease test. String test is used to differentiate between *A. hydrophila* and *V. cholera* isolates[24]. Identification of *A. hydrophila* was confirmed using Vitek 2 system. Out of 13 *A. hydrophila* isolates (identified using biochemical tests), only 8 isolates was identified as *A. hydrophila*. The other 5 isolates were identified as *A. soberi* (1 isolate) and *A. salamoncidia* (4 isolates) had showed 85- 99% identification percentage probability. This study appeared that most of this media have high efficient to support growth of *A. hydrophila* .bacterial isolation showed a good growth of *A. hydrophila* on TCBS medium and isolates produced yellow colonies /green color due to sucrose fermentation, with diameter of colonies ranged from 2-3 mm, while on blood agar, colonies appeared dark grey color beta- hemolytic (Figure 1). On the MacConkeyagar formed relatively small pale colonies is non- lactose fermenter table (2). also *A. hydrophila* showed good growth in anaerobic condition because, *Aeromonas hydrophila* facultative anaerobic, that is known to be pathogenic in humans [25].on SS agar the colonies of *A. hydrophila* appear clear ,colorless and transparent , and XLD agar colonies appear yellow to yellow -red .Mathur,etal (2003) showed in his research out of 71 *Aeromonas* isolates, 10 were sensitive toampicillin and all these grew on MacConkey agar. The61 isolates growing on ASBA were haemolytic.

Table 2: Characters of *A. hydrophila* isolates on different culture media

Medium	Characters of colonies
TCBS agar	yellow shin with diameter ranged from (2-3)mm.
MacConkey agar	As pale like shaped indicated that <i>A. hydrophila</i> is unable to ferment lactose sugar
Blood agar	smooth, convex, rounded and β -hemolytic colonies and pale white to grey color
XLD ager (Xyloz	colonies yellow toyellow-red
SS ager(Salmonella – shigella)	Clear, colorless and transparent

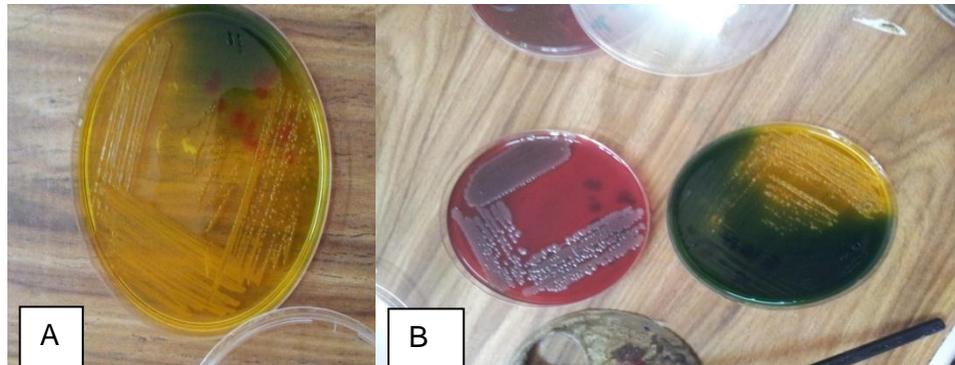


Figure 1: Characters of *Aeromonas hydrophila* on (A) TCBS agar, (B) Blood agar,(C)SS agar,XLD agar .

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