

Isolation of *Salmonella larochelle* for the First Time in India

Salmonellosis is one of the most prevalent zoonotic diseases. Despite continuous surveillance and concerted efforts, food poisoning outbreaks due to salmonellae are on the increase particularly in western countries. More than 20,000 cases in man are reported annually in the U.S.A. (Centre for Disease Control, 1976) and 5000 to 6000 incidents in the U.K. (Hobbs, 1973). Food poisoning is not a notifiable disease in many countries and therefore reliable country-wise statistics on the yearly incidence of this infection is not available.

The genus *Salmonella* contains more than 2000 serotypes. In India 122 serotypes are described so far (Saxena *et al.* 1980) and every year new serotypes are being added to the list.

Table 1. *Morphological, biochemical and serological characteristics of Salmonella larochelle*

Morphology : Gram negative short rods, motile, no spores

Biochemical characteristics

Reaction on triple sugar iron agar	: Acid butt, alkaline slant, gas and hydrogen sulphide produced
Reaction on lysine iron agar slants	: Purple colour throughout, hydrogen sulphide present
Indole production	: Absent
Urease production	: Absent
Fermentation of lactose	: Negative
Fermentation of sucrose	: Negative
Fermentation of salicin	: Negative
Fermentation of dulcitol	: Acid and gas formed
Serological pattern	: 6, 7; eh: 1, 2

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The isolation of a new serotype, *Salmonella larochelle* (6, 7: eh:1, 2), is reported in this communication. This serotype has not so far been reported from any source in this country.

The serotype was isolated on 27th November, 1979 at Bombay from a market sample of frozen froglegs intended for domestic consumption. The method suggested by AOAC (1975) was followed for the detection of *Salmonella*. Two strains isolated from this sample were sent to the National Salmonella and Escherichia Centre at Kasauli for serotyping and were identified as *Salmonella larochelle*. A final report on the identification of this serotype was received on 26th March, 1980. The biochemical properties of *S. larochelle* were similar to that of typical *Salmonella*. (Table 1)

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