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Incidence of Chryseobacterium spp. in raw milk and some dairy products

Amal S. Mohamed^{1*}, Laila M. El-Malt², Karima G. Abdel Hameed², and Mona A. El-Zamkan²

¹A post-graduate researcher, Department of Food Hygiene and Control, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, South Valley University, Qena 83523, Egypt, ² Department of Food Hygiene and Control, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, South Valley University, Qena 83523, Egypt.

Abstract

A total of 225 random samples of raw cow milk (150), Kareish cheese, Domiati cheese and butter (25 samples each), were collected from various farmers' houses, dairy shops, street vendors and supermarkets located at Aswan city, Egypt, to be examined by culture and molecular methods in which 16S rRNA gene was used; the obtained PCR product was then purified and sequenced to detect the existence of *Chryseobacterium* spp. All cheese and butter samples didn't show the characteristic colonies of Chryseobacterium spp., while two raw cow milk samples exhibited the characteristic *Chryseobacterium* colonies. The suspected *Chryseobacterium* spp. were confirmed by PCR and DNA sequencing and comparing the sequenced DNA with those on GenBank using the BLAST tool on GenBank, underlining its occurrence in raw cow milk samples with an incidence of 1.3%. The isolated strains showed the highest similarity with *Chryseobacterium jip* 108/83 (100%). According to obtained data and our knowledge, it is the first time to isolate *Chryseobacterium* spp. from raw milk in Egypt. The isolated strains were registered on the GenBank with the proposed names Chryseobacterium Egyam strain AM1 (Accession No. MK059947) and Chryseobacterium Egyam strain AM2 (Accession No. MK059948). A constructed phylogenetic tree by using the neighbour-joining method was applied to detect the exact taxonomic position of the obtained strains.

Keywords:

Chryseobacterium spp., Milk, 16S rRNA

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Introduction

Raw milk is an example of an environment that contains a diverse and complex microbial population (Quigley et al., 2011 and Vacheyrou et al., 2011). The extended duration of storage of raw milk at low temperatures creates selective conditions that promote the growth of psychrotrophic bacteria, altering the microbial composition of the milk (Xin et al., 2017). Amongst psychrotrophic bacteria that are frequently isolated from raw milk is Flavobacterium (Vithanage et al., 2016 and Yuan et al., 2017). During the reclassification of the members of this genus based on rRNA cistron similarity studies, the genus Chrvseobacterium was introduced and described for first time by Vandamme et al. (1994). Higher resolutions achieved by 16S rRNA gene sequencing than old methods such as DNA-rRNA hybridization technique that was extensively used for phylogenetic investigations of the genus Flavobacterium and related genera during the 1980s and 1990s (Bauwens and De Ley, 1981; Segers et al., 1993; Mudarris et al., 1994; Vandamme et al., 1994; Vancanneyt et al., 1996).

Many Chryseobacterium strains occur in soil. fresh water and marine environments, while others are found in dairy products. Several Chryseobacterium spp. are associated with the spoilage of dairy products during cold storage like C. balustinum, C. gleum and C. joostei (Bernardet et al., 2002). Chryseobacterium spp. also produce off- odors in pasteurized milk and cream (García-López et al., 1999), surface taint and apple odor in butter, thinning in creamed rice and bitterness (Jooste and Hugo, 1999 and Bernardet et al., 2002). Spoilage caused by this bacterium is mainly contributed to the production of heat stable lipases and proteases (Bernardet et al., 2002 and Yuan et al., 2018). Chrvseobacterium as psychrotrophic bacteria present more serious challenges to

the dairy industry. From the public health point of view, Chryseobacterium are opportunistic pathogens of humans and animals and have been described as an etiological agent of meningitis, bacteremia, pneumonia, endocarditis, tracheobronchitis, infections of skin and soft tissue, ocular infections. urinary tract infection, pyonephrosis, dental plaque (Bloch et al., 1997; Booth, 2014; Lo and Chang, 2014; Omar et al., 2014; Virok et al., 2014; Brkic et al., 2015; Garg et al., 2015 and Abdalhamid et al., 2016). Most common strains isolated from clinical cases were C. meningiosepticum, C. Indologenes and C. gleum (Imataki and Uemura 2016; Raiendran et al., 2016: Saleem et al., 2016: González-Castro et al., 2017; Jain et al., 2017 and Rawat et al., 2017; Lin et al., 2018 and Bhalla et al., 2018).

This study aimed to the detection and phenotypic description of Chryseobacterium spp. in raw milk and some milk products collected from Aswan city, Egypt, identification of the isolated Chryseobacterium spp. by 16S rRNA gene sequencing using Universal Method. phylogenetic tree analysis of the sequenced isolates.

Materials and methods

From various dairy places at Aswan city, Egypt, a total of 150 random samples of raw cow's milk and additionally, 25 locally manufactured milk product samples were collected from each of the following categories Domiati, Kareish cheese and butter. Collected samples were transferred in an ice box directly to the laboratory with a minimum of delay to be immediately examined for the presence of *Chryseobacterium* spp.

identification of Isolation and Chryseobacterium spp.

Preparation of samples

Raw milk samples were examined for heat treatment according to Lampert (1975), cheese samples prepared as described by ISO 8261 (2001). Briefly, 10 gm of each sample were transferred to sterile containers and homogenized with 90 ml of Maximum Recovery Diluent (Oxoid, CM0733) solution preheated to 45 °C and thoroughly mixed until the cheese is thoroughly dispersed. butter samples prepared by melting of 10 gm in 45 °C water bath, centrifuged until the serum is separated.

Cultural condition:

One tenth ml of raw cow's milk, prepared cheese and butter serum solutions were carefully transferred into each of the appropriately marked plates of Standard Plate Count agar (SPC) (Oxoid, CM0463) as described by Hantsis-Zacharov and Helpern (2007) with slight change where plates were incubated 2 days at 25 °C followed by 2 other days at 7 °C. Creamy, vellow, and orange colonies picked up and enriched in nutrient broth for 2 days at 7 °C then sub-cultured on SPC agar plates for further identification. Suspected colonies were identified phenotypically by Gram stain, oxidase (Oxoid MB0266), catalase (Land et al., 1991), API 20 NE (Biomerieux) including conventional and assimilation testes, and flexirubin pigment production by using of KOH (20%) according to method described by Fautz and Reachard (1980).

Molecular confirmation of presumptive *Chryseobacterium* isolates

DNA extraction

DNA extraction was done using QIAamp DNA mini kit (Qiagen, Germany) according to the manufacture's recommendations.

Amplification and sequencing 16S rRNA

Amplification of 16S rRNA gene was done using the universal primers F27(5'-AGAGTTTGATCMTGGCTCAG-3') and R1492(5' TACGGYTACCTTGTTACGACTT-3') which targeted to universally conserved regions and permit the amplification to 1485 bp fragments (Lagacé et al., 2004). PCR amplification was carried out in T3 thermal cycler (Biometra). Primers were utilized in 25 μ l reaction including, 12.5 μ L of Emerald Amp GT PCR master mix (2x premix) (Takara). 1 µL of each primer, 4.5 μ L of water, and 6 μ L of DNA template. Initial DNA denaturation and enzyme activation steps were proceeded at 94 °C for 15 min., followed by 35 cycles of denaturation at 94 °C for 30 s., annealing at 56 °C for 1 min. and extension at 72 °C for 1 min., and a final extension at 72°C for 10 min. The PCR products (16S rRNA gene) were separated by electrophoresis on 1% agarose gel (Applichem GmbH, Darmstadt, Germany) in 1× TBE buffer at room temperature using gradients of 5 V/cm. For gel analysis, 20 µL of the products was loaded in each gel slot to determine the fragment sizes. The gel was photographed by a gel documentation system (Alpha Innotech, Biometra, Göttingen, Germany) and the data was analyzed through computer software. PCR products were purified using OIAquick PCR product extraction kit (Qiagen Inc. Valencia CA).

Applied sequence reaction, For Biosystems 3130 automated DNA Sequencer (ABI, 3130, USA) used, using a ready reaction Bigdye Terminator V3.1 cycle sequencing kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA), with (Cat. No. 4336817). And then it was purified using Centrisep spin column. DNA sequences were obtained by Applied Biosystems 3130 genetic analyzer, USA. The obtained 16S

rRNA gene sequences were submitted to the genebank (https://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi.)

The sequence alignment was performed using BIOEDIT (Version 7.0.9.0, Hall, 1999) software. The Basic Local Alignment Search Tool (BLAST) (Altschul et al., 1990) was used to complete

sequencing	a	lignn	nent	bet	ween	the
sequences	of	the	isolat	es	and	those
deposited in	the	Genl	Bank E	DNA	datab	oase.

Phylogenetic analysis

A comparative analysis of sequences was performed using the CLUSTAL W multiple sequence alignment program, version 1.83 of MegAlign module of Lasergene DNAStar software Pairwise, which was designed by Thompson et al., (1994). Phylogenetic comparisons of the aligned sequences for the gene were also performed with the MegAlign module of Lasergene DNA Star software to determine nucleotide and amino acid sequence similarities and relationships.

Results and Discussion

According to Hantsis-Zacharov and Helpern (2007); Hantsis-Zacharov et al., (2008a, 2008b); and Bekker (2011), the focus in this study was on Gram negative vellow and/or orange colonies with circular edges, after aerobic plating on SPC agar and incubated at 25 °C for 4 days and, oxidase and catalase positive colonies. Results presented in Table 1 and Fig. 1 illustrated the incidence of the examined samples that potentially contaminated with Chryseobacterium spp. It revealed that 10 out of 225 (20%) raw milk and milk products samples were contaminated with yellow, gram negative, oxidase and catalase positive colonies which suspected to be Chryseobacterium spp. The targeted colonies existed in 7% of the investigated raw cow milk samples, while the rest of the examined samples did not show the targeted colonies (Kareish and Domiati Cheese and butter), so the total percent of positive suspected colonies is 4.4%. The yellow colonies (Fig.2A) are shown in Fig.1.

Flexirubins are the unique type of bacterial pigments that produced by *Chryseobacterium* spp.,

Cytophaga spp. and *Flexibacter* spp. (Krebs et al., 2012 & 2013; Venil et al., 2014 & 2015). The presence of flexirubin pigments was investigated by flooding the plates with 20% (w/v) potassium hydroxide (Fautz and Reichenbach, 1980) and color change from gold to red-brown indicates the presence of flexirubin as shown in Fig 2B.

In the current study, flexirubin pigment found to be produced by 2 (20%) out of 10 isolates (Table 1 and Fig. 1). Similar finding was obtained by Kim et al., (2005), Hantsis -Zacharov et al., (2008 b), Chaudhari et al., (2009), Bekker (2011) and Ahmad et al., (2012) where the flexirubin-type pigment was detected in different Chryseobacterium spp. according to this method. As it is difficult to isolate and confirm Chryseobacterium spp, using the conventional culture and PCR methods, so we recommend the use of flexirubin pigment as a vital step to select the isolates to detect the differential phylogenetic characteristic of *Chryseobacterium* spp. as this pigment works as a biomarker for the bacterial group that produces it in which Chryseobacterium spp. falls and donating it a specific characteristic.

Chryseobacterium is spp. nonfermenting Gram-negative bacilli, has clinical importance in nosocomial infections (Hantsis-Zacharov et al., 2008a and de Carvalho Filho et al., 2017), and its identification is a challenge to microbiology laboratories. As a result of the variation and diversity between conventional tests (phenotypic, biochemical and API test) of the potentially Chryseobacterium spp. strains obtained in this study, the two were subjected for further isolates by16S gene identification rRNA sequencing for greater reliability of identification. Identification based on the 16S rRNA, is considered a valid molecular chronometer which is essential for a precise assessment of phylogenetic relatedness of organisms because 16S rRNA, is an ~1500

base pair gene coding for a catalytic RNA that is part of the 30S ribosomal subunit exists universally among prokaryotic cells (bacteria) and conserved and variable sequences regions evolving at very different rates, critical for the concurrent universal amplification and measurement of both close and distant phylogenetic relationships. These characteristics allow the use of 16S rRNA in the assignment of close relationships at the genus (Clarridge, 2004) and in many cases at the species level (Conlan et al., 2012 and Newton and Roeselers, 2012) also the identification of unknown strain through comparing its sequence against databases in the Genbank. So. 16S rRNA gene sequencing has become one of the indispensable pillars in the polyphasic approach to bacterial classification and novel bacteria discovery (Woo et al., 2008) as in case of Chryseobacterium genus, the topic of this study.

flexirubin pigment

The 16S rRNA sequence analysis succeeded in identification of the 2 sequenced isolates via BLAST search tool the GenBank database over as Chryseobacterium jip due to the 100% identity between the isolates of this study and Chryseobacterium jip 108/83 on the Genbank, representing 1.3 % of the examined 150 cow milk samples. Many authors could isolate and identify Chryseobacterium spp. from raw milk samples using the same method as Hantsis-Zacharov and Halpern (2007), Hantsis-Zacharov et al., (2008 a & b), Ouigley et al., (2013), Boubendir et al., 2016, Yuan et al., 2017 and Porcellato et al., (2018). Unlike the results of the current study Giannino et al., (2009), Coton et al., (2012), Schirmer et al., (2013) and Aldrete-Tapia et al., (2014) could isolate Chryseobacterium spp. from cheese, while Jooste (1985) isolated *Chryseobacterium* spp. from butter.

 Table 1: Incidence of the examined raw cow milk samples that showed Chryseobacterium

 spp. colonies:

	No. of	Yellow color, Oxidase & Ca	Detection of flexirubin pigment by KOH (20%)				
Samples	samples	colonies		KOH +ve		KOH -ve	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Cow raw milk	150	10	6.7	2	20	8	80
Kariesh cheese	25						
Domiatti cheese	25						
Butter	25						
Total	225	10	4.4	2	0.9	8	3.5



Yellow color, Gram -ve, Oxidase & Catalase +ve colonies

Fig. 1. Incidence of the examined samples that potentially contaminated with

contaminated with *Chryseobacterium spp*.



Fig. 2(A). Standard Plate Count agar showing yellow colonies. Fig. 2(B). Production of flexirubin pigment by flooding plates with KOH (20%).

In order to determine its exact taxonomic position of the obtained strains, a phylogenetic analysis carried out through construction of phylogenetic tree on the basis of the neighbor-joining method (Fig. 3), whereas the currently obtained isolates showed identity percentage ranging from 100%- 96% with respect to the other Chryseobacterium spp. species selected from the Genbank to construct the phylogenetic tree analysis. By referring to the source from which Chryseobacterium spp. that constructed the tree, it was found that the constructed phylogenetic tree not only determined the taxonomic position of the obtained Chryseobacterium spp., but also outlined the potential contamination sources or origin; and this can lead to new recommendations for public health policy in case of pathogens. The phylogenetic tree referred Chryseobacteria as an environmental flora (found in soil, water, milk, and food stuffs) rather than human flora, so, great attention should be paid for that organism to avoid possible public health hazards, for example, C. indologenes is known to be a lethal opportunistic pathogen, with inherent antimicrobial resistances (Lin et al., 2010).

By studying the phenotypic features of the confirmed *C. jip* in this study that were registered on the Genbank under proposed name *Chryseobacterium* Egyam strain AM1 (Accession No. MK059947) and *Chryseobacterium* Egyam strain AM2 (Accession No. MK059948), it was found that the isolated strains found to grow at 5°C, 25 °C and 37°C while no growth

noticed at 42°C. The results of API 20 NE system declared that the both obtained strains were similar in their reaction to hydrolysis of gelatin and esculin, indole production, arginine hydrolysis, urease, ßgalactosidase, assimilation to mannitol, potassium gluconate, capric, adlpic. trisodium citrate and phenylacetic acid (Table 2). On the other hand, both isolates Chrvseobacterium of exhibited dissimilarities in their biochemical reaction as shown in Table 2. As in Reduction of nitrates to nitrites, Assimilation of glucose, mannose, n-acetyl- glucosamine, maltose and malate tests, negative reactions were displayed by Chrvseobacterium Egyam strain AM1 (MK059947) which was on contrary to *Chryseobacterium* Egyam strain AM2 (MK059948) that showed positive reaction. In opposite to the abovementioned tests, Chryseobacterium Egyam strain AM1 (MK059947) assimilated arabinose, while Chryseobacterium Egyam strain AM2 (MK059948) couldn't.

Chryseobacterium produce spp. proteolytic and lipolytic enzymes; these enzymes make the presence of this genus in raw milk of an economical issue, not only for the reason that it causes off-odours and off-flavours like bitterness as well as gelation of milk, and spoilage in butter (Jooste et al., 1986; Harwalker et al., 1993: Huis in't Veld, 1996 and Tondo et al., 2004), but also because the proteolytic enzymes of a *Chryseobacterium* spp. have been shown to be resistant to pasteurization (Venter et al., 1999; Datta and Deeth 2003 and Yuan et al., 2018) constituting an obstacle as a spoilage factor in pasteurized dairy products. In this study as shown in Table 2, species of Chrvseobacterium showed more proteolytic than lipolytic activity based up on the results of API 20 tests where both Chrvseobacterium Egyam (MK059947) strain AM1 and Chryseobacterium Egyam strain AM2 (MK059948) were positive for protease production through gelatin hydrolysis that is used to detect the ability of an organism to produce gelatinase (proteolytic enzyme) that liquefy gelatin. This process takes place in two sequential reactions. In the first reaction, gelatinases degrade gelatin to polypeptides. Then, the polypeptides are further converted into amino acids (Pradhan, 2013). Additionally, both strains were expected to be negative for lipolytic activity through negative assimilation of capric and adlpic fatty acids. The results of our study suggest that it has high proteolytic but weak lipolytic activity.



Fig. 3. Neighbor-joining tree showing the 16S rRNA gene phylogenetic identity relationships of the strains isolated from cow milk (MK 059947 and MK059948) and phylogenetically related reference strains on the GenBank.

	Chryseobacterium	Chryseobacterium				
Characters	Egyam	Egyam AM2				
	AM1 (MK059947)	(MK059948)				
Growth at different temperatures						
Growth at 5 °C	+ve	+ve				
Growth at 25 °C	+ve	+ve				
Growth at 37 °C	+ve	+ve				
Growth at 42 °C	-ve	-ve				
Flexirubin pigment production	+ve (strong)	+ve (strong)				
API 20 NE						
Reactions/Enzymes						
Reduction of nitrates to nitrites	-ve	+ve				
Reduction of nitrates to nitrogen	+ve	+ve				
Indole production (tryptophan)	-ve	-ve				
Fermentation (glucose)	-ve	-ve				
Arginine dihydrolase	-ve	-ve				
Urease	-ve	-ve				
Hydrolysis (B-glucosidase)(Esculin)	+ve	+ve				
Hydrolysis (protease)(Gelatin)	+ve	+ve				
B-galactosidase (para-	-ve	-ve				
nitrophenyBd- Galactopyranosidase)						
Assimilation (glucose)	-ve	+ve				
Assimilation (arabinose)	+ve	-ve				
Assimilation (mannose)	-ve	+ve				
Assimilation (mannitol)	-ve	-ve				
Assimilation (n-acetyl-glucosamine)	-ve	+ve				
Assimilation (maltose)	-ve	+ve				
Assimilation (potassium gluconate)	-ve	-ve				
Assimilation (capric)	-ve	-ve				
Assimilation (adlpic)	-ve	-ve				
Assimilation (mala te)	-ve	+ve				
Assimilation (trisodium citrate)	-ve	-ve				
Assimilation(phenylacetic acid)	-ve	-ve				

Table 2: Phenotypic characteristics of the isolated strains:

The isolated *Chryseobacterium* spp. exhibited close matching to the sequenced *Chryseobacterium jip* 108/83 that isolated by Bernardet et al. (2005) which showed on API 20 gallery negative fermentation of glucose, negative production of arginine dihydrolase and negative assimilation of malate and capric. The ability of some species in this genus to grow at 5°C, in the presence of NaCl (0-5%) and over a wide PH range (Bekker, 2011) qualifies them to live in diverse types of food and environments; this ability is not constituting a spoilage problem only, but it makes these species is a matter of public health concern. Species of the genus *Chryseobacterium* are

emerging health care associated pathogens which mean, it is one of pathogens whose incidence has increased in the past 20 years and could increase soon, often colonizing the hospital environment.

Exploring and studying Chryseobacterium as genus a new introduced two important aspects of this genera; one is negative, while the other is positive. The negative aspect is outlined in its economic and public health importance, while the functionality of its bioactive compounds symbolizes its positive aspect. Recent studies of the genus Chryseobacterium have documented, the significance of its bioactive compounds as a bio control agent, antioxidant (Kim et al., 2012).

Conclusion

Chryseobacterium spp. could be isolated from raw milk samples only. Conventional method was not enough to confirm the isolates' identity, while 16S sequencing rRNA was pivotal in confirmation and identification of them on both genus and species level. The obtained isolates were identified as Chryseobacterium jip. Because of the spoilage and pathogenic character of this recently identified genus, regulatory standards for food manufacturers need to be improved through effective environmental monitoring programs, good manufacturing practice guidelines, and procedures and hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) systems to control the risk of microbiological contamination.

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Conflict of interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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