

MOLECULAR AND SEROTYPING CHARACTERIZATION OF NON-SHIGA TOXIGENIC *ESCHERICHIA COLI* ASSOCIATED WITH FOOD COLLECTED FROM THE LOCAL MARKET IN FAYOUM GOVERNORATE, EGYPT

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ABSTRACT:

Escherichia coli is considered as one of the bacteria that causing diarrhea outbreaks all over the world, and it is responsible for diseases for human and animals as well

A total number of 50 raw milk and 50 raw beef meat samples were collected from the local market in Fayoum Governorate. These samples were subjected for bacteriological, serological and molecular investigations. *E. coli* was isolated from raw milk and raw beef samples with an isolation rate of 58% and 14%, respectively.

Serogrouping of the *E. coli* isolates from the raw milk samples revealed presence of O₁₄₂, O₅₅, O₁₁₁, O₂₇, and O₂₆ with percentage of 20.69%, 20.69%, 17.24%, 17.24%, and 3.45%, respectively. However, the serogrouping of the *E. coli* isolates from raw beef meat samples revealed presence of O₁₁₁, O₂₇, O₁₄₂, O₅₅, and O₁₂₇ with percentage of 28.56%, 14.28%, 14.28%, 14.28%, and 14.28%, respectively.

Multiplex PCR was applied for the detection of virulence genes including shiga-toxin genes (*stx1* and *stx2*), and the intimin gene (*eae*) which detected in *E. coli*. All the isolates were negative to both *stx1* and *stx2* genes. Meanwhile, the raw milk isolates of O₁₄₂, O₅₅, O₁₁₁, and O₂₇ were positive to *eae* gene. However, O₂₆ isolate was negative to this gene. Also, the raw beef meat isolates of O₁₄₂, O₅₅, O₁₁₁, and O₂₇ were positive to *eae* gene. But, O₁₂₇ isolate was negative to this gene.

KEY WORDS: *E. coli*, Virulence genes, Raw milk and Raw meat.

INTRODUCTION

Diarrhea is the second cause of death after pneumonia in children aged between 1 to 59 months, with mortality number of 0.509 million per year worldwide. Developing countries had the majority of this mentioned mortality cases of children by diarrhea (Liu *et al.*, 2016 and WHO, 2017). Diarrhea outbreaks are happening all over the world which has the attention as an

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important public health problem that caused by *Escherichia coli* bacteria causing diseases for human and animals as well (Buchholz *et al.*, 2011; Watson *et al.*, 2017 and Valilis *et al.*, 2018). This Gram-negative bacteria exists as part of the normal flora of animals and humans' gastrointestinal tract and responsible for infection between both of them (Karmali *et al.*, 2010 and Lim *et al.*, 2010). The Majority of its strains are harmless. Unfortunately, there are many virulence factors such as the mobile genetic elements including; bacteriophages, plasmids....etc and pathogenicity islands that may be acquired by these strains resulting in turning them to the pathogenic state (Kaper *et al.*, 2004). Moreover, most of *E. coli* carrying hosts are apparently healthy and asymptomatic (Hussein and Bollinger 2005, and Bogitsh *et al.*, 2018). And, ruminants such as sheep, goats and especially cattle, are counted as the main reservoir of *E. coli* bacteria (Kaper *et al.*, 2004). *E. coli* transmission route starts when the bacteria could pass into the food chain via any contaminated food, drinks and water with feces (Suardana *et al.*, 2017). So, *E. coli* transmission may occur via the consumption of any contaminated type of uncooked meat, fruits, vegetables, unpasteurized milk and its products (Karmali *et al.*, 2010 and Tzschoppe *et al.*, 2012). Consequently, *E. coli* infection may lead to many food-borne diseases in human including, diarrhea, renal failure, brain failure and hemolytic uremic syndrome which considered as life-threatening disease (Karmali *et al.*, 2010 and Lim *et al.*, 2010). There are six pathotypes of this bacterium, enterotoxigenic *E. coli* {ETEC}, enteropathogenic *E. coli* {EPEC}, enteroaggregative *E. coli* {EAEC}, diffusely adherent *E. coli* {DAEC} enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* {EHEC}, and enteroinvasive *E. coli* {EIEC} (Nataro and Kaper 1998, and Lei *et al.*, 2018). Also, there are many strains of *E. coli* that produce toxins called "shiga toxins" which cause illness in the vertebrates. These strains are called "shiga-toxin producing" *E. coli* (STEC) or verocytotoxic *E. coli* which are the pathotype group of enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* {EHEC} (Nguyen and Sperandio 2012; Lacher *et al.*, 2016, and Valilis *et al.*, 2018). Also, it is classified by its serotypes which include more than 700 serotypes according to their O and H antigen (Lacher *et al.*, 2016 and Bai *et al.*, 2018). *E. coli* O157:H7 is the major serotype that was associated with human illness world widely. This strain was classified as the most common strain responsible of the *E. coli* outbreaks in the USA, German, Northern Ireland, South Korea, Japan, England, Scotland and many other countries (Tarr *et al.*, 2005; Money *et al.*, 2010; Buchholz *et al.*, 2011; Dallman *et al.*, 2012; Park *et al.*, 2014; Watahiki *et al.*, 2014; Launders *et al.*, 2016; Saeedi *et al.*, 2017 and Yang *et al.*, 2017). However, in the last twenty years the non-O157 stains were classified as responsible serotypes for 20 to 50% of the *E. coli* associated illness' outbreaks world widely, these serotypes are including the O₂₆, O₄₅, O₁₀₃, O₁₁₁, O₁₂₁ and O₁₄₅ (Wasilenko *et al.*, 2012; Gould *et al.*, 2013;

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Albonico et al., 2017 and Balamurugan et al., 2017). Chapman et al., (2006), found that there were more than 50 virulence factors of *E. coli* participated in its pathogenicity. *E. coli* bacteria produce many factors associated with human illness such as Shiga toxins (stx1 and stx2), besides the other virulence factors that responsible for the attachment of the bacteria to the hosts' intestinal epithelial cells. This attaching lesions caused by the intimin protein that encoded by the *eae* gene (**Chapman et al., 2006; Farfan and Torres 2012; and Gharieb et al., 2015**). So, the main aim of this work is to detect the virulence genes *stx1*, *stx2* and *eae* of *Escherichia coli* bacteria growing in raw milk and beef meat collected from the local market in Fayoum Governorate. Besides, characterizing the serotypes of the *Escherichia coli* isolates.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Sample collection

A total number of 50 raw milk and 50 raw beef meat samples were collected from the local market in Fayoum Governorate. Samples were collected in sterile marked container then inoculated in Carry and Blair transport medium. The last was kept in ice box for the laboratory bacterial culturing and identification.

Bacteriological examination

The collected samples were cultured using MacConkey agar. The plates were aerobically incubated up to two days at 37 °C. Then the suspected colonies were picked up and tested for Gram's reaction. The positive colonies were identified biochemically by using Vitek2 compact system (bioMérieux, Durham, NC, USA), according to the manufacturer's instructions (**Chatzigeorgiou et al., 2011 and Quinn et al., 2011**), using the Gram-Negative (GN) card which is a complete system for routine identification testing of most clinically significant Gram-Negative organisms. Colonies were transferred to the 0.45 % saline to prepare the organism suspension with a density equivalent to a 0.50 to 0.63 McFarland using a calibrated VITEK® 2 DensiCHEK™ Plus. Then, the last suspension used to fill the test cards for Vitek2 instrument.

Serological identification

Escherichia coli isolates were serologically identified using the rapid diagnostic *E. coli* antisera set (Denka sieken comp. LTD) according to **Edwards and Ewing (1972)**.

Molecular examination

DNA extraction

Escherichia coli isolates' DNA extraction was done using the QIAamp DNA Mini kit (Qiagen, Germany, GmbH) with modifications from the manufacturer's recommendations and according to (**Sambrook et**

al., 1989). In brief, a 200 µl of the each sample suspension was added to the proteinase K solution (10 µl), 200 µl of the lysis buffer and incubated at 56°C for 10 min. Then, 200 µl of 100% ethyl alcohol was added to the lysate. After washing and centrifuging the sample, 100 µl of elution buffer that provided by the kit was used to elute the nucleic acid.

PCR amplification

PCR amplification of the *E. coli* isolates' DNA of the virulent genes was carried out using the primers that revealed to (*stx1*, *stx2*, and *eae*) genes as indicated in (Table1). This PCR amplification was applied on 10 random isolates (one of each serotype) of *E. coli*, 5 of each raw milk and beef meat samples for the detection of the virulence genes. The PCR amplification of these primers were utilized in a 25 µl reaction containing 12.5 µl of PCR Master Mix (Takara, Japan), 1 µl of each primer of 20 pmol concentration, 6 µl of DNA template and 4.5 µl of nuclease-free water. The reaction was performed in an (Applied Biosystem Thermal Cycler). Cycling conditions were used as recommended by the manufacturer as follow: primary denaturation: 94°C/5 min., secondary denaturation: 94°C/30 sec., annealing: 55°C/45 sec., extension: 72°C/45 sec., no. of cycles: 35 and final extension: 72°C/10 min.

Analysis of the PCR Products

1.5 % agarose gel (Applichem, Germany, GmbH) was used to separate the PCR products by electrophoresis in 1x TBE buffer at room temperature using gradients of 5V/cm. For gel analysis, 20 µl of the PCR products was loaded in each gel well. The fragments sizes were determined using a gelpilot 100bp plus DNA Ladders (Qiagen, Germany, GmbH). The gel was photographed by a gel documentation system (Alpha Innotech, Biometra).

**Table (1): Primers used for the detection of virulent genes of *E. coli*,
F: Forward and R: Reverse.**

Target Genes	Primers sequences	Amplified Segment (bp)	Reference
eae	F: ATG CTT AGT GCT GGT TTA GG	248	Bisi-Johnson <i>et al.</i> , 2011
	R: GCC TTC ATC ATT TCG CTT TC		
stx1	F:ACACTGGATGATCTCAGTGG	614	Shetty <i>et al.</i> , 2012
	R:CTGAATCCCCCTCCATTATG		
stx2	F:CCATGACAACGGACAGCAGTT	779	Shetty <i>et al.</i> , 2012
	R:CCTGTCAACTGAGCAGCACTTTG		

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RESULTS

The results of bacteriological examination

Out of the 100 raw milk and meat samples collected from the local market in Fayoum Governorate, Egypt, the *E. coli* was isolated as (58%) of the raw milk samples followed by (14%) of the raw beef meat samples as shown in table (2). Also, the biochemical identification of the positive *E. coli* isolates by Vitek2 system is shown in table (3).

Table (2): Prevalence of *E. coli* bacteria isolated from collected samples.

No. of examined Samples	<i>Escherichia coli</i>	
	No. of +ve samples	% of +ve samples
50 raw milk samples	29	58
50 raw beef meat samples	7	14

No.: Number of positive isolates of *E. coli* and %: Percentage in relation to No. of examined samples (50).

Table (3): Biochemical details of *Escherichia coli* using Vitek 2 compact system.

Table 3: Biochemical details of <i>Escherichia coli</i>																	
2	APPA	-	3	ADO	-	4	PyrA	-	5	IARL	-	7	dCEL	-	9	BGAL	+
10	H2S	-	11	BNAG	-	12	AGLTP	-	13	dGLU	+	14	GGT	-	15	OFF	+
17	BGLU	-	18	dMAL	+	19	dMAN	+	20	dMNE	+	21	BXYL	-	22	BAlap	-
23	proA	-	26	LIP	-	27	PLC	-	29	TyrA	-	31	URE	-	32	dSOR	+
33	SAC	-	34	dTAG	-	35	dTER	+	36	CIT	-	37	MNT	-	39	5KG	+
40	ILATK	-	41	AGLU	-	42	SUCT	+	43	NAGA	-	44	AGAL	-	45	PHOS	-
46	GlyA	-	47	ODC	+	48	LDC	+	53	IHISa	-	56	CMT	+	57	BGUR	-
58	O129R	+	59	GGAA	-	61	IMLTa	-	62	ELLM	-	64	ILATa	-			

****Vitek2 Gram-negative card well contents according to BioMerieux, manufacturer manual are indicted in Appendix 1.**

The results of serotyping of *E. coli* positive isolates

Serogrouping of the 29 *E. coli* isolates from raw milk samples revealed presence of O₁₄₂, O₅₅, O₁₁₁, O₂₇, and O₂₆ with percentage of 20.69%, 20.69%, 17.24%, 17.24%, and 3.45%, respectively. Also, there were 6 isolates untyped as shown in table (4). However, the serogrouping of the 7 *E. coli* isolates from raw beef meat samples revealed presence of O₁₁₁, O₂₇, O₁₄₂, O₅₅, and O₁₂₇ with percentage of 28.56%, 14.28%, 14.28%, 14.28%, and 14.28%, respectively. Besides, there was one isolate untyped as shown in table (4).

Table (4): Serotyping of *E. coli* isolates of both raw milk and beef meat samples.

<i>E. coli</i> serotypes	Raw milk samples		Raw beef meat samples	
	No. of tested strain (29)	% of serotypes	No. of tested strain (7)	% of serotypes
O ₁₄₂	6	20.69	1	14.28
O ₅₅	6	20.69	1	14.28
O ₁₁₁	5	17.24	2	28.56
O ₂₇	5	17.24	1	14.28
O ₂₆	1	03.45	----	-----
O ₁₂₇	----	-----	1	14.28
Untyped	6	20.69	1	14.28

No.: Number of isolates and %: Percentage in relation to No. of tested isolated strains of *E. coli* which is 29 for raw milk samples and 7 for raw meat samples.

The results of molecular identification of the virulence genes of *E. coli* isolates

PCR amplification was applied on 10 random isolates (one of each serotype) of *E. coli*, 5 of each raw milk and beef meat samples for the detection of the virulence genes. All the isolates were negative to both the shiga-toxin genes (*stx1*) and (*stx2*) (Figure 1). Meanwhile, the raw milk isolates of O₁₄₂, O₅₅, O₁₁₁, and O₂₇ were positive to the intimin gene (*eae*). However, O₂₆ isolate was negative to *eae* gene of *E. coli* (Figure 2). Also, the raw beef meat isolates of O₁₄₂, O₅₅, O₁₁₁, and O₂₇ were positive to the *eae* gene. But, O₁₂₇ isolate was negative to *eae* gene of *E. coli* (Figure 2).

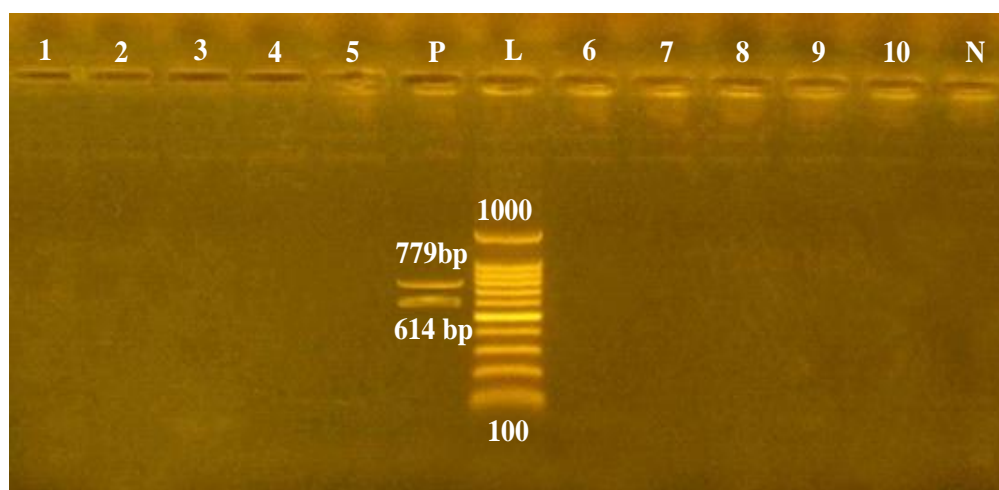


Fig (1): Agar gel electrophoresis showed results of multiplex PCR for detection of (*stx1* which amplified at 614bp and *stx2* which amplified at

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779bp), L: represents the molecular size marker (100pb plus ladder), N: Negative control, P: Positive control, Lanes from 1:5 represent the raw milk isolates O₁₄₂, O₅₅, O₁₁₁, O₂₇, and O₂₆ which are negative for both *stx1* and *stx2* genes, and Lanes from 6:10 represent the raw beef meat isolates O₁₄₂, O₅₅, O₁₁₁, O₂₇, and O₁₂₇ which are negative for both *stx1* and *stx2* genes.

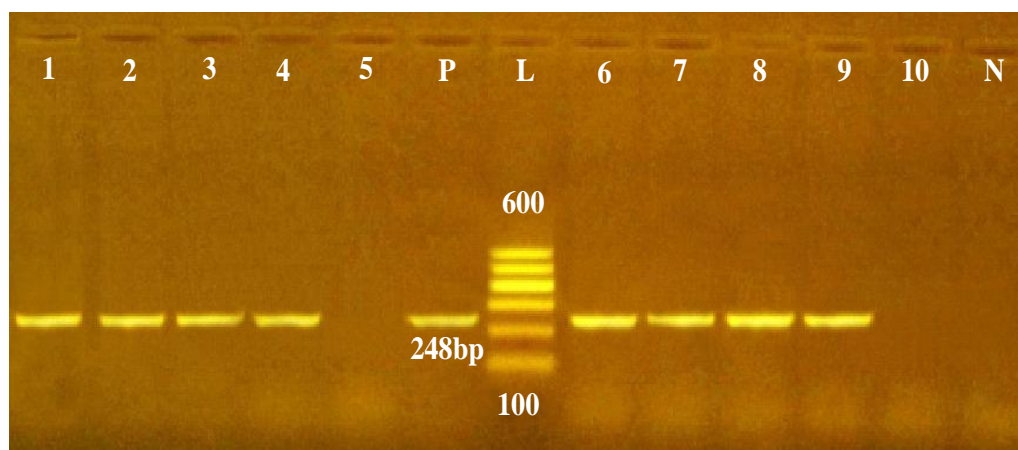


Fig (2): Agarose gel electrophoresis showed results of Multiplex PCR for detection of *eae* gene, L: represents the molecular size marker (100pb plus ladder), N: Negative control, P: Positive control of *eae* gene (248bp), Lanes from 1:5 represents the raw milk isolates; Lanes 1:4 are the isolates of O₁₄₂, O₅₅, O₁₁₁, and O₂₇ which are positive for *eae* gene, Lane 5 is the O₂₆ isolate which is negative for the *eae* gene, Lanes from 6:10 represent the raw beef meat isolates; Lanes 6:9 are the isolates of O₁₄₂, O₅₅, O₁₁₁, and O₂₇ which are positive for *eae* gene, lane 10 is the O₁₂₇ isolate which is negative for the *eae* gene.

DISCUSSION

Escherichia coli considered as one of the bacteria that causing diarrhea outbreaks all over the world, and it is responsible for diseases for human and animals as well (Buchholz *et al.*, 2011; Watson *et al.*, 2017 and Valilis *et al.*, 2018). Unfortunately, the developing countries had the majority of mortality cases of children aged from 1 to 59 months caused by diarrhea (Liu *et al.*, 2016 and WHO, 2017). Also, neonatal calf diarrhea is considered as of the most important health problems in livestock causing high economic losses worldwide either directly due to mortality and needs for treatment or indirectly through poor growth (El-Seedy *et al.*, 2016; Abebaw *et al.*, 2018 and Bokma *et al.*, 2019).

In present study, *E. coli* was isolated from raw milk samples with an isolation rate of 58%. This result was lower than the isolation rate that

described by (Ombarak *et al.*, (2016), who isolated *E. coli* with an incidence of 76.4%. But, this result was higher than the isolation rate that described by (Metwally and Ali (2015); Bedasa *et al.*, 2018 and Singh *et al.*, 2018), who isolated *E. coli* with an incidence of 44%, 32% and 17.19% respectively. However, this percentage was almost similar to the rate that obtained by El Nahas *et al.*, (2015), who isolated *E. coli* with an incidence of 55%. There were only 7 *E. coli* isolates out of the 50 raw meat samples with an isolation rate of 14%. This percentage was almost similar to the rate that obtained by Bedasa *et al.*, (2018). However, this result was higher than the rates described by Rahimi *et al.*, (2012) and Moawad *et al.*, (2017), who isolated *E. coli* with an incidence of 8.2% and 11.7%, respectively. This high rate may be explained by that transmission of infection occurs during the milking process by milkers' hands, contaminated equipments and milking machine Scherrer *et al.*, (2004). Also, this may be the same in case of meat rates which is more likely as cause of poor hygienic measures and customs during slaughter, handling, transportation and even during all stages of storage Rahimi *et al.*, (2010). Also, contamination level may be varied due to the differences in geographic or national region, processing environments, meat sources and the methodologies which the samples were taken such as; the samples amount, numbers and even the periods of which the samples were tested Kegode *et al.*, (2008).

Serogrouping of *E. coli* isolates from the raw milk samples revealed presence of O₁₄₂, O₅₅, O₁₁₁, O₂₇, and O₂₆ with percentage of 20.69%, 20.69%, 17.24%, 17.24%, and 3.45%, respectively. Also, the serogrouping of *E. coli* isolates from raw meat samples revealed presence of O₁₁₁, O₂₇, O₁₄₂, O₅₅, and O₁₂₇ with percentage of 28.56%, 14.28%, 14.28%, 14.28%, and 14.28%, respectively. The above mentioned results are in agreement with results of Aisha (2001), who isolated O₂₆, O₁₂₇ and O₂₇, Correa and Marin (2002), who isolated O₂₆, O₅₅, O₁₁₁, O₁₂₇ and O₁₄₂, Blanco *et al.*, (2006), who isolated O₅₅, O₁₁₁, O₁₂₇ and O₁₄₂, Lin *et al.*, (2011) who isolated O₂₆, O₁₄₂ and O₁₁₁, Fadel *et al.*, (2017), who isolated O₂₆, O₂₇, O₅₅, O₁₁₁, and O₁₄₂, and Kalule *et al.*, (2018), who isolated O₂₆, O₅₅, and O₁₁₁,

Molecular characterization of the *E. coli* isolates from both raw milk and beef meat samples through applying different conditions of multiplex PCR for detection of genes encoding virulence factors (*stx1*, *stx2* and *eae*). All the isolates were negative to both the shiga-toxin genes (*stx1*) and (*stx2*) (Figure 1). Meanwhile, the raw milk isolates of O₂₇, O₅₅, O₁₁₁, and O₁₄₂ were positive to the intimin gene (*eae*). These results agreed with the results of Blanco *et al.*, (2006) who found that O₅₅, O₁₁₁ and O₁₄₂ are negative for both shiga-toxin genes (*stx1*) and (*stx2*) and positive to the intimin gene (*eae*). However, O₂₆ isolate was negative to gene (*eae*) of *E. coli* (Figure 2). This result is in

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agreement with the results of **Correa and Marin (2002)**, who found that O₂₆ is negative for the (*eae*) gene. Also, the raw meat isolates of O₁₄₂, O₅₅, O₁₁₁, and O₂₇ were positive to the intimin gene (*eae*). But, O₁₂₇ isolate was negative to gene (*eae*) of *E. coli* (Figure 2). These results agreed with **Blanco *et al.*, (2006)** except for the O₁₂₇ isolate, which was found to be positive for *eae* gene. These differences in expressing some genes for the same serotype may be because the ability of some strains to acquire many virulence factors (**Kaper *et al.*, 2004**). Also, **Correa and Marin (2002)** found that some O₅₅ strains are negative for the (*eae*) gene and other O₅₅ strains are positive for the same gene. And, **Sanchez *et al.*, (2010)** found that O₁₂₇ was negative to *eae* and *stx1* genes but it was positive to *stx2* gene. And, some serotypes were found to express specific genes and the same serotype are not, like the *E. coli* serotype of O₁₅₇ some isolates expressed both *stx2* and *eae* genes, some expressed only *eae* gene and others were negative to *eae* gene and positive to *stx2* gene.

CONCLUSION

E. coli was found in both raw milk and raw beef meat in Fayoum local market. And, the molecular characterization of its virulence genes indicated that all the isolates are missing the shiga-toxin genes (*stx1* and *stx2*). However, most of the detected *E. coli* serotypes were found to have the *eae* virulence gene, which still needs more attention because the ability of some strains to acquire many virulence factors and may all the isolates of this study have other virulent factors that were not examined in this study. More important, the serotypes of O₂₆ and O₁₁₁ which were isolated in this study are classified as a part of the main non-O157 stains that responsible for 20 to 50% of the *E. coli* associated illness' outbreaks world widely. So, strict hygienic measures and intensive care should be applied by the authorities and all the people to overcome this kind of contamination for good health for human and animals and consequently to minimize the economic losses.

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Appendix (1): Vitek2 Gram-negative card well contents according to BioMerieux, manufacturer manual

5KG: 5-Keto-D-Gluconate	GlyA: Glycine arylamidase
ADO: Adonitol	H ₂ S: H ₂ S production
AGAL: α -galactosidase	IARL: L-arbitol
AGLTP: GlutamylArylamidase-transferase	IHISa: L-histidine assimilation
AGLU: α -glucosidase	ILATa: L-Lactate assimilation
APPA: Ala-Phe-Pro-Arylamidase	ILATK: L-Lactate assimilation
BAlap: β -Alanine arylamidasepNA	IMLTa: L-Malate assimilation
BGAL: β -Galactosidase	LDC: Lysine decarboxylase
BGLU: β -Glucosidase	LIP: Lipase
BGUR: β -glucuronidasE	MNT: Malonate
BNAG: β -N-Acetyl-Glucoaminidase	NAGA: β -N-Acetyl-Galactosaminidase
BXYL: β -Xylosidase	O129R: 0/129 resistance (comp.vibrio)
CIT: Sodium Citrate	ODC: Ornithine decarboxylase
CMT: Coumerate	OFF: Fermentation Glucose
dCEL: D-cellobiose	PHOS: Phosphate
dGLU: D-glucose	PLE: Palatinose
dMAL: D-maltose	proA: L-ProlineArylamidase
dMAN: D-mannitol	PyrA: L-Pyrrolydonyl-Arylamidase
dMNE: D-mannose	SAC: Saccharose/Sucrose
dSOR: D-Sorbitol	SUCT: Succinate alkalization
dTAG: D-Tagatose	TyrA: Tyrosine Arylamidase
dTER: D-Trehalose	URE: Urease
ELLM: Ellman	STAG: D-Tagatose
GGT: γ -Gutamyl- Transferase	

التوصيف الجزيئي والسيروولوجي لميكروب الايسيريشيا كولاي الغير مفرزه لسموم الشيجا، المرتبطة بالأغذية المجمعة من السوق المحلي بمحافظة الفيوم ، مصر

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الملخص:

تعتبر الايسيريشيا كولاي واحدة من البكتيريا التي تسبب تفشي الإسهال في جميع أنحاء العالم ، وهي مسؤولة عن أمراض الإنسان والحيوان. تم تجميع ٥٠ عينة لبن خام و ٥٠ عينة لحم بقر من السوق المحلية بمحافظة الفيوم. خضعت هذه العينات إلي الاختبارات البكتيرية و السيروولوجيه و البيولوجيه الجزيئيه و كان معدل عزل الايسيريشيا كولاي من اللبن الخام و عينات لحوم البقر الخام ٥٨٪ و ١٤٪ على التوالي. تبين بالفحص السيروولوجي لعترات الايكولاي المعزوله من عينات اللبن الخام وجود ١٤٢O ٥٥O ١١١O ٢٧O و ٢٦O بنسبة ٢٠.٦٩٪ و ٢٠.٦٩٪ و ١٧.٢٤٪ و ١٧.٢٤٪ و ٣.٤٥٪ على التوالي. بينما أظهر الفحص السيروولوجي لعترات الايكولاي المعزوله من عينات لحم البقر وجود ١١١O ٢٧O ١٤٢O ٥٥O و ١٢٧O بنسبة ٢٨.٥٦٪ و ١٤.٢٨٪ و ١٤.٢٨٪ و ١٤.٢٨٪ و ١٤.٢٨٪ على التوالي. تم استخدام تفاعل إنزيم البلمره المتسلسل (PCR) لاكتشاف جينات الضراوة لكل من *stx1*-*stx2* و *eae* في الايسيريشيا كولاي و كانت جميع العزلات سلبية لكل من جينات *stx1* و *stx2*. وكانت عزلات اللبن الخام من ١٤٢O ٥٥O ١١١O ٢٧O ايجابية للجين *eae*. بينما كانت العزلة ٢٦O سلبية لهذا الجين. و كانت عزلات لحوم البقر من ١٤٢O ٥٥O ١١١O ٢٧O ايجابية للجين *eae*. بينما كانت العزلة ١٢٧O سلبية لهذا الجين.