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Multiple-Antibiotic Resistance and Plasmid Profiles of *Salmonella enteritidis* Isolated from Retail Chicken Meats

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Abstract: A study was conducted to determine the prevalence, antibiotics resistant and plasmid patterns of *Salmonella enteritidis* on chicken meat samples. A total of 578 chicken meat samples were examined over a period of 2 years from different retail outlets of a residential area of Namakkal City, South India. *S. enteritidis* prevalence was recorded 92 of 578 (15.91%). Seasonal variations in the prevalence pattern were identified with, a higher prevalence during monsoon months (19.68%) followed by post-monsoon (17.61%) and premonsoon. Present finding revealed that *S. enteritidis* isolates recovered from retail raw meats are resistant to more than one antibiotics, including those commonly used antibiotics in poultry feed were erythromycin, ampicillin, kanamycin, cephalothin and tetracyclin. All the isolates exhibited Multiple Antibiotic Resistance (MAR) and more than one plasmid. The plasmid size ranged between 0.43 and 115 MDa. Prevalence of multiple antimicrobial resistance among these strains suggesting possible prior selection by use of antimicrobials in meat production.

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