

Incidence of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* in street foods sold in Malaysia and their characterization by antibiotic resistance, plasmid profiling, and RAPD–PCR analysis

Abstract

A total of 78 samples of street foods from different states in Malaysia were examined for the presence of *Klebsiella pneumoniae*. *K. pneumoniae* contamination was recorded in 32% of the samples examined. The frequency of the *K. pneumoniae* isolates containing plasmids was shown to be 48%. Susceptibility testing showed that all isolates were highly resistant to ampicillin (100%), erythromycin (100%), rifampicin (100%), streptomycin (96%) and sulfamethoxazole (80%), but susceptible to chloramphenicol. RAPD proved to be the most effective technique in discriminating the *K. pneumoniae* isolates since dendrogram constructed using the combination of 4 primers could differentiate 25 isolates of *K. pneumoniae* to 25 strains. This is the first report that revealed the occurrence of *K. pneumoniae* in street foods sold in Malaysia.

Keyword: Street foods, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, Plasmid, Antibiotic resistance, RAPD, PCR