

## **Listeria monocytogenes in raw salad vegetables sold at retail level in Malaysia.**

### ABSTRACT

A range of commercially available vegetables ( $n = 306$ ) that are consumed in the minimally processed state in Malaysia was examined for the presence of *Listeria* spp. and *Listeria monocytogenes* to provide information on the occurrence of such organisms in these vegetables. Analysis was carried out using the most probable number–polymerase chain reaction (MPN–PCR) method. It was found that *Listeria* spp. and *L. monocytogenes* could be detected in 33.3% and 22.5% of the vegetables respectively. *L. monocytogenes* was more frequently detected in *Vigna unguiculata* (Japanese parsley) at 31.3% and *Oenanthe stolonifera* (yardlong bean) at 27.2%.

**Keyword:** *Listeria monocytogenes*; Vegetables; MPN–PCR.