

# Comparative study of egg contamination with *Salmonella* Heidelberg and *Salmonella* Typhimurium

## *Estudo comparativo da contaminação de ovos com Salmonella Heidelberg e Salmonella Typhimurium*

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### ABSTRACT

Cases of salmonellosis in humans have been associated with consumption of eggs contaminated with this bacterial pathogen due to insufficient heat treatment. The most prevalent serotypes of *Salmonella* in Brazil include serotypes Enteritidis, Typhimurium, and Heidelberg. The first two serotypes are major causes for eggs to be withheld from sale and for recalls over *Salmonella* contamination concerns in both domestic and foreign markets. Eggs may be contaminated through transovarian infection (transovarial transmission) due to the presence of the microorganism in the hen's oviduct and bacterial penetration of the eggshell. There is little data in the literature on the susceptibility of egg contamination and eggshell penetration by Brazilian serotypes of *Salmonella*. The present study aimed to evaluate the ability of *S. Heidelberg* and *S. Typhimurium* serotypes to penetrate through the eggshell and detect these bacteria in the albumen and yolk according to the thickness of the eggshell. SPF (specific-pathogen-free) eggs were artificially contaminated by contact with moist cotton containing *Salmonella* ( $15 \times 10^8$  CFU/ml). Eggs were divided into the following groups: negative control (not contaminated), *S. Heidelberg*, and *S. Typhimurium*. Subsequently, these eggs were incubated at 37°C, and their contents analyzed after 4 h and 24 h of incubation. The evaluation (assessment) of the contamination was performed by traditional bacteriology and confirmed by biochemical and serological tests. Treatments were compared with Fisher's test using a SAS statistical software. For *S. Heidelberg*, the percentage of positivity (positive cases) was lower in both albumen and yolk at 4 h and 24 h intervals (33.33% and 3.7%, and 3.7% and 3.7%, respectively) compared to *S. Typhimurium* (26.63% and 7.41%, and 33.33% and 33.33%, respectively). These findings suggest that the former strain (*S. Heidelberg*) was unable to survive in the hostile environment of the albumen. In contrast, eggshell thickness had no significant correlation with the number of positive samples. In conclusion, the results obtained in the egg infection model show that the *Salmonella* strains tested were able to penetrate the eggshell and multiply in both the albumen and yolk and that *S. Typhimurium* proved to be the most efficient to grow within these portions of the egg.

**Keywords:** Eggshell penetration. Poultry. Food safety. Public health. Microbial survival.

### RESUMO

Salmonelose em humanos é frequentemente associada ao consumo de ovos contaminados sem o devido processamento térmico. No Brasil, os sorotipos mais prevalentes são: Enteritidis, Typhimurium e Heidelberg, alvo de barreiras sanitárias na comercialização de ovos. O ovo pode ser contaminado por via transovariana, pela presença da bactéria no oviduto da ave e também por penetração da bactéria através da casca do ovo. Existem poucas informações acerca da capacidade de contaminação no ovo por sorotipos isolados no Brasil. Este estudo teve como objetivo avaliar a capacidade dos sorotipos *S. Heidelberg* e *S. Typhimurium* penetrar através da casca do ovo e colonizar a albumina e gema, relacionando à espessura da casca. Os ovos SPF (livres de patógenos específicos) foram contaminados artificialmente pelo contato com algodão umedecido ( $15 \times 10^8$  CF/mL). Os ovos foram divididos nos seguintes grupos: controle negativo (sem contaminação), *S. Heidelberg* e *S. Typhimurium*. Posteriormente foram incubadas a 37°C e seu conteúdo foi analisado após 4 e 24 h. A avaliação da contaminação foi realizada por bacteriologia tradicional e confirmada por testes bioquímicos e sorológicos. Os tratamentos foram comparados com o teste de Fisher usando o software estatístico SAS. Para *S. Heidelberg*, a

percentagem de positividade foi menor no albúmen e gema às 4 e 24 h (33,33% e 3,7%, 3,7% e 3,7%, respectivamente) em comparação com *S. Typhimurium* (26,63% e 7,41%, 33,33% e 33,33%, respectivamente), sugerindo que a primeira estirpe foi mais vulnerável às condições hostis da albumina. Por outro lado, a espessura da casca do ovo não teve relação significativa com a positividade das amostras. Em conclusão, o modelo de infecção do ovo mostrou que as cepas foram capazes de penetrar a casca do ovo e sobreviver na albumina e gema, sendo que o sorotipo *S. Typhimurium* foi mais eficiente.

**Palavras-chave:** Penetração de casca de ovo. Aves de postura. Segurança alimentar. Saúde pública.

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## Introduction

According to the Brazilian Association of Animal Protein (BPA), in 2017, Brazil achieved the highest rate of egg consumption recorded to date. Egg production reached 39.9 billion units, 99.74% of which were destined for the domestic market and only 0.26% was exported (Associação Brasileira de Proteína Animal, 2018). Although statistics for hen egg production can vary greatly depending on the source, of approximately 69.7 million metric tons of eggs produced worldwide in 2014, South America produced 4.7 million metric tons (about 6.75%). Among the top 20 countries for egg production in 2013, Brazil ranked 7th (Conmay, 2015). Brazilian companies account for 2 of the 25 largest egg producers worldwide when ranked by size of layer flock (Clements, 2015).

As a result of high demand for egg production in Brazil, concern over the incidence of some bacterial pathogens e.g. *Salmonella* has increased. Poultry and poultry products have accounted for 54% of *Salmonella* (Gould et al., 2013; Jackson et al., 2013; Painter et al., 2013). The intestinal tract of humans and animals are the main natural sources of this microorganism. Diseases caused by *Salmonella* spp. are often associated with raw foodstuffs of animal and avian origin such as meat, eggs, and dairy products, and outbreaks of *Salmonella* in association with fresh produce accounted for approximately 50% of the total (Strawn et al.,

2014). Salmonellosis is currently considered one of the most significant public health concerns worldwide (Cardoso & Carvalho, 2006).

In Brazil, the most prevalent avian serotypes are Enteritidis, Typhimurium, and Heidelberg (Back, 2004). Although *S. Enteritidis* is the food-borne pathogen reported most often in the literature in outbreaks in humans that eat contaminated food, attention should be drawn to *S. Typhimurium* and *S. Heidelberg* as well, since these strains have been responsible for reducing or stopping egg sales due to the risk they pose to public health. Furthermore, eggs for export have been regularly monitored for the presence of *Salmonella* serotypes that have an impact on public Health, such as *S. Heidelberg* and *S. Typhimurium*. Despite technological advances and industrial modernization, bacterial contamination of eggs still occurs, especially by *Salmonella*.

In more recent times, *S. enterica* serovar Heidelberg has emerged as a leading food-borne disease-causing serovar (Ricke & Gast, 2016). Egg consumption has been identified as a risk factor for *S. Heidelberg* infection (Foley et al., 2011; Reddy et al., 2016). Hennessy et al. (2004) estimated that approximately 37% of *S. Heidelberg* population-attributable infections originate from consuming eggs. Due to the occurrence of *S. Heidelberg* in poultry houses, poultry could be considered as a primary source of the pathogen, thus making poultry associated *S. Heidelberg* a potential public health concern (Food and Drug Administration, 2012).

*S. enterica* serovar Typhimurium has been identified as a source of often egg-transmitted disease in Australia (Gole et al., 2014). The serovar *S. Typhimurium* is commonly isolated from Australian layer farms (Cuttell et al., 2014; New South Wales, 2015). To date, *S. Typhimurium* has been the most frequently reported serovar during egg product-related food poisoning outbreaks Australia-wide (The OzFoodNet Working Group, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2012). During this period, eggs or consumption of raw egg-based foods were frequently implicated as the source of infection (Thomas et al., 2006).

Eggs contaminated with *Salmonella* spp. represent a significant risk in the transmission of bacterial diseases to consumers. The exact mechanism by which eggs become

contaminated by *Salmonella* spp. is unclear. The cuticle is the egg's first defense against bacteria. In the first few minutes after oviposition, the cuticle is usually moist and immature, and is therefore less effective at preventing microorganism penetration, as shown by previous research conducted by Sparks & Board (1985), Padron (1990), and Miyamoto et al. (1997). In addition, since the egg is warmer (42°C is the hen's body temperature) than the environment, subsequent cooling causes contraction of the egg contents, which creates negative pressure and easily pulls the bacteria through the eggshell and its membranes (Bruce & Drysdale, 1994).

The egg has a protective mechanism that includes a diversity of antimicrobials, including highly effective physical and microbicide barriers. Egg yolk provides abundant nutrients to support rapid and prolific microbial growth at warm temperatures (Gurtler & Conner, 2009), but albumen contains proteins that limit iron availability and disrupt bacterial membranes (Baron et al., 2016). Although *Salmonella* spp. is most commonly deposited either in the albumen or on the outside surface of the vitelline (yolk) membrane of contaminated eggs, it can rapidly migrate across this membrane to reach the nutrient-dense interior contents of the yolk at warm temperatures (Gast & Holt, 2001; Gast et al., 2003, 2010). Still refrigeration temperatures can reduce or prevent both *Salmonella* multiplication in egg yolks (Gast & Holt, 2000; Gurtler & Conner, 2009) and penetration of vitelline membranes (Gast et al., 2006, 2007), *Salmonella* spp. can survive and replicate in eggshells and egg contents even under low temperature and humidity (Messens et al., 2006).

It is also speculated that flagella could be an important factor for moving *Salmonella* through albumen and toward the yolk (Baron et al., 1997). In addition to motility, curli fimbriae production appears to be important for invasion and survival within egg contents (Cogan et al., 2004).

*Salmonella* can contaminate eggs in two distinct ways, either by external penetration of the eggshell or internally via transovarian infection (Gantois et al., 2009; Howard et al., 2012; Martelli & Davies, 2012). The external eggshell penetration route includes transmission from the feces of colonized birds to the egg surface followed by penetration to the interior of eggs and growth during the storage (Cockburn & Vemon, 1956). *S. Heidelberg* would appear to be a candidate for external egg contamination, as it has been isolated from layer feces in commercial layer houses (Li et al., 2007).

There is little data in the literature on the contamination ability of the *Salmonella* serotypes isolated in Brazil, which warrants further investigations. Additional research should

be carried out in order to elucidate the ability of eggshell penetration by *Salmonella* spp. and other serotypes that pose a significant threat to public health.

*Salmonella* contamination is often widely distributed throughout laying houses in association with dust and feces. Common factors that increase such risk include animal husbandry and poultry management, hygiene standards, biosafety measures, food contamination levels, socio-environmental, and environmental factors (Garber et al., 2003; Im et al., 2015; Kinde et al., 2005), and can be perpetuated and amplified by severe rodent or insect infestations to levels capable of surviving standard cleaning and disinfection methods (Carrique-Mas et al., 2009; Lapuz et al., 2012; Snow et al., 2010; Wallner-Pendleton et al., 2014). In addition, considering the range of new emerging serotypes of this bacterial pathogen, ensuring egg quality has become a major issue to the poultry industry (De Reu et al., 2006).

Commercial egg production facilities represent highly complex environments, so the potential influences on the presence of food-borne pathogens in egg-producing flocks are correspondingly diverse. The most commonly identified risk factors linked to increased *Salmonella* prevalence in egg-laying chickens are larger flock size, greater flock age, housing in older facilities, and multiple-age stocking (Denagamage et al., 2015; Huneau-Salaün et al., 2009; Mollenhorst et al., 2005; Namata et al., 2008; Pitesky et al., 2013; Snow et al., 2010; Van Hoorebeke et al., 2010).

In addition, in some commercial settings, eggs are produced in poultry farms with inadequate hygiene conditions. Hence, eggs with poor quality shell (defects, cracks, dirt, or thin shell) may be mixed with a batch of good quality eggs, since these cracks are not always detected in the production plant. The prevalent conditions of these eggs facilitate the migration of *Salmonella* spp. from the surface into the internal egg structures, thus increasing the risk of bacterial contamination (Oliveira & Silva, 2000).

Penetration of bacteria through the eggshell is directly influenced by the quality and thickness of the eggshell (De Reu et al., 2006; Schoeni et al., 1995), which can be affected by several factors, including the bird's age (due to the lower deposition of calcium), genetics, feeding, stress, and room temperature. Although moisture facilitates penetration of bacteria in the eggshell (Berrang et al., 1999; Bruce & Drysdale, 1994), the presence of moisture is not necessary for egg contamination to occur (Padron, 1990).

Furthermore, the ability of *Salmonella* to penetrate through eggshells may vary among strains (serotypes). In this context, the present research project was designed to investigate the ability of different serotypes of *Salmonella* spp.

to penetrate eggs. This study aimed at evaluating the ability of *S. Heidelberg* and *S. Typhimurium* to penetrate the eggshell *in vitro* and to determine their dissemination profile within the albumen and the yolk, as well as to correlate this ability with eggshell thickness.

## Material and Methods

### Experimental design

The samples tested included freshly laid eggs (early morning collection) that were not subjected to any cleaning process and originated from White Leghorn chickens between 45 to 60 weeks of age that were raised at the Embrapa Swine and Poultry Research Center in south Brazil under specific-pathogen-free (SPF) conditions.

A total of 120 eggs were divided into 3 groups as follows: negative control (without artificial contamination,  $n = 12$  in total, 6 eggs for each *Salmonella* strain); eggs contaminated with *S. Heidelberg* ( $n = 54$  eggs; 27 eggs for each timespan, i.e. 4 h and 24 h), and *S. Typhimurium* ( $n = 27$  eggs; 27 eggs for each timespan, 4 h and 24 h).

The bacterial isolates used in the study were strains of *S. Enterica* serotype Heidelberg and Typhimurium isolated in Brazil. These bacteria were isolated from artificially inoculated birds from an *in vivo* experiment carried out at the EMBRAPA Swine and Poultry Research Center.

### Inoculum preparation

In order to prepare the inoculum, 20  $\mu\text{L}$  of the BHI culture (*Brain Heart Infusion* / Sigma, 20% glycerol) of *S. Heidelberg* (Bacterioteca 19366) and *S. Typhimurium* (Bacterioteca 19540) were transferred into a nonselective TSA medium (Tryptone Soya Agar/Oxoid) and BG (Bright Green/Sigma) with novobiocin (40 mg/L), and into a selective XLT4 medium (Xylose, Lysine/Difco; Tergitol 4 / Remel) in order to assess if the samples remained pure followed by incubation at 37°C for 24 h.

Then the bacterial colonies from the TSA medium were added in 5 ml of BHI broth and their degree of turbidity adjusted (calibrated) according to tube 5 of the McFarland scale ( $15 \times 10^8$  CFU/mL). Eggs were carefully handled in order to prevent (avoid) the removal of the outer cuticle.

### Preparation and experimental contamination of eggs

Eggs were transported at room temperature to our local laboratory where they were examined by candling to determine if the shell had any crack that would serve as an entry portal for *Salmonella*.

Eggs that had internal or external cracks were discarded. An egg box coated with foil and cotton discs was put inside the carton cavities. After approximately 30 min of collection, 2 ml of the inoculum was added to the cotton, and eggs were placed on it with the air chamber facing up the eggs. The box was immediately incubated for 4 h and 24 h at 37°C in a bacteriological incubator (Lab-Line Instruments).

### Collection of contents and eggshell

After disinfecting the upper part of the eggs with 70% alcohol, these specimens were aseptically opened, and the shell was separated from the internal contents (yolk/albumen).

The albumen was collected with individual yolk spoons that were sterilized with hypochlorite followed by UV exposure. To avoid yolk contamination, its content was harvested with a syringe. Samples were then homogenized (Stomacher® 400 Cicator) for 30 s/230 rpm and pre-enriched with BHI (1:9, w/v) for later incubation in glass flasks at 37°C for 24 h.

The thickness of the lower portion of the shell was measured using a micrometer (Mitutoyo) that was in contact with the contaminated substrate, and 2-3 measurements of different sites were performed.

### Bacterial isolation

After pre-enrichment, samples were subjected to selective enrichment in tetrathionate broth (Sigma) and Rappaport Vassiliadis broth (Fluka). For this purpose, 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of the pre-enriched culture was transferred into test tubes containing 9.9 ml of Rappaport Vassiliadis broth and into 1 ml test tubes containing 9 ml of Tetrathionate broth with iodine-iodide and BG. Samples were incubated at 42 °C for 18 h to 24 h.

After incubation, isolation and identification of colonies were carried out; 20  $\mu\text{L}$  of the culture was seeded in petri dishes containing XLT4 agar and BG agar. Petri dishes were then incubated at 37°C for 48 h.

In terms of the morphological characteristics of the bacterial colonies, those colonies with a pink halo and reddish halo on BG agar and those colorless colonies with a central black spot on XLT4 agar were considered positive.

Colony Forming Units (CFU) with typical morphological features were selected (1 per dish) and transferred into TSA (tryptic soybean agar) for biochemical screening and antigenic identification.

For the biochemical screening, a SIM medium (sulfide-indole motility / Merck), indol (Kovac's Reagent), TSI (triple sugar iron agar / Merck), LIA (lysine-iron agar / Merck), urea broth (Micromed), and

ONGP broth (2 nitrophenyl-D-galactopyramose / Colilert test) were used. Tubes were incubated at 37 °C for 24 h. For the antigenic identification, serology was carried out by the agglutination technique, and a polyvalent serum was used.

### Statistical Analysis

Odds ratio calculation (serotype in conjunction with time of contamination) and eggshell thickness with the presence of *Salmonella* in each egg component (albumen and yolk) were evaluated by exact logistic regression analysis using the LOGISTIC procedure of SAS statistical software (SAS Institute Inc., 2012). The differences were considered significant when  $p < 0.05$ . The influence of the eggshell thickness on the presence of *Salmonella* was analyzed by using the odds ratio calculation. For the treatment effect, median percentages of *Salmonella* detection and the respective Wald test were presented by comparing the treatments two to two.

### Results and Discussion

*S. Heidelberg* and *S. Typhimurium* strains were isolated from the yolk and albumen removed from the contaminated eggs. Analysis using Fisher's exact test showed a significant *Salmonella* growth ( $p < 0.05$ ) in the albumen and yolk in comparison to the negative control. In the analyses performed in this study, *S. Typhimurium* presented a higher frequency of contamination in the albumen compared to *S. Heidelberg* in the 24 h group (Figure 1). Our results corroborate with those of Gast et al. (2005) after inoculation on the outer surfaces of the egg yolk membranes, as all strains of *S. Heidelberg* were able to penetrate into the inner yolk content after 24 h of incubation.

In both time intervals evaluated in the present study (4 h and 24 h), the albumen presented a higher frequency of contamination in comparison to the yolk. Our findings are not in accordance with those of the study published by Humphrey et al. (1991). The albumen is more frequently contaminated with *Salmonella* than the yolk, as observed in our study. This finding highlights the importance of preventing *Salmonella* contamination in poultry farms from external sources other than the chicken itself, since albumen, in particular, is used in dessert preparation without any heat treatment, thus posing a significant risk to human health.

After 4 h of incubation, it was possible to observe contamination in the eggs by *Salmonella*. This finding demonstrates that contamination may occur within few hours after exposure to a contaminated environment such as chicken farms with poor or inadequate biosecurity measures. Similar results were observed by Raghianti et al. (2010). These authors detected *Salmonella* 4 h after the egg was in contact with a contaminated substrate. Other studies have also found that external contamination of eggs with different *Salmonella* serotypes can occur after 24 h of contact (Schoeni et al., 1995; Oliveira & Silva, 2000).

Eggshell penetration by *S. Typhimurium* can be influenced by various eggshell ultrastructural features including cap quality, alignment, erosion, confluence, Type B bodies, and cuticle cover. Hughey & Johnson (1987) showed that lysozyme does not inhibit the growth of *S. Typhimurium* and of several other gram-negative bacteria, which explains the presence of *Salmonella* in the albumen and the differences in the prevalences between serotypes observed in this study.

In our study, *S. Heidelberg* presented lower survival ability in the hostile conditions of egg albumen compared

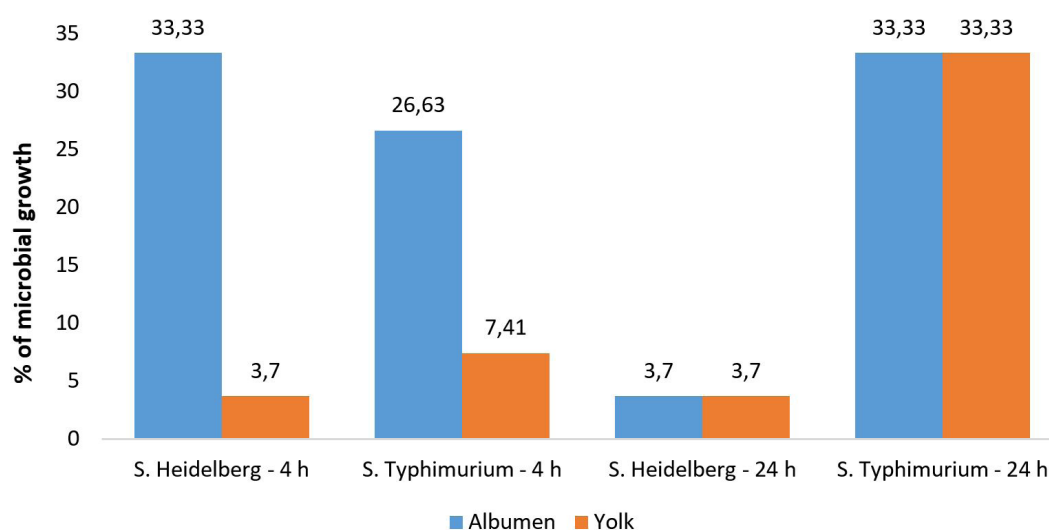


Figure 1 – Positive percentage of Albumen and Yolk for *Salmonella* versus Serotype and time of contamination. Percentages followed by distinct letters differ significantly by the Wald test ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) for egg component

to *S. Typhimurium*. This difference in the egg penetration ability of the strains analyzed in the present study may be related to virulence mechanisms developed by the bacterial strains that occur in Brazil. Although it remains to be determined if similar criteria would be applicable for *S. Heidelberg* in eggs, there may be potential for a relatively high prevalence of *S. Heidelberg* in eggs if the opportunity for initial contamination arises and sufficient temperature abuse occurs to allow substantial growth.

Certainly, improper transport and a break in the cold chain could enhance growth of *S. Heidelberg* in contaminated eggs (Schoeni et al., 1995). Although pasteurizing egg whites appears to cause a greater than 8-log reduction of *S. Heidelberg* (Muriana, 1997), cooking may not be able to always eliminate the organism, since several *Salmonella* serovars are capable of surviving simulated domestic conditions for various forms of cooking eggs (Humphrey et al., 1989).

Others have compared the growth of different *Salmonella* serovars by artificially contaminating egg albumen and reported no differences between *S. Enteritidis* (n = 8) and *S. Typhimurium* (n = 24) at 37°C or 42°C (Guan et al., 2006). Similarly, Messens et al. (2004) did not observe any growth advantage for *S. Enteritidis* in egg albumen when compared with other non-*S. Enteritidis* serovars including *S. Typhimurium*, Senftenberg, Stanleyville, Mbandaka, and Blockley (Messens et al., 2004). This suggests a similarity between the serotype *S. Enteritidis* and *S. Typhimurium*.

Since there is a lack of information regarding the Brazilian strains of *Salmonella*, the present research proposal was designed. This study aimed at evaluating bacterial samples from poultry farms documented by the Embrapa Swine and Poultry Research Center. For the safest and most reliable evaluation of the invasion ability of *Salmonella* on eggs, we had to simulate a field contamination scenario in a laboratory environment.

Schoeni et al. (1995) reported that *S. Typhimurium* levels may increase when the egg is kept at higher temperatures, e.g. 25°C. These authors concluded that eggs should be kept at 4°C in order to prevent bacterial growth inside eggs. In our study, all analyses were carried out using a temperature of 37°C (temperature for isolation of *Salmonella* spp.), aiming to standardize the temperature with different intervals of exposure under the same conditions. Our findings indicate that exposure time is a significant factor in the presence of *Salmonella*. It is important to note that egg penetration studies were performed after infecting eggs with *Salmonella* in laboratory conditions followed by incubation at room temperature (Gole et al., 2014). *Salmonella* penetration across the eggshell, however, is low at refrigeration temperature (4°C) (Chousalkar et al., 2010), underscoring the importance

of proper egg storage in both commercial and domestic environments.

Shell thickness of all eggs used in this study was measured, ranging from 51µm to 97µm. No significant correlation was observed between eggshell thickness and the presence of *Salmonella* in eggs. Our findings differ from those obtained by Ray et al. (2015). Those authors demonstrated that a decrease in the eggshell thickness facilitated the entry of *Salmonella* into the egg (yolk/albumen). However, Williams et al. (1968) also noted that eggshell thickness did not have a significant influence on bacterial penetration, though the presence of eggshell cuticle plugs are more important. Also of interest was the finding that bacterial motility is related to the ability of the bacteria to penetrate the eggshell. One study showed that inactivation of *agfA* (encoding curli production) invaded yolks less frequently, suggesting the importance of the role of curli in survival and persistence within the egg (Cogan et al., 2004). In addition, genes involved in DNA replication and repair have been identified in multiple studies. In one study, disruption of *yafD* (a member of exonuclease endonuclease-phosphatase family) was reported to significantly impact the growth of *S. Enteritidis* and *S. Typhimurium* within egg albumen (Lu et al., 2003).

According to Board et al. (1979), the removal of the cuticle by abrasion of the eggshell or by chemical treatment increases the probability of bacterial penetration through the eggshell. Thus, in the present study, eggs were not washed in order to avoid cuticle damage, since the presence of cracks would facilitate bacterial penetration. Egg assessment and selection by candling were also important in our study, as this procedure allowed us to remove and discard cracked, damaged, or dirty eggs. There are reports in the literature that cracked and dirty eggs are significantly more susceptible to contamination by *Salmonella* spp. (Poppe et al., 1997; Todd, 1996). In addition, the selected eggs were from birds of the same genetic strain and aged between 45 and 60 weeks (the usual age of laying farm birds), so that they did not have a significant difference in the quality and thickness of the shell.

## Conclusion

The results of the present study show that both Brazilian *Salmonella* strains (*Typhimurium* and *Heidelberg*) were able to penetrate through the eggshell and spread inside the egg in the albumen and yolk. In addition, the serotype *Typhimurium* presented higher contamination efficiency and increased resistance against the antimicrobial mechanisms of the albumen. It is worth noting that further studies are required in order to clarify the mechanisms of eggshell penetration and survival of bacteria inside the egg for different *Salmonella* strains.

## Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

## Ethics Statement

The author declares that each contribution to this article has been acknowledged and source of information from other peoples' published or unpublished works have been cited referenced. And certify that is solely responsible for

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