

Isolation of *Salmonella agona* (4, 12: f, g, 5:-) from Commercial Frozen Boiled Clam meat

Salmonella agona (4,12: f, g, 5:-) was isolated from a commercial frozen sample of boiled clam meat *Villorita cyprinoides* Var. *cochinensis* processed in a factory at Cochin. The method suggested by AOAC (1975) was followed for the detection of *Salmonella*. Three strains isolated from the sample were sent to the National Salmonella and Escherichia Centre at Kasauli and were identified as *S. agona*. In India, this serotype has been isolated only once before and that was from a human source (Personel communication from the National Salmonella Centre). The chances of association of this serotype in human salmonellosis is thus evident. This serotype is one of the most frequently isolated serotypes in the U.S. from cases of salmonellosis (Anon, 1981; 1983).

The biochemical properties of *S. agona* were similar to that of typical *Salmonella* (Table 1).

The authors are thankful to the National Salmonella and Escherichia Centre, Central Research

Institute, Kasauli for serotyping the strains and to Shri M. R. Nair, Director, Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Cochin for his kind permission to publish this note. The technical assistance rendered by Shri M. K. Sasidharan is also acknowledged with thanks.

References

- AOAC (1975) *Official Methods of Analysis* (Horwitz, H., Ed.) Association of Official Analytical Chemists, 12th edn. Washington
- Anon (1981) *Salmonella Surveillance Annual Summary 1978*, issued in 1981, Centres for Disease Control, U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service
- Anon (1983) *Foodborne Disease Outbreaks Annual Summary 1980*, issued in 1983, Centres for Disease Control, U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service

Table 1. *Morphological, biochemical and serological characteristics of S. agona*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Morphology | : | Gram-negative short rods, motile, no spores |
| Biochemical characteristics: | | |
| Reaction on triple sugar iron agar slants | : | Acid butt, alkaline slant, gas and hydrogen sulphide produced |
| Reaction on lysine iron agar slants | : | Purple colour throughout; H ₂ S present |
| Indole production | : | Absent |
| Urease production | : | Absent |
| Fermentation of lactose | : | Negative |
| Fermentation of sucrose | : | Negative |
| Fermentation of salicin | : | Negative |
| Fermentation of dulcitol | : | Acid and gas produced |
| Serological pattern | : | 4, 12: f, g, 5:- |

Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Cochin - 682 029

T. S. GOPALAKRISHNA IYER
AND P. R. G. VARMA