

Forgotten antibiotics: a follow-up inventory study in Australia, Canada, Europe and the U.S.

Céline Pulcini, Simone Mohrs, Bojana Beovic, Inge Gyssens, Ursula Theuretzbacher, Otto Cars, on behalf of the ESCMID Study Group for Antibiotic Policies (ESGAP) and ReAct

INTRODUCTION

In 2011, ESGAP performed a survey in 38 countries showing that few potentially useful antibiotics were marketed in these countries, mainly due to economic reasons [1].

AIM

Update the 2011 data regarding availability on the market of selected antibiotics in Europe, the US, Canada and Australia.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Selection of 36 potentially useful antibiotics

- **Exclusion** criteria: (i) antibiotics currently marketed in **all** countries of interest; (ii) antituberculous; and (iii) topical- or inhaled- **only** antibacterials.

Survey on the availability

- Contact persons in forty countries were approached to report on the selected antibiotics available through standard marketing processes.

RESULTS

- **39** out of 40 **countries** participated.
- The variation in the availability of the selected antibiotics is shown in *Figure 1* (by country) and *Figure 2* (by antibiotic).
- 25 of 36 selected antibiotics were marketed in 20 countries or less (*Figure 1*).

Comparison with the 2011 survey results

- The number of available selected antibiotics increased in 13 countries and decreased in 17.
- Overall, fewer antibiotics were available in 2015 compared to 2011.

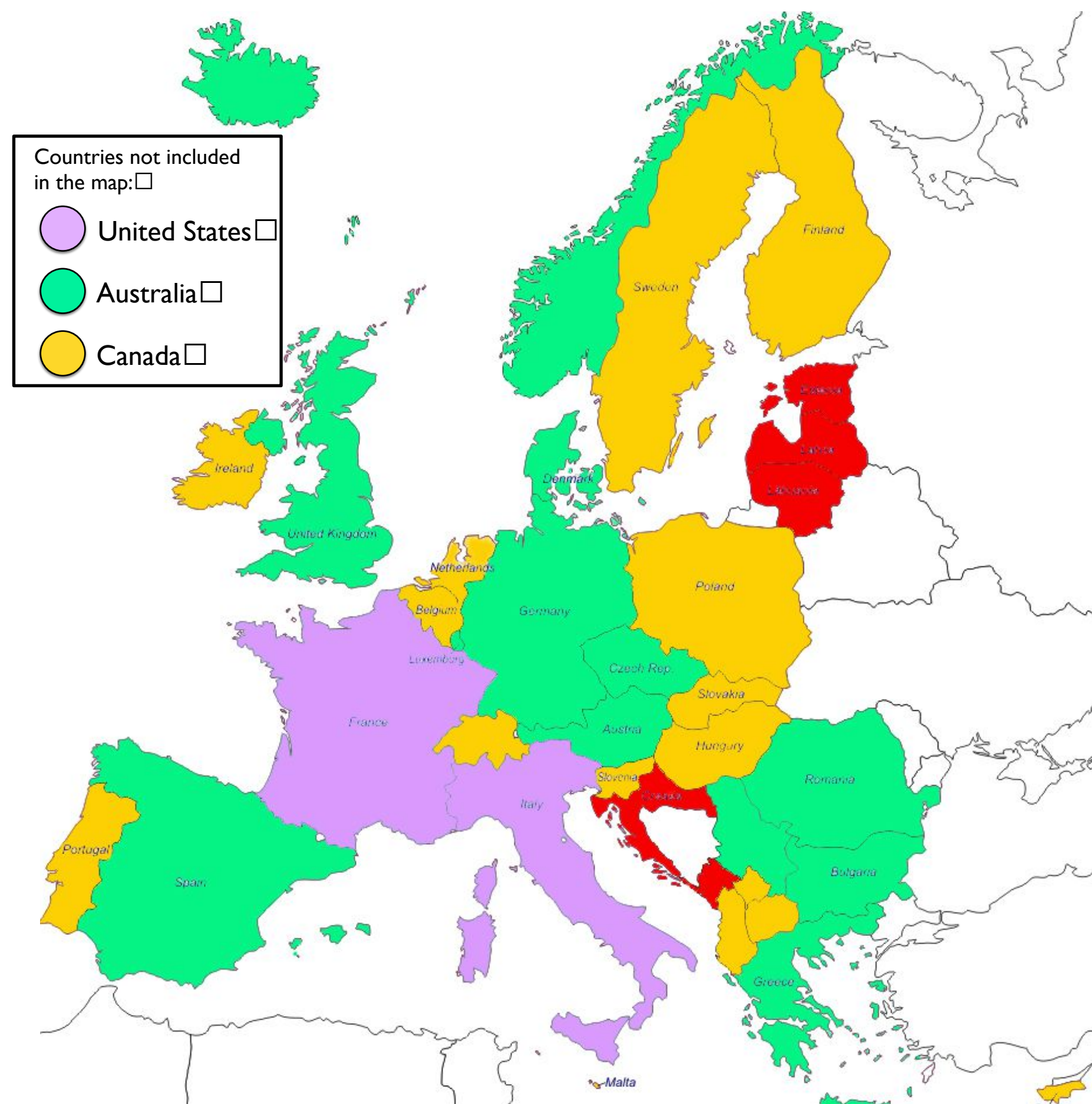


Figure 2. Number of available forgotten antibiotics by country
red<10; orange:10-14; green: 15-20; purple: >20

CONCLUSION: Situation has not improved in Europe, the US, Canada and Australia, with even fewer antibiotics as compared to 2011.

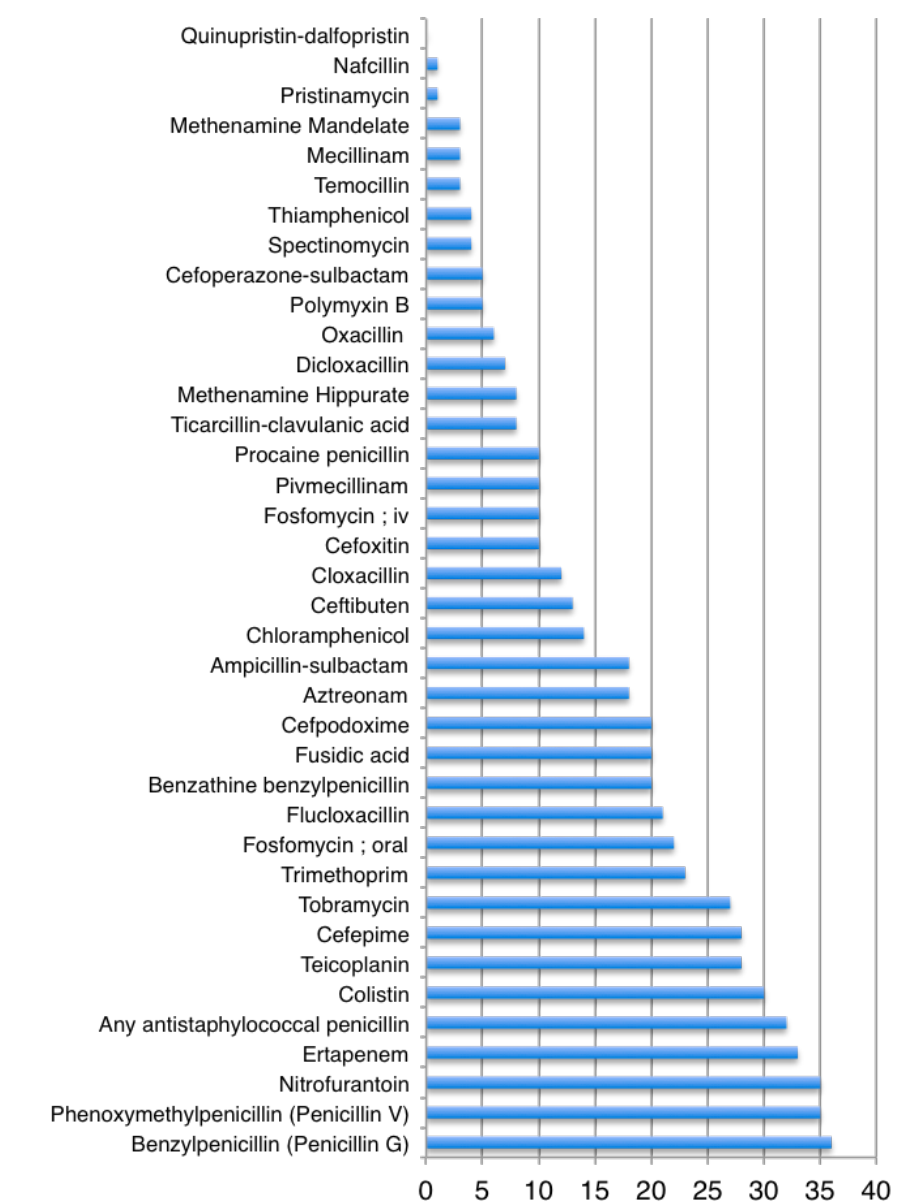


Figure 1. Number of available forgotten antibiotics

Reasons for absence of marketing

- **Economic motives** (small market size and volume sales, low prices → lack of return on investment for pharmaceutical companies; + high costs for registration).
- **Lack of demand**, low use by clinicians and absence of recommendation of these drugs in national/international guidelines.
- **Lack of awareness** / low priority of problem by health authorities.
- Severe problems of availability due to **shortages** also reported in most countries.

Actions undertaken

- Unavailable antibiotics were **imported** from other countries.
- **Advocating** by professional societies directed at national health authorities.

[1] Pulcini et al. *Forgotten antibiotics: an inventory in Europe, the United States, Canada, and Australia*. Clinical Infectious Diseases. 2012 54(2):268-74