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Poster Session VI

MDR Enterobacteriaceae from animal sources

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE AND REP-PCR GENOMIC FINGERPRINTING OF PSEUDOMONAS SP. ISOLATED FROM WILD FREE-LIVING SEA TURTLES IN THE GULF OF GUINEA

D. De Vos¹, J. Santos², F. Bilocq¹, P. Soentjens³, S. Jennes⁴, W. Heuninckx⁵, A. Leita⁶, R. Seixas², M. Oliveira², J. Pirnay¹

¹Laboratory for Molecular and Cellular Technology, Queen Astrid Military Hospital, Brussels, Belgium ;

²Laboratório de Bacteriologia da Faculdade de Medicina Veterinária de Lisboa, Universidade de Lisboa,

Lisboa, Portugal ; ³Queen Astrid Military Hospital Department of Infectiology and Travel Clinic, Queen

Astrid Military Hospital, Brussels, Belgium ; ⁴Burn Wound Centre, Queen Astrid Military Hospital,

Brussels, Belgium ; ⁵Clinical microbiology, Queen Astrid Military Hospital, Brussels, Belgium ;

⁶Instituto de Investigação Científica Tropical CVZ Faculdade de Medicina Veterinária, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal

Objectives:

Data on the incidence, prevalence and spread of antimicrobial resistance (ABR) among wild animals, worldwide, but specifically from remote tropical areas are still very scarce and inconsistent. The genus *Pseudomonas* is emerging as a group of increasingly reported opportunistic organisms in human as well as veterinary medicine with high resistance levels. Seen there ubiquity, they could be used as a tool for ABR-surveillance in the environment. Therefore we characterized a batch of pseudomonads isolated from wild, apparently healthy, wild sea turtles on the presence of ABR.

Methods:

Our batch included all gram-negative, oxidase positive bacilli isolated from oral and cloacal swabs of free-living turtles (*Eretmochymys imbricata* and *Cheloniemydas*) in Principe island in the gulf of Guinea. The isolates were screened by multiplex-PCR for *oprI/oprL* pseudomonad specific lipoproteins. The *oprI*-positives (12) were considered as pseudomonads. One isolate was *oprI/oprL* positive meaning *P. aeruginosa*. The isolates were subsequently identified biochemically at species level (Vitek-2, BioMérieux) while ABR profiling was done using the Vitek-2 AST-N237 card (BioMérieux). Antibiotics tested were temocillin (TEM), ticarcillin (TIC), ticarcillin+calvulanic acid (TCC), piperacillin+tazobactam (TZP), ceftazidime (CAZ), cefepime (FEP), aztreonam (ATM), imipenem (IPM), meropenem (MEM), amikacin (AN), gentamycin (GM), tobramycin (TM), ciprofloxacin ((CIP), tigecyclin (TGC), fosfomycin (FOS), colistin (CS), and trimethoprim+sulfamethoxazole (SXT). All *Pseudomonas* strains were genotyped by Rep-PCR (Diversilab, BioMérieux). Additionally the *P. aeruginosa* was serotyped in order to compare the strain with isolates from our world population structure collection (Pirnay et al. PlosOne 2009).

Results:

the 13 isolates positive for the presence of *oprI* were identified as *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (N=1, was also *oprL*+), *Pseudomonas mendocina* (N=1), *Pseudomonas stutzeri* (N=6) and *Alcaligenes faecalis* (N=5). The latter were however not yet further investigated. Concerning ABR-profiles, *P. aeruginosa* was only resistant to TEM, TGC and SXT, considered natural resistances for this species. *P. mendocina* was resistant to TEM, TIC, ATM, TGC and FOS. *P. stutzeri* profiles were TEM/FOS (N=3), TEM/TGC/FOS (N=1), TEM/TIC/ATM/FOS (N=1) and TEM/TIC/TCC/ATM/FOS (N=1),. This last was considered as multidrug resistant (MDR). The only *P. aeruginosa* was serotyped as 6. Genomic fingerprinting did not show any specific clonal-cluster. The *P. aeruginosa* isolate showed high similarity ($\geq 95\%$) with other animal as well as human clinical isolates with also similar ABR profile and serotype.

Conclusions:

Monitoring ABR in free-living wild animals should be considered as surveillance tool to help us better describe and understand ABR spread and incidence which will result in better strategies to deal with this worldwide problem. Even in remote locations MDR-bacteria can be found which may represent a risk for human populations in those areas, considering limited health assistance and therapeutic

options. It clearly shows also the worldwide spread of ABR and our deep links with the global environment.