

Isolation and Identification of Some pathogenic bacteria from Traded Diets in Restaurants at EL- Taif City – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Abeer A. Abu-Zaid^{1,2}, EL-Sehrawy M.H.^{2,3*} and Majeeda A. Alopidi²

¹Food Technology Research Inst., Agric Rese. Cent., Giza, Egypt

²Biology Dept., Fac. of Science, Taif University, Saudi Arabia

³Botany and Microbiology Department, Faculty of Science (Boys), AL-Azher University, Cairo, Egypt

* moataz50@yahoo.com

Abstract: The main aim of this study was to isolate and identify of pathogenic bacteria from traded diets in restaurants at El – Taif City Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The collected samples were fifty, they showed high variability and counts of aerobic bacteria e.g. fresh cut salad, processed meat and chicken and rice, no visible sign of defect was observed on them. Only three samples were scored considerable amounts of coliform bacteria (e.g. salad, shawrma and samposa). In conclusion, twenty bacterial strains (M01 –M20) were isolates under aerobic conditions from twelve traditional food products and characterized by morphology and some biochemical characteristics. All isolates were divided into three groups, bacilli, cocci, and short rods. The strains were further identified by partial 16SrRNA gene sequencing and phylogenetic analysis. Fifteen strains were identified by 97-100% identity including *Bacillus circulance* (4), *Bacillus subtilis* (4), *Staphylococcus aureus* (3), and *Echerichia coli* (4). Other isolates were identified by 85-92% identity, therefore may be considered as new species and named: *Bacillus sp.* (M07, M09, M10) and *Staphylococcus sp.* (M12,M13). These results indicate the importance of strict hygiene during handling practices in order to avoid contamination of the food products.

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1. Introduction

Food-borne illnesses are major international health problems and important causes of reduced economic growth (WHO, 2002). Food- and water-borne diarrheal diseases are the leading causes of illness and death in developing countries, killing an estimated 2.2 million people annually, most of them are children (Mensah *et al.*, 2002). Bacteria have accounted for more than 70% of deaths associated with foodborne transmission (Hughes *et al.*, 2007). Food-borne illnesses associated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Bacillus cereus*, *Escherichia coli* 0157:H7 and *Salmonella enteritidis* present a major public health concern throughout the world and from restaurant as a fast food (37.5%), (Isaraet *al.*,2010). The presence and growth of microorganisms in food may be caused spoilage and reduction in quality and quantity (Soliman and Badeaa, 2002).

Bacillus species are Gram positive rod, grow under aerobic conditions and produce heat resistant spores. Species in the genus range from 36% for *Bacillus cereus* to over 60% for some thermophilic isolates (Priest, 1993). *Bacillus cereus* causes two types of food-borne diseases: a diarrheal syndrome caused by complex enterotoxins (diarrheal toxin) and emetic syndrome caused by emetic toxins. It has been frequently isolated from raw vegetables and sprouts

(Harmon *et al.*, 1987; Kim *et al.*, 2004). *Bacillus cereus* occurred in 98% of test minced meat, 60% of sausage, 40% of rice grains, 44% Koshari or ice-cream and 36% of pasteurized milk samples investigated by Saleh *et al.* (1993).

E. coli is Gram - negative bacteria, short rod, grow under aerobic conditions and non spore forming. Outbreaks can infect thousands of people causing bloody diarrhea and hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS) that can result in severe illness or even death (Chattawayet *al.*, 2011). Higher numbers of outbreaks have been attributed to the consumption of fresh leafy produce and monitor at quality of water and foods (Sospedraet *al.*, 2012). Other sources of contamination were fecal contamination, soil and irrigation water are more commonly encountered (Islam *et al.*, 2004 & Hutchison *et al.*, 2008). Among reported cases, raw vegetables have been identified as a source of enterotoxigenic *Escherichia coli*, which causes traveller's diarrhoea (Beuchat, 1996). More than 90% of raw meat and shellfish were contaminated with *E. coli*. The highest level of coliforms was found in bean sprouts and fresh-cut salad, with 50% of samples containing more than 5 log cfu/g (Seowet *al.*, 2012). *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Bacillus cereus* also were isolated from fresh product (De Giustiet *al.*, 2010).

Staphylococcus aureus a Gram-positive, catalase positive coccus, 0.5–1.5 µm in diameter that forms clusters of cells that appear as characteristic ‘bunches of grapes’ when viewed microscopically. The first link between *Staphylococcus aureus* and food poisoning has been ascribed to an outbreak associated with eating cheese. *Staphylococcus aureus* also has been spread a wide range of food vehicles including dairy product, cream-filled bakery, poultry and egg products as well as salads and canned mushrooms (Verdieret *et al.*, 2009). *S. aureus* is also associated with enterotoxin-mediated food poisoning (Waters *et al.*, 2011 & Spanuet *et al.*, 2012). Consumption of foods contaminated with *S. aureus* can cause gastroenteritis, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and abdominal pain within 1-6 hrs post-consumption of contaminated foods (U.S. Food and Drug Administration, 1998). Meat was a substantial (11.2–25.0%) source of bacterial toxins produced such as *S. aureus*, *B. cereus* and *E. coli* (EFSA, 2007). The process of cooking should kill the bacteria but some bad practices of handling or storage can even increase the bacterial load of the initial product.

Recently, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reported that Injury, poisoning and external causes group was the second most of common cause of death. The number of deaths due to this group was 8355 (18.05% of the total number of deaths) (Ministry of Health, 2010).

Bacteriological method for detecting pathogens typically involves culturing the organism in selective media and identifying isolates according to their morphological, biochemical, and/or immunological characteristics. This method is sensitive and permits the specific detection of microorganism of interest in complex environments such as foods and certain clinical samples. However, the method is time consuming and usually requires 5-11 days (Kramer *et al.*, 2009).

Over the past 25 years, numerous rapid methods have been developed to reduce the assay time. To date, well studied rapid methods such as enzymelinked immune sorbent assay (ELISA) and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) have reduced the assay time to 10–24 h and 4–6 h, respectively, and have achieved detection limits varying from 10^1 to 10^6 cfu/ml (cfu = colony forming units). Recent years molecular methods are progressively used for identification of pathogenic bacteria caused food poisoning disease. Many of these methods are based on 16S ribosomal DNA sequences (16S rRNA gene) and develop either hybridization or PCR techniques (Janda and Abbott, 2007). The methods included 16S rRNA gene sequences can be utilized to place diagnostics into a phylogenetic structure and can be connected to databases providing several thousand sequences that

increase day by day (Amann and Ludwig, 2000; Janda and Abbotte, 2007).

The advent of DNA amplification by the PCR method and its application has significantly improved the specificity, sensitivity and the time necessary for detection of microbial pathogens in the environment (Bej, 2003). PCR has also become a valuable tool for investigating food-borne outbreaks and identifying pathogens such as *Staphylococci*, *Salmonella* and *E. coli* (Riyazet *et al.*, 2004 & Iyer and Kumosani, 2010). Masoudet *et al.*, 2012 studied the bacterial communities in raw milk and in Danish raw milk cheeses using pyrosequencing of tagged amplicons of the V3 and V4 regions of the 16S rDNA and cDNA. Therefore, the objectives of the present study are to isolate and identify some types of bacterial food poisoning existing in Taif restaurants.

2- Material and Methods

2.1. Food samples

Twelve traditional food products were used in the present study as source for isolation of pathogenic bacteria. All samples (50) were collected from local restaurant in Taif City, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. These samples were rice (5), meat (5), salad (11), chicken (7), Koshare (1), soup (5), bergar (1), pasta (2), samposa (5), grape paper (1), markok (3) and shawarma (4). Samples were immediately transferred under aseptic condition in ice box to the laboratory.

2.2. Isolation of bacterial strains

Serial dilutions (up to 10^6) were done in peptone water. Then about 15 mL of Nutrient or MacConky agar was poured. After incubation, individual colonies were selected according to their morphological differences such as color, shape and size then transferred into 10 mL sterile nutrient broth. According to the standard method of the microbiological examination, streak plate technique was applied in the present study to isolate and purify culture bacterial strains (ICMSF, 1996) in nutrient agar plates. Standard Biochemical tests were performed following standard procedures according to Sharp, (1979) & Cappuccino and Sherman, (1999)

2.3. Preliminary identification of isolates

The isolates were first confirmed to the genus level by colony and cell morphology, sporulation, activity of urease, oxidase and coagulase, Voges-Proskauer, reaction of citrate and methyl red, nitrate reduction, casein and starch hydrolysis, indole and Gram reaction and acid formation (Cowan and Steel, 1970).

2.4. Partial sequencing of 16S rRNA gene

2.4.1. DNA extraction from culturable bacteria

The genomic DNA of culturable bacterial isolates was extracted using QIAamp DNA Mini Kit (Qiagen) according to manufacturer's protocol.

2.4.2. DNA sequencing

The PCR-amplified 16S rDNA fragments were amplified using two universal primers; fD1 (5' AGAGTTCCTGGCTCAG3') and rP2

(5'ACGGCTCCTTACGACTT3') (Weisburget *al.*, 1991). The PCR product was purified using an DNA-purification kits as recommended by the manufacturer and then sequenced. PCR fragments were analyzed by cycle sequencing, using the BigDye terminator cycle sequencing kit (Applied Biosystems, U.K.). This sequence step was commercially carried out by Macrogen Inc., Seoul, South Korea, through 16S rDNA sequencing using universal primer, 518F (5' CCAGCAGCCGCGGTAATACG3') (Ahemad and Khan, 2010). The obtained partial nucleotide sequences of the Materials & Methods 35 16SrRNA gene, were aligned using Clustal W from MEGA 4.0 software (Tamura *et al.*, 2007) and compared with the homologous sequences of the type strains, available in the GenBank database.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Isolation bacteria from traditional food

Twelve traditional food products were used in the present study as source for isolation of pathogenic bacteria. All samples (50) were collected from local restaurant in Taif City, Saudi Arabia. Table (1) showed that there were a high variability in bacterial counts among all samples. Even on samples with particularly high number of bacteria e.g. fresh cut salad, processed meat and chicken and rice, no visible sign of defect was observed on them. Other food samples were obtained considerable amounts of bacteria. Among all twelve commodities, only three samples were scored considerable amounts of coliform bacteria (e.g. salad, shawrma and samposa).

The mean aerobic bacterial and coliform counts of fresh – cut salad obtained in this study were similar with that of a recent study conducted Food and Drug Administration in the united state. This study showed that the total plate counts ranged from 4 to 8.3 log

cfu/g (Badosaet *al.*, 2008). Similar, study in Singapore was conducted by (Seowet *al.*, 2012). This result may be due to contaminated water and soil or improper handling, as well as culture and producing conditions (Abadiaset *al.*, 2008). There was an especially problem when untreated manure is utilized as soil fertilizers in the fields (Ayciceket *al.*, 2006).

The positive contamination of previous food sample (meat and chicken) were in good agreement with the reports of (Isaraet *al.*, 2010). Lotfiet *al.*, (1988) reported that 75% of raw minced meat was contaminated with *Bacillus cereus*. The high incidence percentage may be attributed to the abundance of amino acids, vitamins and essential nutrients in meat. Fresh meats of beef, pork and chicken foods, have pH values within the growth range of most of the organisms (Jay,1986).

Examination of cooked rice in this study showed an unsatisfactory microbiological quality for aerobic bacteria analysis. However, all the rice samples studied exceeded the European maximum level of mesophilic aerobic counts (Sospedraet *al.*, 2012). Little *et al.*, (2002) also found high levels of aerobic colony counts in cooked rice. Some of raw vegetables can contribute the rice based dishes contamination to handling involved in preparation, the manufacturing processes and temperature control of the final products.

3.2. Preliminary identification

Thirty five of pure single colonies were preliminary characterized by some physiological and biochemical tests according to the criteria of Bergey's Manual of Determinative Bacteriology (Holt *et al.*, 2000). Twenty isolates showed differences in their morphological and biochemical characters were selected for further work. These isolates were named from M1 to M20 and subjected for further molecular identification.

Table1. Results of aerobic bacteria and Coliform counts in the analyzed samples.

Name of sample (NO.)	Viable cell count CFU/g (10 ³)	
	Bacteria	Coliform
Rice (5)	75.6	ND
Meat (5)	84.9	ND
Salad (11)	96.8	4.4
Chicken (7)	80.1	ND
Koshare (1)	72.0	ND
Soup (5)	33.2	ND
Bergar (1)	42.1	ND
Pasta (2)	61.2	ND
Samposa (5)	25.5	3.3
Grap paper (1)	62.1	ND

CFU: Cell Forming Units; ND not detected

Table 2: Source of isolation, isolate numbers and some morphological and biochemical characters of the purified Bacilli.

Source of Isolation (No.)	Isolate No.	Cell shape	Gram Stain	Spore-forming	Aerobic growth	Indol	urease	Oxidase	Voges proskaur	Citrate	Acid form		Hydrolysis	
											Xylose	Glucose	Casein	starch
Rice (5)	M01	Bacilli	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	
grap paper (1)	M07	Bacilli	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	
Selek meat (3)	M06	Bacilli	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	
Steam Meat (2)	M05	Bacilli	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	
Hot salad (4)	M09	Bacilli	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	
Samposa meat (3)	M08	Bacilli	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	
Chicken Kofta (4)	M11	Bacilli	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	
Chicken Kapap (3)	M10	Bacilli	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	
Tabola salad (1)	M03	Bacilli	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	
Soup (5)	M02	Bacilli	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	
Kosheri (1)	M04	Bacilli	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	

Table 3: Source of isolation, isolate numbers and some morphological and biochemical characters of the purified cocci and short rod.

Source of Isolation (No.)	Isolate No.	Cell shape	Gram Stain	Spore-forming	urease	Citrate utilize	Coagulase	Indol	Voges proskaur	Methyl red	Oxidase	*Acid form	Acid form
													xylose
Pasta (2)	M13	Cocci cluster	+	-	-	ND	+	-	+	ND	-	+	-
Markok (3)	M16	Cocci cluster	+	-	-	ND	+	-	+	ND	-	+	-
Shawma (2)	M15	Cocci cluster	+	-	-	ND	+	-	+	ND	-	+	-
Bergar (1)	M12	Cocci cluster	+	-	-	ND	+	-	+	ND	-	+	-
Hot salad (2)	M14	Cocci cluster	+	-	-	ND	+	-	+	ND	-	+	-
Capage salad (2)	M18	Short rod	-	-	ND	-	ND	+	+	+	+	ND	ND
Green salad (2)	M17	Short rod	-	-	ND	-	ND	+	+	+	+	ND	ND
Shawma (2)	M20	Short rod	-	-	ND	-	ND	+	+	+	+	ND	ND
Samposa (2)	M19	Short rod	-	-	ND	-	ND	+	+	+	+	ND	ND

ND: Not Detected; *Acid form (Manitol – Fructose – Sucrose)

All 20 isolates were divided into three groups, Gram-positive (G+ve) bacilli, (G+ve) cocci and Gram-negative (G-ve) short rod. Results of the preliminary tests of the first group were summarized and presented in Table (2). This group contained eleven isolates, which were (G+ve) bacilli shape positive oxidase and VP, negative urease, indole and citrate. The preliminary tests of the second (G+ve cluster cocci) and third (G-ve short rod) groups were listed in Table (3). Only Short rod isolates were positive MR and negative Citrate, other isolates were not determined. G+ve bacteria were showed positive coagulase test, fermented all tested sugar and produced acid form except xylose. Other strains were not determined. Noticeably, salad was the most contaminated food which contained all cell shape (cocci, bacilli and short rod).

3.3. Molecular Identification

Twenty strains (M01-M20) were identified by determine and analysis of the partial sequence of 16S rRNA gene. The species were initially determined by the BLAST program on NCBI (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>) based on the 16S rRNA sequences of type strains. The identity and coverage Percentage were presented in Table 4. The isolate M18 showed 100% identity and coverage with type strain *Escherichia coli* strain mohi KC013977. The identity percentage of the other isolates were 99%, except the isolates, M07, which recorded identity percentage of 92% with *Bacillus subtilis* strain p29-D09 (JQ35773); M09, which recorded percentage of 85% with *Bacillus circulans* strain BP9_5B (JN644554); M10, which recorded percentage of 90% with *Bacillus subtilis* strain M50 (JX102496); M12, which recorded percentage of 87% with *Staphylococcus aureus* strain 518F (VITSV4), and M13, which recorded percentage of 92 % with *Staphylococcus aureus* strain ET-1 (JX163860). Therefore these isolates were considered as new species and named: *Bacillus sp.* Strain, M07; M09&M10 and *Staphylococcus sp.* Strain, M12 and M13. Similar cases were reported and discussed previously by Drancourt *et al.*, (2000). They stated that 99% identity in 16S rRNA gene sequence was the criterion used to identify an isolate to the species

level. A 97 to 99% identity in 16S rRNA gene sequence was the criterion used to identify an organism at the genus level, and <97% identity in 16S rRNA gene sequence was the criterion used to define a potentially new bacterial species. The phylogenetic tree was constructed using *Lactobacillus paraplantarum*(NR- 025447) as out of group element. The resulted phylogenetic tree (Fig.1) was composed mainly of four clusters (Cluster I – IV)

Cluster: I composed of two sub-cluster, (A) that contained *Bacillus subtilis* strain (M05) and three *Bacillus sp* strains, (M07, M09 and M10) with the type strain JQ835773. (B) *Bacillus subtilis* group that included, (M02, M04 and M06 with the type strain, KC443103.

Cluster: II composed of one sub-cluster (c) contained *Bacillus* group that included four *Bacillus circulans* isolates M08, M01, M11 and M03, at high similarity (98-100%) with the reference strain, JN644554.

Cluster: III composed of one sub-cluster (D) that included three *Staphylococcus aureus* (M14, M15, and M16), at high identity percentage (99%) with the reference strain HE579073 in addition to two strains, *Staphylococcus sp.* M12&M13 with 87-92% identity respectively.

Cluster: IV. This cluster contained four *Escherichia coli* isolates; M17, M18, M19, and M20 that share high similarity (99-100%) with type strain KC013977 located in the same sub-cluster (E).

After the molecular identification, it can be stated that the isolates recovered from traded diets in restaurants of Taif-city are: *Bacillus Subtilis* (4 strains), *Bacillus SP.* (3 strains), *Bacillus circulans* (4 strains), *Staphylococcus aureus* (3 strains), *Staphylococcus SP.* (2 strains), and *Escherichia coli* (4 strains) Table 5. The Source of obtained isolates were differ from processed and unprocessed food table 5. *Bacillus circulans* isolated from rice, meat and chicken samples, while it has been isolated previously from different rice products (Fangoet *al.*, 2010 & Kim *et al.*, 2013). In addition, Most of *Bacillus subtilis* strains were isolated from soup samples. *Staphylococcus aureus* was occurred in bergar and shawerma chicken. These results are in agreement with Previous studies indicated that, *Staphylococcus aureus* has been isolated from chicken sandwich and chocolate (Iayer and Kumosani, 2010). Half isolates of *Escherichia coli* were isolated from unprocessed food. Same finding has been previously demonstrated by (Yossaet *al.*, 2010). They reported that most of Consumption of refrigerated ready – to- eat, fresh cut fruits and vegetables, often eaten with minimal processing, were a potential source of *Escherichia coli*. On the other hand, Sospedraet *al.* (2013) stated that *Escherichia coli* *Staphylococcus aureus* were also found in several vegetable dishes, *E. coli* was detected in 6.6% and 0.7 % of lettuce samples. Salad ingredients were eaten fresh vegetables without cooking processes and lettuce was done of the most contaminated sample.

Table 4. Identity and coverage percentage according to the obtained 16S rRNA sequence.

Isolate No.	Name and Accession No. of the most related strain in NCBI GeneBank	% Identity	% Coverage	Suggested Name of the isolates obtained in this work
M01	<i>Bacillus circulans</i> strain BP9_5B JN644554.1	99	100	<i>Bacillus circulans s</i> M01
M02	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> strain VRC08 JX082288	99	100	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> M02
M03	<i>Bacillus circulans</i> strain BP9_5B JN644554	99	100	<i>Bacillus circulans</i> M03
M04	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> strain: GS1 AB773829	100	99	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> , M04
M05	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> strain Sua-BAC018 EU870513	97	100	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> strain M05
M06	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> strain BAB-2438 KC443093	100	99	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> strain M06
M07	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> strain p29_D09 JQ835773	92	100	<i>Bacillus sp.</i> M07
M08	<i>Bacillus circulans</i> strain BP9_5B JN644554	99	99	<i>Bacillus circulans</i> strain M08
M09	<i>Bacillus circulans</i> strain BP9_5B JN644554	85	100	<i>Bacillus sp.</i> M09
M10	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> strain M50 JX102497	90	100	<i>Bacillus sp.</i> M10
M11	<i>Bacillus circulans</i> strain BP9_5B JN644554	98	100	<i>Bacillus circulans</i> strain M11
M12	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> strain 518F VITSV4	87	58	<i>Staphylococcus sp.</i> M12
M13	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> strain ET-1 JX163860	92	99	<i>Staphylococcus sp.</i> M13
M14	<i>Staphylococcus aureus subsp. aureus</i> ST228 HE579073	99	99	<i>Staphylococcus aureus subsp. aureus</i> M14
M15	<i>Staphylococcus aureus subsp. aureus</i> ST228 HE579073	99	99	<i>Staphylococcus aureus subsp. aureus</i> M15
M16	<i>Staphylococcus aureus subsp. aureus</i> ST228 HE579073	99	100	<i>Staphylococcus aureus subsp. aureus</i> M16
M17	<i>Escherichia coli</i> strain moh1 KC013977	99	98	<i>Escherichia coli</i> M17
M18	<i>Escherichia coli</i> strain moh1 KC013977.1	100	100	<i>Escherichia coli</i> strain M18
M19	<i>Escherichia coli</i> strain moh1 KC013977	99	100	<i>Escherichia coli</i> M19
M20	<i>Escherichia coli</i> strain moh1 KC013977	99	100	<i>Escherichia coli</i> M20

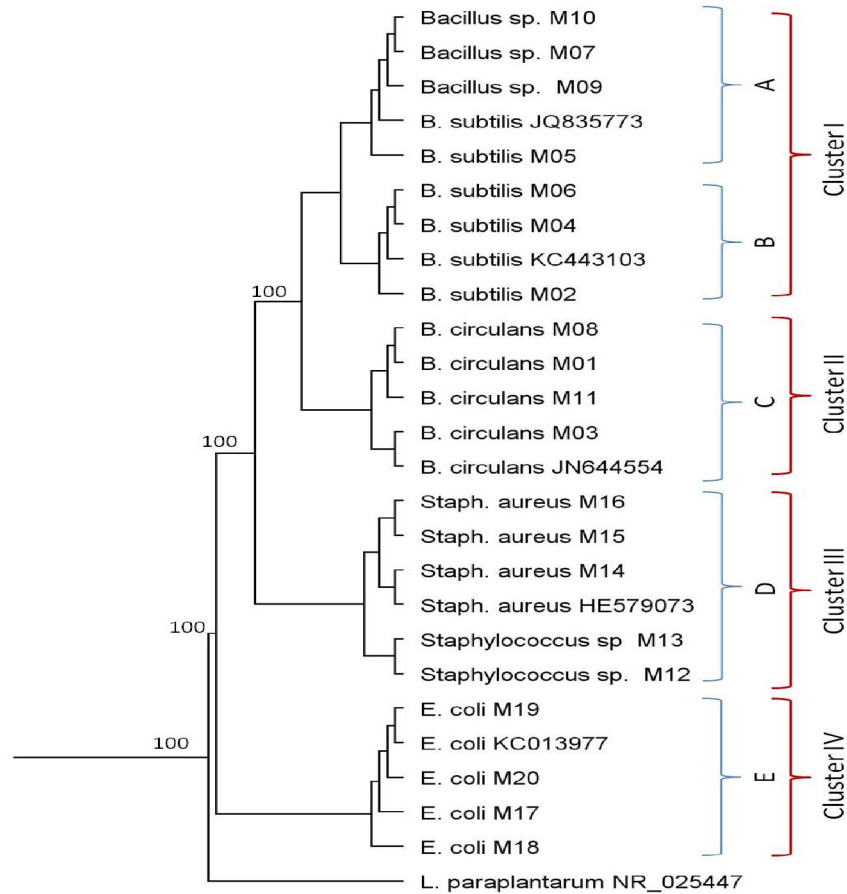


Fig 1. Neighbor- joining phylogenetic tree based on 16s rRNA sequence using *Lactobacillus paraplantarum* (NR-025447.) as out of group. The tree showing the phylogenetic placement of the strains (M01 – M20) Isolated from traded diets In restaurants at EL- Taif city.

Table 5. Sources of isolation and suggested name of bacterial strains given according to the partial sequencing of 16S rRNA gene.

Strain name given after partial 16S	Source of isolation (No.)	rRNA sequencing	
<i>Bacillus circulans</i> M01	Rice	(5)	
<i>Bacillus circulans</i> M03	Tabola salad	(1)	
<i>Bacillus circulans</i> M08	Samposa meat	(3)	
<i>Bacillus circulans</i> M11	Chickens kofta	(4)	
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> M02	Soup	(5)	
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> M04	Koshari	(1)	
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> M05	Steam meat	(2)	
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> M06	Selek meat	(3)	
<i>Bacillus sp.</i> M07	Grap paper	(1)	
<i>Bacillus sp.</i> M09	Hot salad	(4)	
<i>Bacillus sp.</i> M10	Chicken kappa	(3)	
<i>Staphylococcus sp.</i> M12	Berger	(1)	
<i>Staphylococcus sp.</i> M13	Pasta	(2)	
<i>Staphylococcus aureus subsp. aureus</i> M14	Hot Salad	(2)	
<i>Staphylococcus aureus subsp. aureus</i> M15	Shawarma	(2)	
<i>Staphylococcus aureus subsp. aureus</i> M16	Markok	(3)	
<i>Escherichia coli</i> M17	Green salad	(2)	
<i>Escherichia coli</i> M18	Capage salad	(2)	
<i>Escherichia coli</i> M19	Samposa meat	(2)	
<i>Escherichia coli</i> M20	Shawarma	(2)	

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