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# Virulence characteristics and plasmid profiles of *E. coli* isolates from poultry

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*Escherichia coli* can be isolated from the intestinal tract and also from different system of the poultry which can be associated with various pathological conditions in animals as well as in man. *E. coli* was isolated from diarrheic faeces of poultry and further the pathogenicity of organisms was studied by Congo red binding test. Molecular analysis of plasmid DNA is very effectively utilized for epidemiological investigations and to identify epidemic strains of bacteria. The ability to distinguish between pathogenic and non-pathogenic organism is an important parameter when research is dependant in monitoring virulence characters of bacteria in working cultures. The *E. coli* isolates were tested for their plasmid profile. Out of 70 isolates tested 37 (52.86 percent) isolates showed the presence of plasmid while 33 (47.14 percent) isolates did not reveal any plasmid. The molecular mass of all the plasmid appeared to be more than 50 kb. In all the cases only one plasmid could be detected.

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