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Microbial contamination of food sold in some restaurants in Benin City, Nigeria

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Introduction & Aim: Gastrointestinal tract infections arising from food poisoning is a common occurrence, particularly in developing nations of the world. This is also true of the developed countries. Many depend on food provided by restaurants for their quick meal due to pressure of work and other activities that may keep them away from home for a limited period of time, hence many patronize commercial restaurants and for students who due to pressure of academic work can hardly find time to prepare their meals, the restaurant is the alternative. The purpose of this study therefore, was to determine, the level and type of microbial contamination of food sold in some restaurants in Benin City, Nigeria.

Methods: A total of 100 samples of cooked food items comprising jollof rice, moimo (beans buddy and fried rice were collected from three restaurants and examined for their microbial contents, standard protocol of Cowan and Steel was used to identify the isolates.

Results: The isolates included *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, *Klebsiella aerogenes*, *Preotus vulgaris*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Bacillus ceurus* and *Listeria monocytogenes*. Viable bacterial counts of 3.53×10^7 were recorded for the isolates.

Conclusion: We present in this study the isolation of pathogenic and potential pathogenic species of bacteria from served food in some restaurants in Benin City, Nigeria and we found that there was no significant relationship between the viable bacterial count from the type of food and restaurant from where they were obtained as shown by the student t analysis (test $p > 0.05$).

Biography

Francis Oronsaye is presently working as an Associate Professor at University of Benin, Nigeria from where he pursued PhD in Medical Microbiology. After attaining doctorate, he served in various positions including Lecturer, Senior Lecturer and Principal Investigator for various projects involved in the same university. He has attended more than 20 international conferences and delivered talks in his field of expertise. He is a Member of International Research and Development Institute and American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. He has published more than 50 research articles in peer-reviewed journals. He was also successful in designing a lotion for treating all kinds of superficial infections of bacterial and fungal origin.

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