

Prevalence and Molecular Characterization of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* in Estuarine Fish from Dhaka City Markets

Authors : Fahmida Khaliq Nitu

Abstract : Little is known on the biosafety level of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* in estuarine fish in Bangladesh. The purpose of this study was to investigate the prevalence and concentration of *V. parahaemolyticus* in estuarine fishes using the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) method. The study was conducted on 37 fishes of different species from different types of estuarine fish commonly sold at city markets. Sampling was done on the intestinal tract and gills of each fish. The prevalence of *V. parahaemolyticus* was found to be 29.72% with higher percentages detected in samples from the gills (89.28%) followed by the intestinal tract (10.71%). The density of *Vibrio* spp. in the gill of estuarine fishes with an average was 4.4×10^3 CFU/g and in the intestine samples was 1.5×10^3 CFU/g. The outcome of the biosafety assessment *V. parahaemolyticus* in estuarine fish indicates another potential source of food safety issues to consumers.

Keywords : biosafety, estuarine, prevalence, Vibrios

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