## *bla* gene identification by microarrays in phenotypically resistant *Escherichia coli* from young calves in Wallonia, Belgium

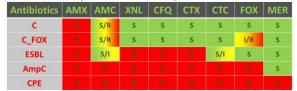
Guérin V.1\*, Thiry D.1, Cawez F.2, Mercuri P.2, Saulmont M.3, Mainil J.1

 <sup>1</sup>Bacteriology, Department of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases, FARAH and Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Liège, Liège, Belgium
<sup>2</sup>Biological Macromolecules, Department of Life Sciences, Centre for Protein Engineering (CIP), University of Liège, Liège, Belgium
<sup>3</sup>Regional Animal Health and Identification Association (ARSIA), Ciney, Belgium

The most frequent resistance mechanism to  $\beta$ -lactam antibiotics is the production of  $\beta$ -lactamase enzymes (BLA) that inactivate the antibiotics. Their actual classification is highly complex [1,2], but 4 groups can be summarised: classical BLA (C), extended-spectrum BLA (ESBL), cephalosporinases (AmpC) and carbapenemases (CPE). According to the results of the disk diffusion assay (DDA) performed at ARSIA, the Regional Veterinary Diagnostics laboratory in Wallonia, Belgium, with 8  $\beta$ -lactams a fifth class was defined: C associated with a cefoxitin resistance (C\_FOX) (Table I).

The aim of this study was to identify the BLA-encoding (*bla*) genes present in *Escherichia* (*E*.) *coli* isolated from young calves with diarrhoea or septicaemia between November 2017 and February 2018 showing different  $\beta$ -lactam resistance phenotypes at the DDA. Of the total of 607 isolates, 94 with different resistance profiles (Table II) were chosen to be tested with the Check-MDR CT103XL<sup>®</sup> (Check-points BV, Netherlands) microarray [3].

Table I – Resistance phenotypes observed at the disk diffusion assay for the 8 tested  $\beta$ -lactams



AMX: amoxicillin; AMC: amoxicillin + clavulanic acid; XNL: ceftiofur; CFQ: cefquinome; CTX: cefotaxime; CTC: cefotaxime + clavulanic acid; FOX: cefoxitin; MER: meropenem

Table II – Resistance phenotypes of the 94 bovine isolates tested by microarrays

C 15	ESBL 40	AmpC 4
C_FOX 20	ESBL+C 5	AmpC-like 5
	ESBL+C FOX 5	

A concordance between the detected genes and the phenotypes was observed for 68 (72%) isolates. In isolates with ESBL phenotypes, only different  $bla_{CTX-M}$  genes were detected while in isolates with AmpC phenotypes, the  $bla_{CMY\,II}$  and  $bla_{DHA}$  genes were both identified and in isolates with C phenotypes, only the  $bla_{TEM-1}$  or  $bla_{TEM-2}$  genes were detected. In 9 isolates, the detected *bla* genes did not match with the observed phenotypes. No *bla* genes were detected in 17 isolates including 11 with a C\_FOX phenotype. Additional studies by Whole Genome Sequencing are being performed on the isolates with discordant results and specific PCR will subsequently be designed and performed to identify the *bla* genes present in the whole collection of 607 isolates.

References:

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[3] S.A. Cunningham, S. Vasoo, R. Patel (2016). J. Clin. Microbiol. 54:1368-1371.