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Nosocomial outbreaks of extended-spectrum beta-lactamase-producing
 Salmonella enterica serotype Brunei and Heidelberg at the Hussein Dey
 hospital in Algiers (Algeria)

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18 Abstract

Objectives: The purpose of this work was to study the genetic determinants responsible for extended-spectrum β -lactamase (ESBL) resistance of *Salmonella* isolated from children during the period1995 to 2008 at the Hussein Dey hospital in Algiers (Algeria).

Methods: Fourteen ESBL-resistant *Salmonella* isolates were tested towards 22 antimicrobial agents. PCR and sequencing were used to determine the underlying genetic determinants responsible for the ESBL phenotypes. The transferability of the ESBL phenotypes was tested by conjugation, and ERIC-PCR was employed to typing the isolates.

Results: All isolates were resistant to ticarcillin, ticarcillin-clavulanate, piperacillin, amoxicillin-clavulanate, cefuroxime, aztreonam, ceftazidime, cefotaxime (except 2 isolates), cefepime and cefpirome. PCR and DNA sequencing identified these extended-spectrum β -lactamases as TEM-48 (n=6), TEM-4 (n=3), CTX-M-15 (n=4), and one new TEM, designated TEM-188.

Conclusion: this study demonstrates the emergence of a public health risk related
 to ESBL in *Salmonella* in Algeria.

35 Keywords:

Outbreaks, Children, Salmonella Brunei, Heidelberg, Extended-spectrum β lactamase, TEM-188

38 INTRODUCTION

Non-typhoidal salmonellae are one of the principal pathogens implicated in food-39 borne gastroenteritis worldwide. Animals and their products, particularly meat, 40 chicken eggs, and milk, are major sources of human infection. The incidence of non-41 typhoidal Salmonella infections has increased considerably in many countries, but 42 with marked differences among countries (Makanera et al., 2003). Although 43 antibiotics are not usually recommended in cases of Salmonella Enterocolitis, they 44 are crucial in systemic infections. Extra-intestinal infectious complications, including 45 meningitis, sepsis and bacteraemia are more common in infants and the elderly, and 46 in immunocompromised patients. In these potentially life-threatening cases, the 47 antibiotics of choice are fluoroquinolones and extended-spectrum cephalosporins. 48 Salmonella spp. resistant to extended-spectrum cephalosporins have been 49 50 recognized since 1988, and are increasing in prevalence worldwide. This is of particular concern for the treatment of salmonellosis in children, because 51 fluoroquinolones should not be used in this age group (Kruger et al., 2004; Yates 52 and Amyes, 2005). 53

To date, more than 340 β-lactamases have been described. *Salmonella* have been
found to express a wide variety of ESBL types, including TEM (Ait Mhand *et al.*,
2002), SHV (Hammami *et al.*, 1991), PER (Casin *et al.*, 2003), OXA (Hanson *et al.*,
2002), and CTX-M (Tamang *et al.*, 2011), and, more recently, plasmid-mediated
AmpC type enzymes, such as DHA-1 (Barnaud *et al.*, 1998), CMY-2 (Koeck *et al.*,
1997), and ACC-1 (Rhimi-Mahjoubi *et al.*, 2002).

In Algeria, ESBLs have been identified in nosocomial isolates of various *Enterobacteriaceae*, such as *E. coli*, *K. pneumoniae* and *E. cloacae* (Touati *et al.*,
2006; labadene *et al.*, 2008; Messai *et al.*, 2008, Ramdani-Bouguessa *et al.*, 2011).
However, only few reports for the presence of these enzymes in *Salmonella* have
been published (Naas *et al.*, 2005; Touati *et al.*, 2008; labadene *et al.*, 2009; Naas *et al.*, 2011; Bouzidi *et al.*, 2011).

In this study, we characterized the ESBLs in a collection of putative ESBL positive *Salmonella* spp. isolated from 1995 to 2008 at the Hussein Dey hospital in Algiers
(Algeria).

69 **METHODS**

70 Bacterial isolates

A collection of 14 non-duplicate amoxicillin-resistant *S. enterica* isolates was examined. They were obtained from stool samples of children between 1995 and 2008 at the Hussein Dey hospital in Algiers (Algeria). All isolates were biochemically identified by using the API 20E identification system (BioMérieux, Marcy l'Étoile, France).

All isolates were serotyped at the French National Reference Center for Salmonella, Institut Pasteur, Paris, France on the basis of somatic O, phase 1 flagellar, and phase 2 flagellar antigens by agglutination tests with antisera (BioRad, Marnes-lacoquette, France). The serotypes were designated according to the White-Kauffman-Le Minor scheme.

81 Susceptibility testing and ESBL detection

82 Disk diffusion susceptibility tests for aztreonam, ticarcillin, piperacillin, amoxicillinclavulanate, ticarcillin-clavulanate, cefoxitin, cefpirome, cefepime, piperacillin-83 tazobactam, cefuroxime, imipenem, tobramycin, amikacin, gentamicin, kanamycin, 84 sulfonamide. trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, nalidixic acid, ciprofloxacin. 85 tetracycline and chloramphenicol (BioRad) were performed according to the 86 recommendations of the Antibiogram Committee of the French Society for 87 Microbiology (http://www.sfm.asso.fr/). Minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs) for 88 amoxicillin, cefotaxime, ceftazidime and ceftriaxone were determined by Etest (AB 89 BIODISK, Solna, Sweden) performed on Mueller-Hinton agar plates as 90 recommended by the manufacturer. 91

92 Extended-Spectrum β-Lactamase (ESBL) production was detected by a double-disk
93 synergy test (DDST) and was performed by placing disks of ceftazidime, cefotaxime

and aztreonam at a distance of 20mm (centre to centre) from a disk with amoxicillin/clavulanic acid (20/10 μ g). Enhancement of the inhibition zone between the disks containing clavulanic acid and cefotaxime, ceftazidime or aztreonam indicated the ESBL production (Jarlier *et al.*, 1988).

98 β-Lactamases characterization

Total DNA was extracted by using the QIAmp DNA mini kit (Qiagen, Courtaboeuf, France) according to the instructions of the manufacturer. The ESBL-encoding genes bla_{TEM} , bla_{SHV} and bla_{CTX-M} were detected by PCR using specific primers (Table 1) and further identified by nucleotide sequence analysis of the PCR products. Sequences were analyzed using the BLAST 2.0 (Basic Local Alignment Search Tool) software available on the website of the National Center for Biotechnology Information (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/blast/BLAST.cgi)

106 **PCR fingerprinting**

For enterobacterial repetitive intergenic consensus (ERIC) PCR, whole-cell DNA of isolates was extracted using the QIAmp DNA mini kit (Qiagen). The primers were ERIC1 (5'-ATGTAAGCTCCTGGGGATTCAC-3') and ERIC2 (5'-

AAGTAAGTACTGGGGTGAGCG-3'). Each 23 µl PCR reaction mixture contained 25 110 pmol of each primer, 5mmol/L each deoxynucleotide triphosphate (dNTP) and 2.5 U 111 of Tag polymerase (Qiagen, Courtaboeuf, France) in the manufacturer's provided 112 buffer. Two microliters of total DNA (about 80 ng) was added to each reaction to 113 reach the final 25µl PCR reaction volume. The ERIC-PCR parameters were as 114 115 follows: initial denaturation at 95°C for 7 min; 30 cycles of denaturation at 92°C for 30 s, annealing at 50°C for 1 min, and extension at 65°C for 8 min; followed by a 116 final extension at 65°C for 16 min (Cao et al., 2008). PCR amplicons were resolved 117

- on 1% agarose gel containing ethidium bromide by horizontal electrophoresis in Tris-
- borate-EDTA buffer. Gels were visualized under UV light with Bio-Profil (Vilbert
- Lourmat, Torcy, France).

121 **RESULTS**

Fourteen strains belonging to *Salmonella enterica* serotypes Brunei (10 strains) and Heidelberg (4 strains) were isolated and serotyped in the laboratory and confirmed at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, France. Te strains were isolated from infants.

All isolates exhibited resistance or decreased susceptibilities to ticarcillin, ticarcillin-125 clavulanate, piperacillin, amoxicillin-clavulanate, cefuroxime, aztreonam, ceftazidime, 126 cefotaxime, cefepime and cefpirome (table 2). They remained susceptible to 127 imipenem, cefoxitin and piperacillin-tazobactam. The DDS test was positive for all of 128 these isolates. MICs determination showed that S. Brunei examined (Table 3) were 129 resistant to amoxicillin (MIC > $256\mu g/ml$), ceftazidime (MIC = $64\mu g/ml$), cefotaxime 130 $(MIC = 16\mu g/mI)$ and ceftriaxone $(MIC = 6\mu g/mI)$. For S. Heidelberg strains, 131 resistance were observed for all strains (amoxicillin: MIC > 256µg/ml, ceftazidime: 132 $MIC = 48\mu g/ml$, cefotaxime: $MIC > 32\mu g/ml$ and ceftriaxone: $MIC > 32\mu g/ml$) 133

All isolates were resistant to gentamicin and tobramycin. The isolates of *S*. Brunei were resistant to kanamycin and amikacin (except isolates of S9 and S12). Resistance to nalidixic acid was observed in all isolates of *S*. Heidelberg. All of the strains were susceptible to ciprofloxacin, cotrimoxazole, tetracycline and chloramphenicol. TEM consensus PCR assays gave the expected PCR fragments for the 10 strains of
S. Brunei (Table 2) and CTX-M amplifications were positive for the 4 strains of *S*.
Heidelberg. SHV amplification was negative.

Three isolates of *S.* Brunei (S9, S12 and S22) harbored the bla_{TEM-4} gene and the bla_{TEM-48} gene was found in six isolates of S. Brunei (S15, S16, S18, S20, S21 and S23). The four strains of *S.* Heidelberg were found to produce CTX-M-15.

One strain of S. Brunei (S10) was found to produce a new TEM. This protein has 145 been designated TEM-188 (http://www.lahey.org/studies/webt.htm, GenBank 146 Accession Number JN211012). The new TEM β-lactamase differed from TEM-1 by 147 three substitutions: Leu21Phe, Gly238Ser and Glu240Lys. These substitutions are 148 149 identical to those found in TEM-48. However, TEM-48 has an additional substitution, Thr265Met. Isolates producing TEM-48 and TEM-188 showed identical antibiotypes 150 (table 2 and 3) suggesting that the substitutionThr265Met in TEM-48 has no effect 151 on β-lactams susceptibility. 152

The ERIC-PCR method was applied to the six TEM-48-producing *S*. Brunei strains and the four CTX-M-15-producing-S.Heidelberg. Two ERIC-PCR patterns were observed, one for the six *S*. Brunei and a second one for the four *S*. Heidelberg, suggesting a clonal expansion for each resistant population defined by its serotype.

157 **Discussion**

There are a number of commonly identified serotypes of Salmonella associated with 158 human infections. In the United States, the most common serovars were 159 Typhimurium, Enteritidis, Newport, Heidelberg, and Javiana. In other parts of the 160 world, there are some differences in the predominant serovars associated with 161 disease. In the European Union, Enteritidis is the predominant serovar. In many 162 parts of Asia, Choleraesuis is one of the top serovars (Foley and Lynne, 2007). S. 163 Brunei has been rarely reported from animals, animal food products, and patients 164 165 with human salmonellosis. There are only 3 articles found on pubmed when we use Salmonella Brunei as keyword. 166

In our study, 10 strains of *S*. Brunei were recovered from infants during the period
1995 to 2008 whereas the 4 *S*. Heidelberg were recovered only in October 2008.
Unfortunately, data of the commonly identified serotypes in Algeria were not
available.

The largest subset of the population for which antibiotic susceptibility of Salmonella 171 is a major concern is children. Although, gastroenteritis is the most frequent clinical 172 manifestation, systemic infections are common, and even cases of meningitis have 173 been reported. Such serious infections are most common in children and the elderly. 174 Antibiotic therapy is strongly recommended in such cases (Arlet et al., 2006). 175 176 Extended-spectrum cephalosporins are commonly used to treat patient with invasive infections or severe diarrhea caused by Salmonellae; however, during the past years 177 extended-spectrum cephalosporins-resistant Salmonellae have frequently been 178 reported worldwide, including north Africa (Ahmed et al., 2009; Ohmani et al., 2010; 179 Bouzenoune *et al.*, 2011; Naas *et al.*, 2011). 180

The 1st salmonella strains with ESBLs in Africa were identified in 1988 in Tunisia 181 (Hammami et al., 1991). TEM-4 β-lactamase, which differed from the TEM-1 β-182 lactamase sequence by 4 substitutions (Leu21Phe, Glu104Lys, Gly238Ser and 183 Thr265Met), was first reported for E. coli in France by Paul et al. (Paul et al., 1989) 184 This enzyme was described in an isolate of Salmonella collected during a French 185 national survey in 1998 (De Champs et al., 2000) and reported in isolates of 186 Salmonella serotype Mbandaka in Tunisia (Makanera et al., 2003). This was the first 187 reported identification of the TEM-4 ESBL in Algerian Salmonella Brunei. 188

The amino acid substitutions of the sequence of TEM-48 compared to the TEM-1 β lactamase sequence were Leu21Phe, Gly238Ser, Glu240Lys and Thr265Met. TEM-48 was first described in *K. pneumoniae* strains in Poland in Poland (Gniadkowski *et al.*, 1998). To our knowledge, no report on TEM-48 isolated from *Salmonella* has been previously published. Moreover, all isolates of *S*. Brunei producing TEM-48 were resistant to aminoglycosides and sulfonamide.

CTX-M-15 was identified in different salmonella serotypes, but to our knowledge, this 195 196 is the first report of CTX-M-15 in S. Heidelberg isolates. CTX-M-15-producing Salmonella isolates were reported in different serotypes in Algeria, including Infantis 197 (Naas et al., 2011) and Kedougou (Touati et al., 2008). The four isolates of S. 198 Heidelberg were found resistant to nalidixic acid, but susceptible to fluoroquinolones. 199 PCR for the plasmid-mediated mechanisms were negative for the four isolates, 200 suggesting that the nalidixic resistance was probably mediated by mutations in 201 202 topoisomerases.

PCR-mediated genome fingerprinting based on ERIC or REP has been found useful
for the typing of outbreak and sporadic *Salmonella* isolates (Merino *et al.*, 2003).

205 Nosocomial outbreaks due to ESBLs-producing Salmonella have been described in many countries, such as the outbreak in Tunisia due to TEM-4-producing S. 206 Mbandaka (Makanera et al., 2003). The great majority of them have involved 207 208 pediatric wards and especially neonatology units. In the community, many outbreaks have been reported and were largely foodborne outbreaks (Arlet et al., 2006). The 209 two clonal strains observed in our study, were recovered throughout the 13-year 210 study period. The S. Brunei-producing TEM-48 strains were recovered from 211 neonatology ward, except one strain recovered from cradle ward, whereas the S. 212 213 Heidelberg-producing CTX-M-15 strains were isolated in cradle ward in which the age of children is about 3 months. These observations indicated that gastrointestinal 214 infections were caused mainly by clonally related Salmonella serotype isolates and 215 216 clonal spread was responsible for their dissemination.

Salmonellosis is most often attributed to the consumption of contaminated foods such as poultry, beef, pork, eggs, milk, seafood, nut products, and fresh produce (Foley and Lynne, 2007). In this outbreak, food as a source was excluded because milk was commercially prepared and other infants, hospitalized in the same ward at the same period, were fed with the same preparations but did not become infected with these strains. Therefore, a horizontal transmission of the outbreak strain had probably occurred.

In conclusion, this study demonstrates the emergence of a public health risk related to β -lactams resistance in *Salmonella* in Algeria. The implementation of effective screening methods for the detection of beta-lactamases and ESBLs as well as the establishment of surveillance programs became key factors in the control of hospital outbreaks.

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Table 1: Primers used in this study

Target	Primer	Primer sequence	Reference				
bla _{CTX-M}	CTX-M1- A2	5'-CTTCCAGAATAAGGAATC-3'	Dutour <i>et al.,</i> 2002				
	628R	5'-CCTTTCATCCATGTCACCA-3'	Brasme <i>et al.,</i> 2007				
	405F	5'-GTGGCGATGAATAAGCTGA-3'	Brasme <i>et al.,</i> 2007				
	CTX-M1- B2	5'-CCGTTTCCGCTATTACAA-3'	Dutour <i>et al.,</i> 2002				
bla _{TEM}	TEM-A	5'-TAAAATTCTTGAAGACG-3'	Chanal <i>et al.,</i> 2000				
	TEM-B	5'-TTACCAATGCTTAATCA-3'	Chanal et al., 2000				
bla_{SHV}	SHV-F	5'-ATGCGTTATATTCGCCTGTG-3'	Kotimo et al 2005				
	SHV-R	5'-TTAGCGTTGCCAGTGCTCGA-3'	Kojima <i>et al.,</i> 2005				

Isolates	Isolation date	Ward	СХМ	TIC	PIP	AMC	FEP	СРО	TCC	ATM	СТХ	CAZ	TZP	IMP	FOX	Additional resistance	ESBL type
S. Brunei S10	23/04/1997	Neonatology	19 [R]	6 [R]	6 [R]	19 [l]	22 [l]	21 [l]	19 [R]	12 [R]	25 [l]	12 [R]	25 [S]	35 [S]	30 [S]	GEN, TOB, KAN, AMK	TEM-188
S. Brunei S12	20/09/1994	Neonatology	11 [R]	6 [R]	6 [R]	24 [S]	21 [l]	21 [l]	23 [l]	24 [l]	25 [l]	17 [R]	28 [S]	35 [S]	30 [S]	GEN, TOB, KAN	TEM-4
S. Brunei S15	19/03/2008	Neonatology	16 [R]	6 [R]	6 [R]	19 [l]	22 [l]	20 [I]	19 [R]	12 [R]	23 [l]	10 [R]	23 [S]	35 [S]	31 [S]	GEN, TOB, KAN, AMK, SUL	TEM-48
S. Brunei S16	27/03/2008	Cradle	18 [R]	6 [R]	6 [R]	19 [l]	22 [l]	20 [I]	19 [R]	12 [R]	23 [l]	14 [R]	23 [S]	36 [S]	30 [S]	GEN, TOB, KAN, AMK, SUL	TEM-48
S. Brunei S18	25/06/1998	Neonatology	17 [R]	6 [R]	6 [R]	19 [l]	22 [l]	21 [l]	20 [R]	12 [R]	23 [l]	10 [R]	23 [S]	35 [S]	29 [S]	GEN, TOB, KAN, AMK, SUL	TEM-48
S. Brunei S20	19/03/2008	Neonatology	18 [R]	6 [R]	6 [R]	19 [l]	22 [l]	21 [l]	20 [R]	11 [R]	23 [l]	10 [R]	23 [S]	34 [S]	30 [S]	GEN, TOB, KAN, AMK, SUL	TEM-48
S. Brunei S21	12/12/1995	Neonatology	18 [R]	6 [R]	6 [R]	19 [l]	21 [l]	20 [I]	19 [R]	12 [R]	23 [l]	10 [R]	23 [S]	35 [S]	30 [S]	GEN, TOB, KAN, AMK, SUL	TEM-48
S. Brunei S22	26/07/1998	Neonatology	18 [R]	6 [R]	6 [R]	19 [l]	22 [l]	21 [l]	19 [R]	12 [R]	24 [l]	11 [R]	23 [S]	35 [S]	30 [S]	GEN, TOB, KAN, AMK	TEM-4
S. Brunei S23	12/02/1995	Neonatology	18 [R]	6 [R]	6 [R]	19 [l]	22 [l]	21 [l]	19 [R]	12 [R]	24 [l]	11 [R]	23 [S]	36 [S]	31 [S]	GEN, TOB, KAN, AMK, SUL	TEM-48
S. Brunei S9	22/03/1998	Neonatology	19 [R]	6 [R]	6 [R]	19 [l]	23 [l]	22 [l]	20 [R]	11 [R]	25 [l]	10 [R]	25 [S]	36 [S]	31 [S]	GEN, TOB, KAN	TEM-4
S. Heidelberg S1	26/10/2008	Cradle	6 [R]	6 [R]	6 [R]	24 [S]	11 [R]	9 [R]	22 [R]	12 [R]	11 [R]	14 [R]	26 [S]	36 [S]	31 [S]	GEN, TOB, NAL	CTX-M-15
S. Heidelberg S2	26/10/2008	Cradle	6 [R]	6 [R]	6 [R]	24 [S]	14 [R]	10 [R]	22 [R]	12 [R]	10 [R]	14 [R]	26 [S]	35 [S]	30 [S]	GEN, TOB, NAL	CTX-M-15
S. Heidelberg S3	16/10/2008	Cradle	6 [R]	6 [R]	6 [R]	24 [S]	14 [R]	10 [R]	22 [R]	12 [R]	10 [R]	13 [R]	28 [S]	35 [S]	30 [S]	GEN, TOB, NAL	CTX-M-15
S. Heidelberg S8	03/10/2008	Cradle	6 [R]	6 [R]	6 [R]	24 [S]	13 [R]	10 [R]	25 [R]	12 [R]	8 [R]	14 [R]	26 [S]	35 [S]	30 [S]	GEN, TOB, NAL	CTX-M-15

Table 2: Characteristics of Algerian clinical isolates of S. Brunei and S. Heidelberg resistant to broad-spectrum cephalosporins

Legend:

CXM: cefuroxime, TIC: ticarcillin, PIP: piperacillin, AMC: amoxicillin-clavulanate, FEP: cefepime, CPO: cefprirom, CTX: cefotaxim, CAZ: ceftazidime, TZP: piperacillin-tazobactam, IMP: imipenem, FOX: cefoxitin, GEN: gentamicin, TOB: tobramycin, Kan: kanamycine, AMK: amikacin, SUL: sulfonamide, [R]: Resistant, [S]: Susceptible, [I]: Intermediary.

Code	ESBL	СТХ	AMX	CFT	CAZ
S. Heidelberg S1	CTX-M-15	>32	>256	>32	48
S. Heidelberg S2	CTX-M-15	>32	>256	>32	48
S. Heidelberg S3	CTX-M-15	>32	>256	>32	48
S. Heidelberg S8	CTX-M-15	>32	>256	>32	48
S. Brunei S10	TEM-188	16	>256	12	32
S. Brunei S12	TEM-4	16	>256	6	64
S. Brunei S22	TEM-4	16	>256	6	64
S. Brunei S9	TEM-4	16	>256	6	64
S. Brunei S15	TEM-48	16	>256	6	64
S. Brunei S16	TEM-48	16	>256	6	64
S. Brunei S18	TEM-48	16	>256	6	64
S. Brunei S20	TEM-48	16	>256	6	64
S. Brunei S21	TEM-48	16	>256	6	64
S. Brunei S23	TEM-48	16	>256	6	64

Table 3: MICs of β -lactams for S. Brunei and S. Heidelberg producing ESBL

Legend: AMX: amoxicillin, CTX: cefotaxime, CAZ: ceftazidime, CFT: ceftriaxone