

# Detection of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* from foods, animals and environmental samples

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*ERFAN Laboratory training course 17-21 October 2022*

*“Detection and characterization of *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *Salmonella* spp.”*

# One Health EJP MedVetKlebs

**MedVetKlebs:** *Klebsiella pneumoniae*: from ecology to source attribution and transmission control.

**Start:** 1 January 2018  
**Duration:** 2 Years  
**Domain:** Foodborne Zoonoses  
**Keywords:** *K. pneumoniae*; Harmonization of detection and isolation, environmental niches, population biology, transmission modelling.  
**Contact:** Sylvain Brisse (IP)



<https://onehealthejp.eu/jrp-medvetklebs/>

# One Health EJP MedVetKlebs



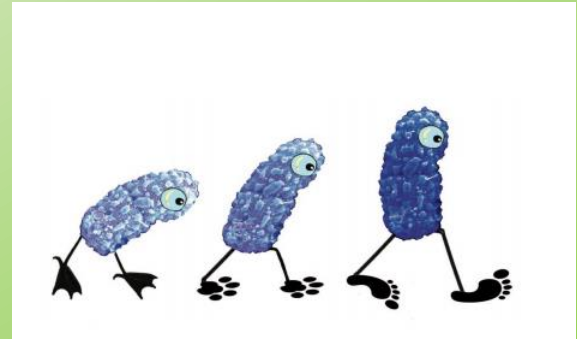
- 2018-2020
- 6 European countries: France, Italy, Ireland, Austria, Denmark, Netherlands
- IP, INRA, ANSES, AGES, SSI, DTU, UCD, IZSAM, NCOH, NUIG

MedVetKlebs is a multidisciplinary international project that aims to define the ecology of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and the sources of infections of humans and animals in order to investigate transmission routes and to find an optimal way to control them.

# One Health EJP MedVetKlebs

MedVetKlebs aims to improve of public and animal health through a better control of Kp infections by:

1. Developing and harmonizing detection and isolation methods;
2. Ensuring a broad sampling of ecological niches and deep sampling of potential sources;
3. Performing genomics analysis and transmission modeling, including development of new methods for source attribution and risk assessment.



# MedVetKlebs: workflow

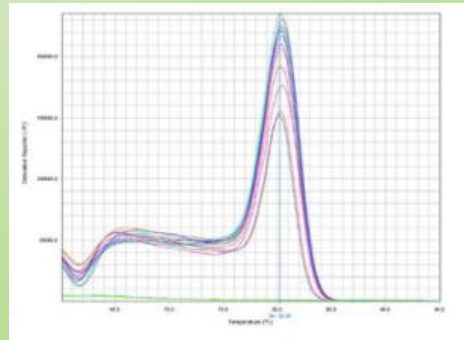
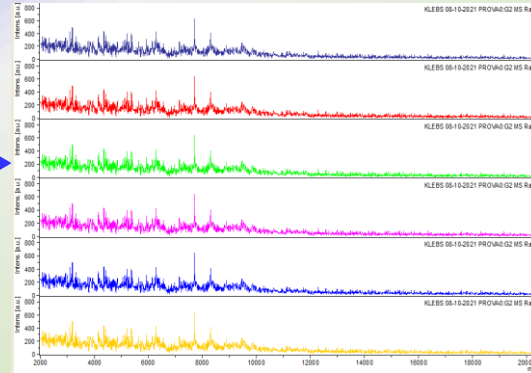
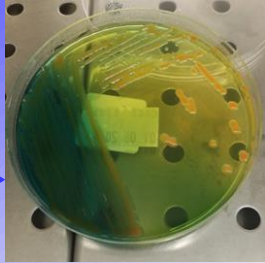

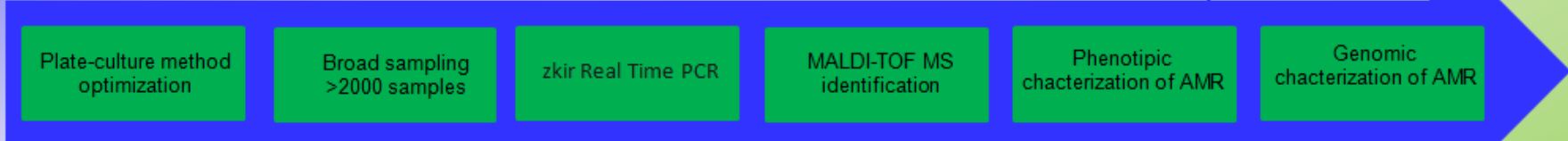


Plate Code: **GN3F**


	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	AMI 64	A/S2 32/16	FAZ 32	CEP 16	ETP 16	GEN 16	P/T4 128/4	SXT 4/76	TAZ 32	TGC 8	AXO 64	TET 16
B	AMI 32	A/S2 16/8	FAZ 16	CEP 8	ETP 8	GEN 8	P/T4 64/4	SXT 2/38	TAZ 16	TGC 4	AXO 32	TET 8
C	AMI 16	A/S2 8/4	FAZ 8	CEP 4	ETP 4	GEN 4	P/T4 32/4	SXT 1/19	TAZ 8	TGC 2	AXO 16	TET 4
D	AMI 8	A/S2 4/2	FAZ 4	CEP 2	ETP 2	GEN 2	P/T4 16/4	SXT 0.5/9.5	TAZ 4	TGC 1	AXO 8	TET 2
E	AMP 32	AZT 32	FEP 32	MERO 8	FUR 32	CIP 4	FOX 32	POD 16	TOB 2	TIM2 64/2	AXO 4	TET 1
F	AMP 16	AZT 16	FEP 16	MERO 4	FUR 16	CIP 2	FOX 16	POD 8	TOB 1	TIM2 32/2	AXO 2	TET 0.5
G	AMP 8	AZT 8	FEP 8	MERO 2	FUR 8	CIP 1	FOX 8	POD 4	TOB 8	TIM2 16/2	AXO 1	NEG CON
H	AMP 4	AZT 4	FEP 4	MERO 1	FUR 4	CIP 0.5	FOX 4	POD 2	TOB 4	POS CON	POS CON	POS CON



**ANTIMICROBICS**

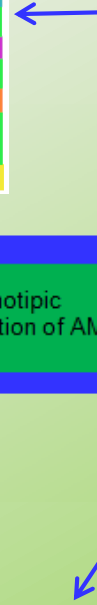
- AMI Amikacin
- AMP Ampicillin
- A/S2 Ampicillin/sulbactam 2:1 ratio
- AZT Aztreonam
- FAZ Cefazolin
- FEP Cefepime
- CEP Cephalothin
- MERO Meropenem
- ETP Ertapenem
- FUR Cefuroxime
- GEN Gentamicin
- CIP Ciprofloxacin
- P/T4 Piperacillin / tazobactam constant 4
- FOX Cefoxitin
- SXT Trimethoprim / sulfamethoxazole
- POD Cefpodoxime
- TAZ Ceftazidime
- TOB Tobramycin
- TGC Tigecycline
- TIM2 Ticarcillin / clavulanic acid constant 2
- AXO Ceftriaxone
- TET Tetracycline

**Klebsiella Sequence Typing**



-  Sequences and profiles database
-  Isolates database



## Evaluation and Optimization of culture based method

**Productivity, Selectivity and Specificity calculated for 3 different selective media according to ISO 11133:2014**

- Simmons Citrate Agar + Inositol (SCAI) (IZSAM, Italy)
- Klebsiella ChromoSelect Selective Agar base (Sigma-Aldrich, Missouri, USA)
- Chromatic Detection chromogenic agar plate (Liofilchem, Italy)
- 50 *Klebsiella* spp. Reference Strains from Institut Pasteur
- 8 strains of closely related species
- A non – selective agar for comparison e.g. Nutritive agar (IZSAM, Italy)



# MedVetKlebs: WP1

<b>Scai agar</b>	<b>Ingredients</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
BASIC MEDIA	Sodium citrate	2.0 g
	Sodium chloride (NaCl)	5.0 g
	KH <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>4</sub>	1.0 g
	Ammonium dihydrogen phosphate (NH <sub>4</sub> H <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> )	1.0 g
	Magnesium sulphate	0.2 g
	Bromothymol blue	0.08 g
	Agar	12 g
	Sterile deionized water	1.000 ml
SUPPLEMENTS	Myo-Inositol	1.0 g
	Sterile deionized water	100 ml



## 90925 *Klebsiella ChromoSelect* Selective Agar Base

*Klebsiella ChromoSelect* Selective Agar for selective isolation and easy detection of *Klebsiella* species from water and other sources. This medium can also be used in membrane filtration procedure.

Composition:

Ingredients	Grams/Litre
Peptone, special	12.0
Yeast extract	7.0
Sodium chloride	5.0
Bile salts mixture	1.5
Chromogenic mixture	0.2
Sodium lauryl sulfate	0.1
Agar	15.0
Final pH 7.1 +/- 0.2 at 25°C	

Store prepared media below 8°C, protected from direct light. Store dehydrated powder, in a dry place, in tightly-sealed containers at 2-25°C.

Appearance: Faintly beige to yellow coloured, homogeneous, free flowing powder.

Gelling: Firm

Color and Clarity: Light amber coloured, clear to slightly opalescent gel forms in petri plates.



## Chromatic™ Detection

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE  
ENGLISH

Chromogenic medium for the enumeration and identification of microorganisms directly from clinical and nonclinical specimens.

### DESCRIPTION

Chromatic™ Detection is a chromogenic medium used for the enumeration and identification of microorganisms directly from clinical and nonclinical specimens.

The medium allows to carry out indole test for confirmation of *Escherichia coli*.

### TYPICAL FORMULA

(g/l)

Peptone	14.0
Tryptone	6.0
Yeast Extract	3.0
Sodium Chloride	5.0
Chromogenic Mix	13.1
Agar	15.0

Final pH 7.2 ± 0.2 at 25°C

### METHOD PRINCIPLE

Peptone and tryptone provide amino acids, nitrogen, carbon, vitamins and minerals for organisms growth. Yeast extract is a source of vitamins, particularly of B-group. Sodium chloride maintains the osmotic balance of the medium. Chromogenic mix allows to identify microorganisms on the basis of the color and morphology of the colonies. Agar is the solidifying agent.

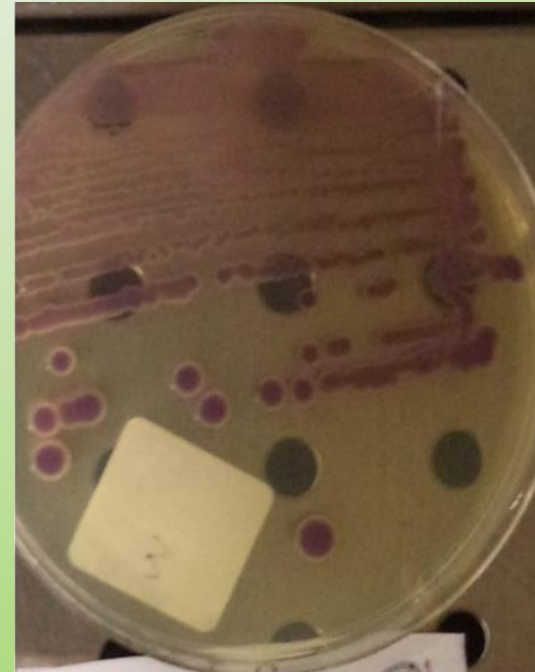
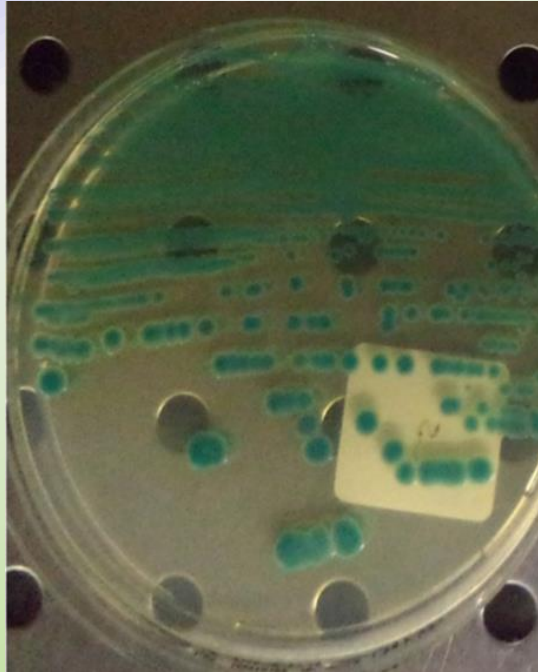
### ID Table.

Microorganism	Typical colony color
<i>E. coli</i>	Pink-reddish-mauve
<i>Klebsiella</i> spp, <i>Enterobacter</i> spp, <i>Serratia</i> spp	Green-blue
<i>Proteus</i> spp	Brown
<i>Pseudomonas</i> spp	Yellowish-green
<i>S. aureus</i>	Cream
<i>E. faecalis</i>	Green-turquoise
<i>S. saprophyticus</i>	Light pink

SCAI

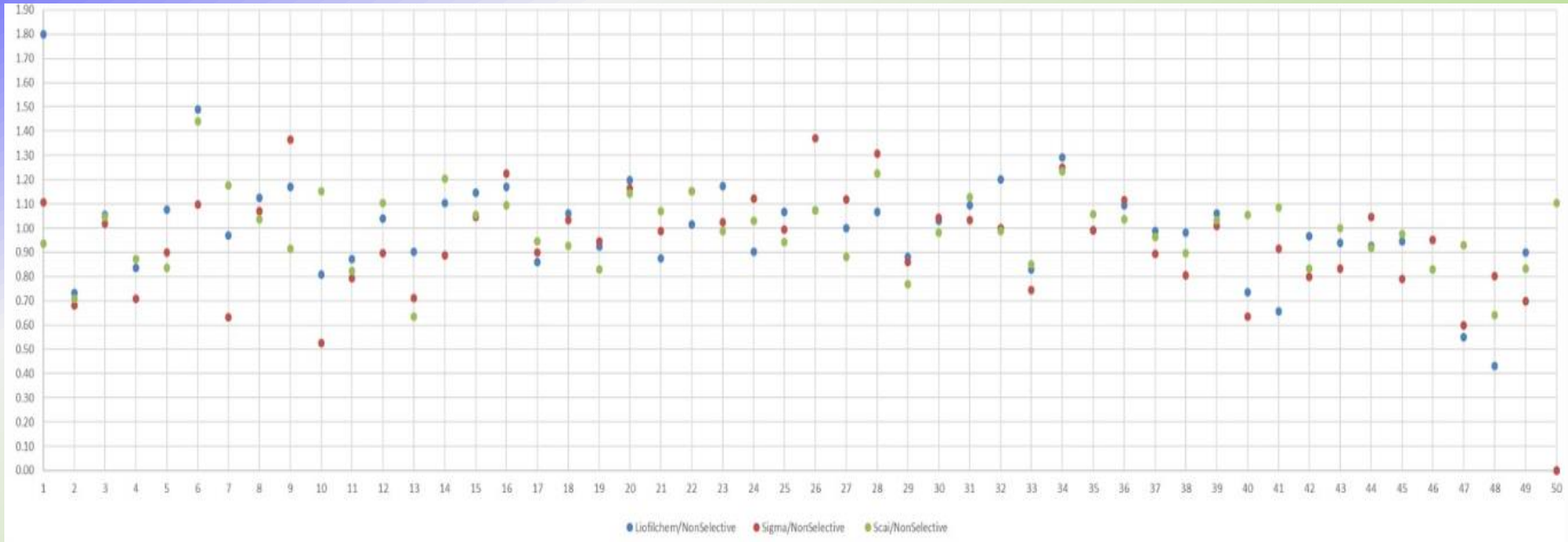
LIOFILCHEM  
CHROMATIC  
DETECTION

CHROMO  
SELECT  
SIGMA-  
ALDRICH



# MedVetKlebs: WP1

The 3 media were compliant for productivity, Pr value was  $>0.5$  for almost all target strains and showed similar productivity.



# MedVetKlebs: WP1

For selectivity ( $S_F$ ), 7 non target strains (*Cronobacter* spp., *Citrobacter koseri*, *Citrobacter freundii*, *Serratia marcescens*, *Serratia liquefaciens*, *Serratia rubidaea*, and *Pantoea agglomerans*) were tested on the SCAI and *Klebsiella* ChromoSelect selective agar.

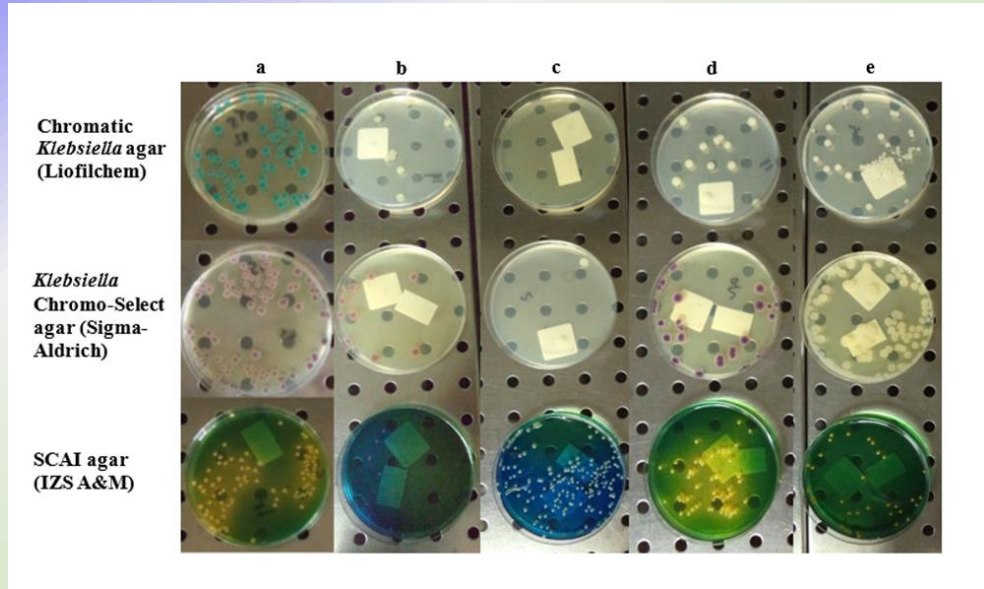
Media did not comply with the selectivity criteria ( $SF >2$ ) for most of the non target strains considered; *Klebsiella* ChromoSelect agar was selective for *Cronobacter* spp. and *Citrobacter freundii*.

Id strain	species	Scai	Sigma
SB539	<i>Enterobacter aerogenes</i>	-0,11	-0,10
SB538	<i>Enterobacter aerogenes</i>	0,00	0,11
SB3629	<i>Enterobacter aerogenes</i>	0,49	0,15
3428LN18	<i>Cronobacter</i> spp.	9,58	0,05
3556LN18-3	<i>Citrobacter koseri</i>	0,50	-0,54
3656LN18-10	<i>Serratia marcescens</i>	-0,29	0,09
4726LN18-5	<i>Serratia liquefaciens</i>	0,33	0,89
4726LN18-9	<i>Serratia rubidaea</i>	0,20	0,26
5136LN18-3	<i>Pantoea agglomerans</i>	0,11	0,33
5136LN18-5	<i>Citrobacter freundii</i>	3,96	0,31



# MedVetKlebs: WP1

Regarding specificity, the selective media tested showed variable results regarding the morphological features of observed colonies, based on the nontarget strains considered. The selective media, indeed, allowed the growth of some non-Klebsiella species strains, and in few cases, colonies were morphologically similar to the target strains.

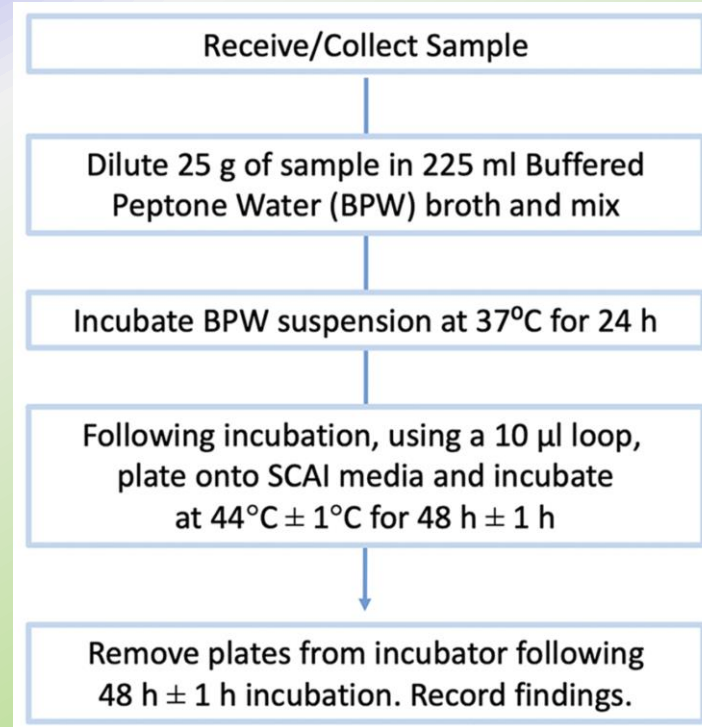


Growth of 4 non-target microorganism on different media compared to the target *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (a); *Citrobacter freundii* (b); *Cronobacter spp.* (c); *Serratia rubidaea* (d); *Serratia marcescens* (e).

Selection of SCAI medium for the detection of Kp

# MedVetKlebs: WP1

- We compared two temperatures (37°C and 44°C) for the incubation of SCAI plates
- A slightly higher percentage of positive samples was recorded following incubation of SCAI plates at 44°C



[dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.baxtifnn](https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.baxtifnn)



# Kp: Detection from foods

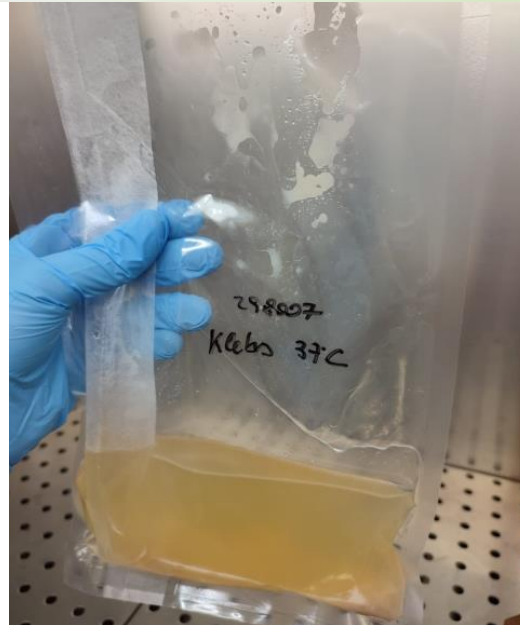


- 25 g or 25 ml of analytical portion+ 225 ml of Buffered Peptone Water (BPW).
- For analytical portions < 25 g/ml, add to the analytical portion a volume of BPW to maintain a weight/volume ratio of 1:10.



# Kp: Detection from foods

Mix the sample for 60 seconds  
using a stomacher or manually



Incubate  
Enrichment  
Broth at **37° C**  
For 18-24 h

# Kp: Detection from water samples



- Samples of seawater or wastewater (250 ml)
- Laboratory Filtration system with Vacuum Pump and 0.45  $\mu\text{m}$  nitrocellulose membrane.
- Filter + 225 ml BPW.
- Incubation of enrichment broth at **37 °C** for 18-24 h.



# Kp: Detection from animals



- Samples of faeces, brain, intestine, tissues and other diagnostic samples.
- 25 g or 25 ml of analytical portion+ 225 ml of Buffered Peptone Water (BPW).
- For analytical portions < 25 g/ml, add to the analytical portion a volume of BPW to maintain a weight/volume ratio of 1:10.
- Incubation of enrichment broth at **37 °C** for 18-24 h



# Kp: Detection from environmental samples



- The sponge is ready to use and is hydrated with 10 ml of diluent or Dey Engley neutralizing broth for environmental surfaces sampling.

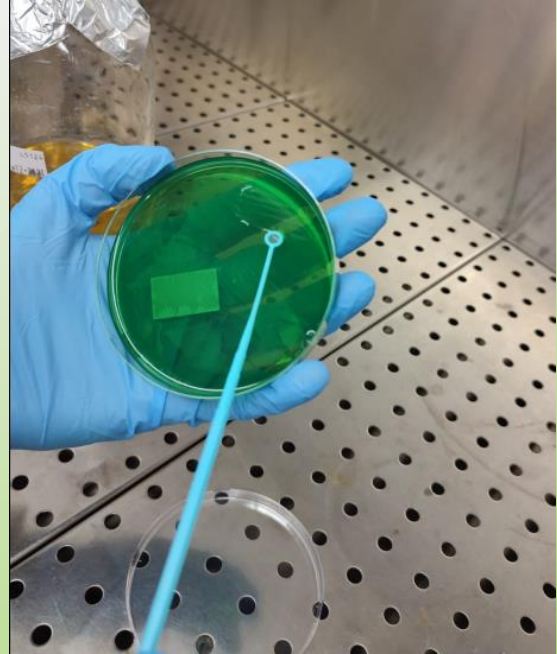
- After surface sampling add **90 ml** of BPW to the sponge and incubate at **37 °C** for 18-24 h



# Kp: Plate-culture

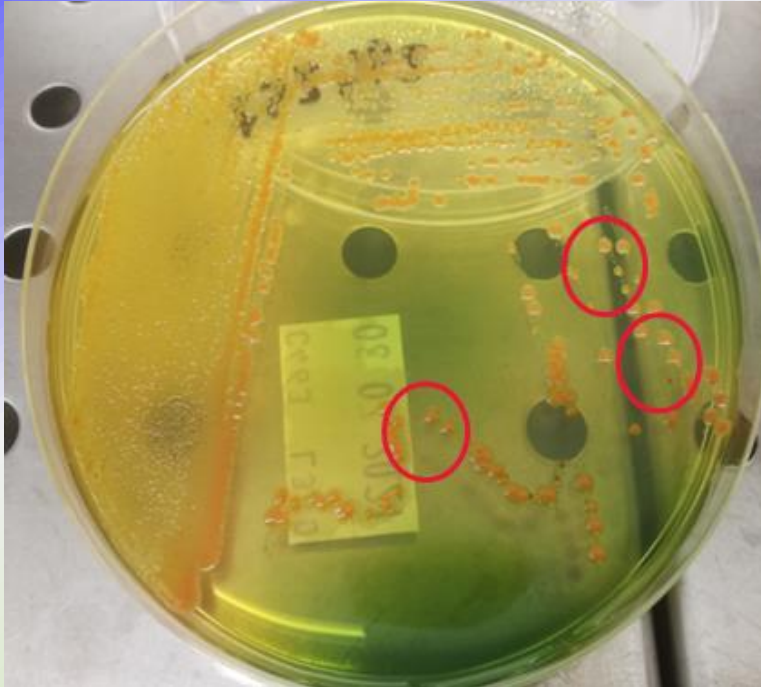
After Incubation of BPW  
at 37° C

Streak 10 µl loop on  
SCAI plates or other  
selective media



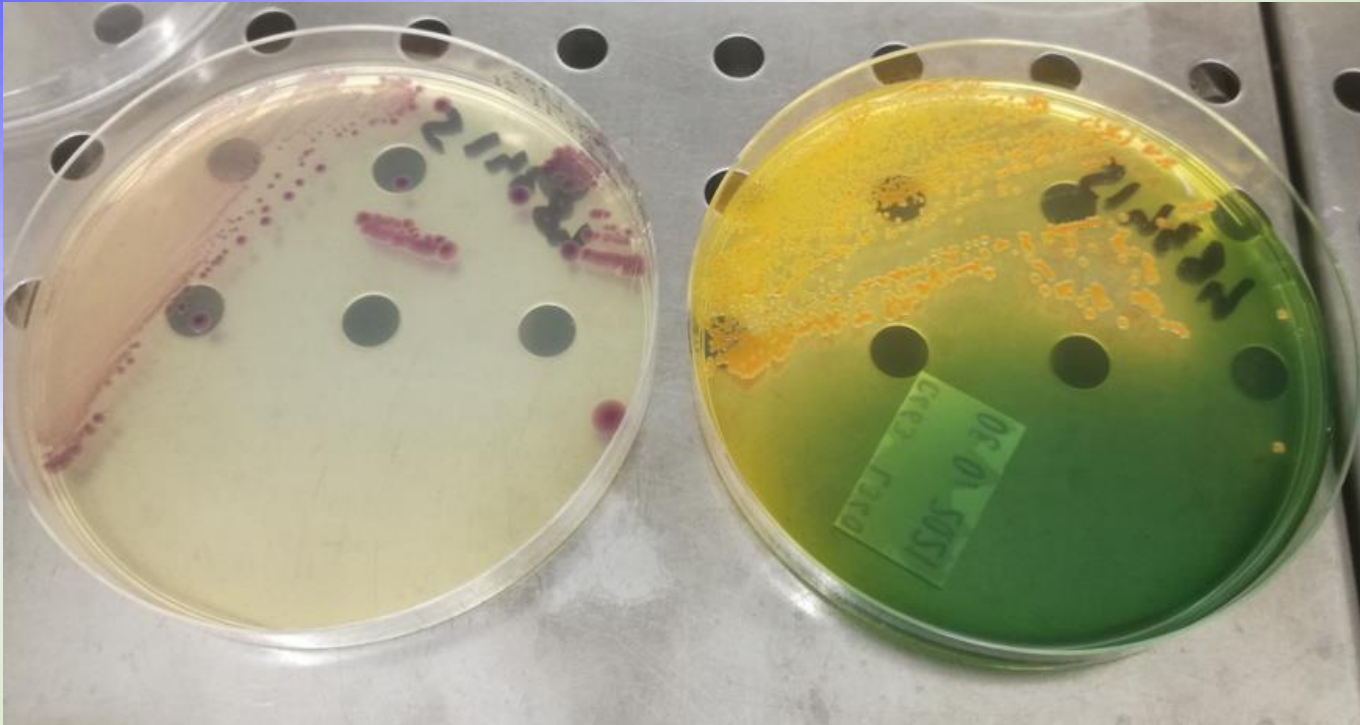
Incubation of  
plates at **44 °C**  
for **48 h**

# Kp: Selection of suspected colonies





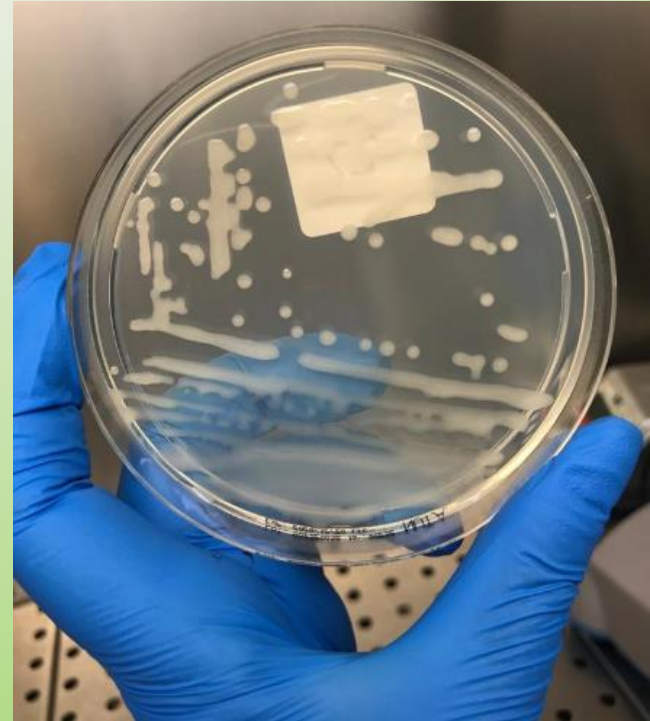
# Kp: Selection of suspected and typical colonies



At 44 °C less  
interferences  
caused by  
other bacterial  
species

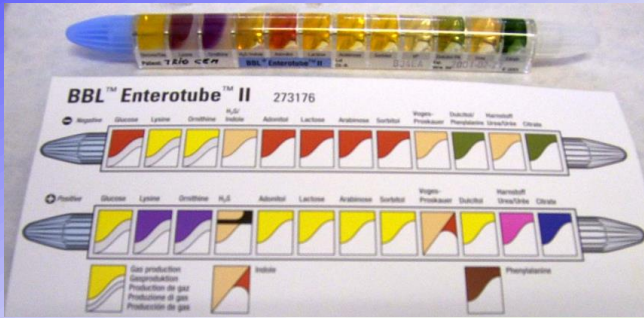
# Kp: Selection of suspected and typical colonies

- Selection of 5 presumptive colonies (if present) or all the colonies if <5
- Sub-culture onto Nutrient agar
- Plates incubated at 37 °C for 24h to obtain single pure colonies



# Kp: Identification

## Enterotube



## VITEK2 Biomerieux



## API20E

oxidase -ve  
 indol -ve  
 H2S -ve  
 citrate +ve



# Kp: Identification

## VITEK2 Lab. Report

Istituto Zooprofilattico G. Caporale - TE

Cliente bioMerieux:  
N. sistema:

Lab report

Stampato 21-mar-2019 08:55 CET  
Stampato da: batteriologia1

Gruppo di isolati: 1278LN19/3-1

Tipo di card: GN Test dello strumento: 00000EBB56E9 (2249)

Bionumero: 4607734777565252  
Quantità organismo:

Commenti:


Informazioni sull'identificazione	Card: GN	Numero di lotto: 2410732103	Scade: 28-nov-2019 12:00 CET
	Completato: 20-mar-2019 18:32 CET	Stato: Finale	Tempo di analisi: 5,75 ore
Microrganismo selezionato	Probabilità 96% <b>Klebsiella pneumoniae ssp pneumoniae</b>		
	Bionumero: 4607734777565252	Affidabilità:	Identificazione eccellente

### Dettagli biochimici

2	APPA	-	3	ADO	-	4	PyrA	+	5	IARL	-	7	dCEL	+	9	BGAL	+
10	H2S	-	11	BNAG	-	12	AGLTp	-	13	dGLU	+	14	GGT	+	15	OFF	+
17	BGLU	+	18	dMAL	+	19	dMAN	+	20	dMNE	+	21	BXYL	+	22	BAIap	-
23	ProA	-	26	LIP	-	27	PLE	+	29	TyrA	+	31	URE	+	32	dSOR	+
33	SAC	+	34	dTAG	+	35	dTRE	+	36	CIT	+	37	MNT	+	39	5KG	+
40	ILATk	+	41	AGLU	-	42	SUCT	+	43	NAGA	-	44	AGAL	+	45	PHOS	+
46	GlyA	+	47	ODC	-	48	LDC	+	53	IHISa	-	56	CMT	+	57	BGUR	(-)
58	O129R	+	59	GGAA	-	61	IMLTa	+	62	ELLM	-	64	ILATa	+			

# Kp: Identification

## VITEK2 Lab. Report

Istituto Zooprofilattico G. Caporale - TE

Cliente bioMerieux:  
N. sistema:

Lab report

Stampato 21-mar-2019 08:54 CET  
Stampato da: batteriologia1

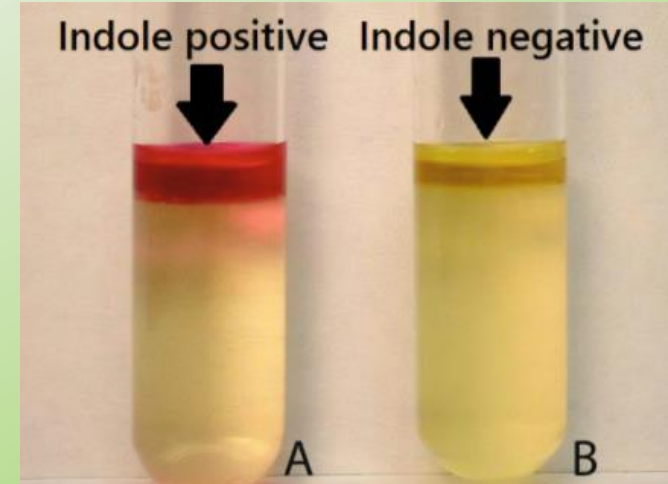
Gruppo di isolati: 1277LN19/5-1

Tipo di card: GN Test dello strumento: 00000EBB56E9 (2249)

Bionumero: 6607735577565352  
Quantità organismo:

Commenti:	

Informazioni sull'identificazione	Card: GN	Numero di lotto: 2410732103	Scade: 28-nov-2019 12:00 CET
	Completato: 20-mar-2019 22:17 CET	Stato: Finale	Tempo di analisi: 9,50 ore
Microrganismo selezionato	Low Discrimination		
	Bionumero: 6607735577565352	Affidabilità: Discriminazione insufficiente	
Microrganismo SRF			
Microrganismi di analisi e test da separare:			
Low Discrimination Organism			
Klebsiella pneumoniae ssp pneumoniae IND(1),			
Klebsiella oxytoca IND(99),			

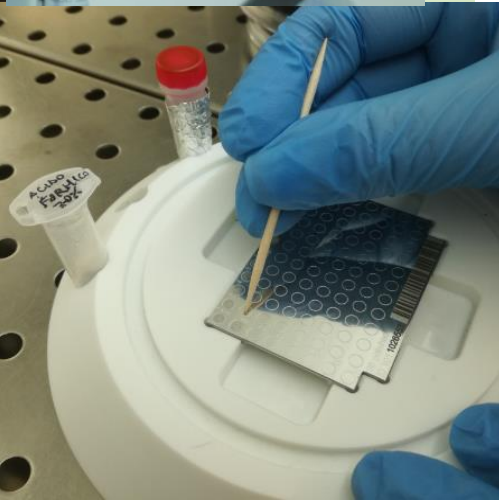
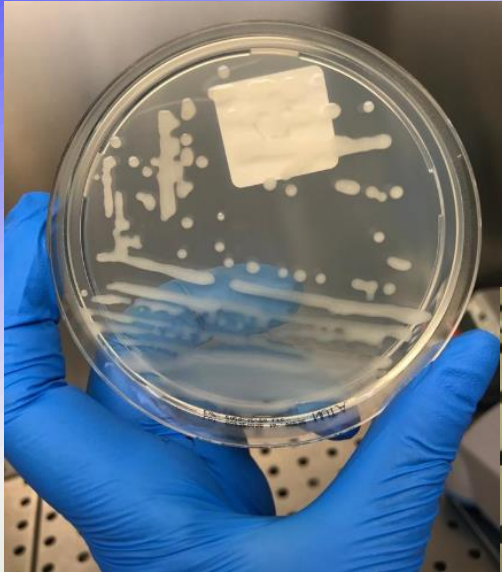


*K. oxytoca*

*K.pneumoniae*

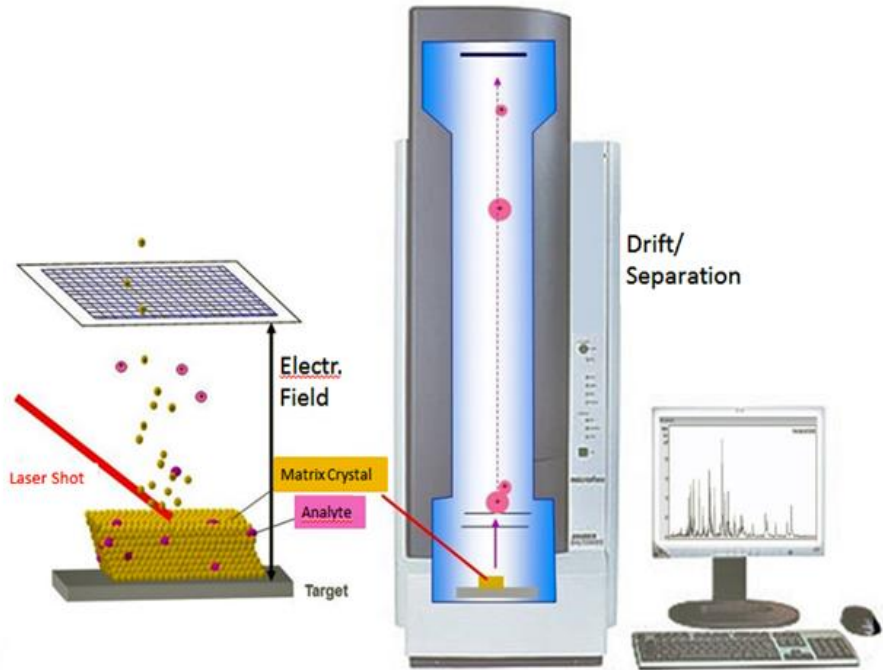


# Kp: Identification



**MALDI-TOF MASS  
SPECTROMETRY**

# Kp: Identification



## Result Overview

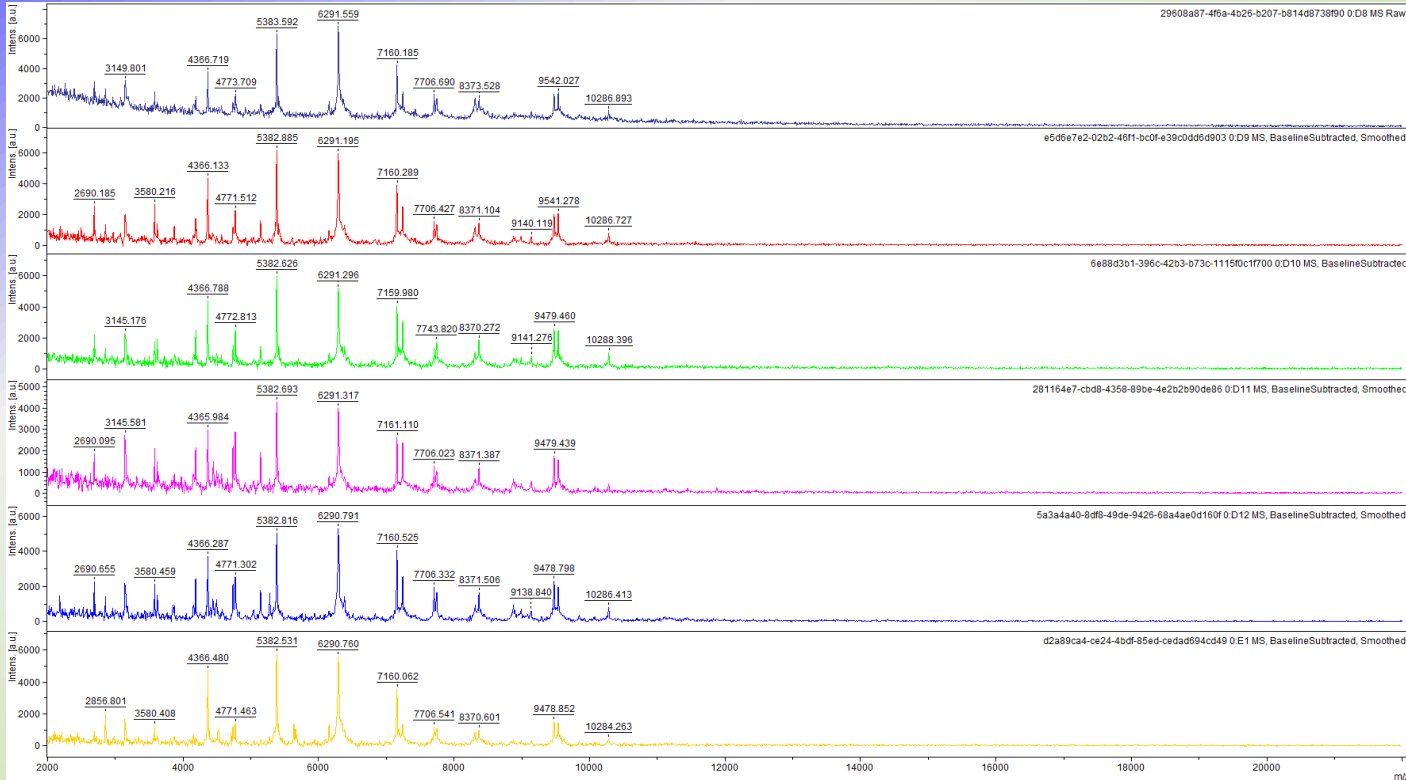
Sample Name	Sample ID	Organism (best match)	Score Value	Organism (second-best match)	Score Value
A1 (+++)(A)	294259 col. A (Standard)	<a href="#">Klebsiella pneumoniae</a>	2.35	<a href="#">Klebsiella pneumoniae</a>	2.18
A2 (+++)(A)	294259 col. B (Standard)	<a href="#">Klebsiella pneumoniae</a>	2.18	<a href="#">Klebsiella pneumoniae</a>	2.09
A3 (+++)(A)	294259 col. D (Standard)	<a href="#">Escherichia coli</a>	2.30	<a href="#">Escherichia coli</a>	2.12
A4 (+++)(A)	48341S col. A (Standard)	<a href="#">Klebsiella variicola</a>	2.13	<a href="#">Klebsiella variicola</a>	2.10
A5 (+)(B)	48341S col. B (Standard)	<a href="#">Klebsiella variicola</a>	1.82	<a href="#">Klebsiella variicola</a>	1.80

## Meaning of Score Values

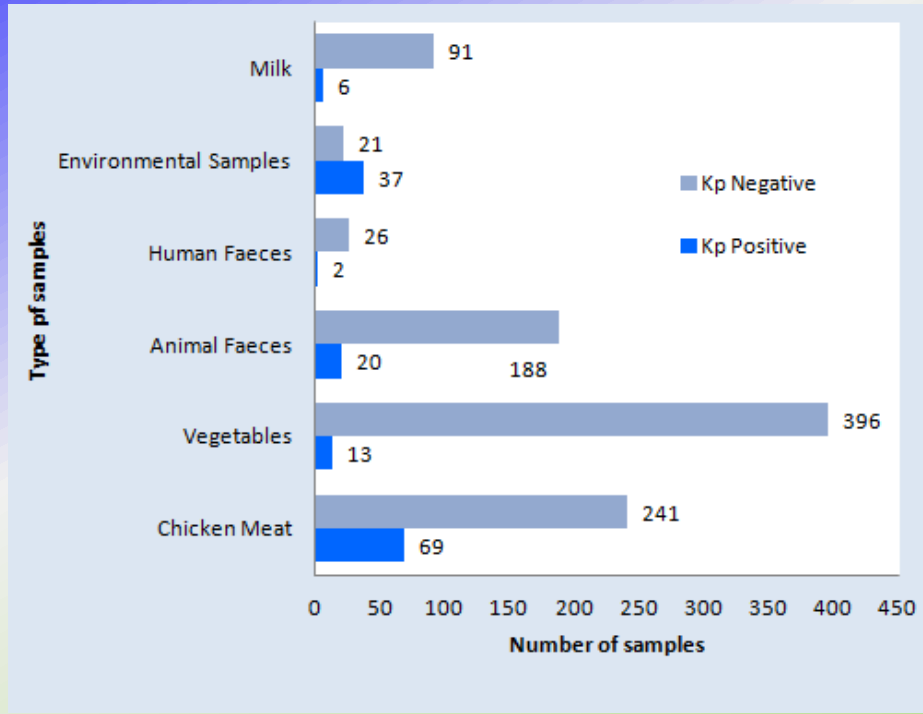
Range	Interpretation	Symbols	Color
2.00 - 3.00	High-confidence identification	(+++)	green
1.70 - 1.99	Low-confidence identification	(+)	yellow
0.00 - 1.69	No Organism Identification Possible	(-)	red



# Kp: MALDI-TOF Spectra



# MedVetKlebs: some results



Raw milk: **6,2 %**  
 Environment  
 (food production): **63 %**  
 Human faeces: **7,1 %**  
 Animal faeces: **9,6 %**  
 Vegetables: **3,2 %**  
 Chicken meat: **22,3 %**



Microbiology  
**Spectrum**

[Microbiol Spectr.](#) 2022 Jan-Feb; 10(1): e02376-21.

PMCID: PMC8865463

Published online 2022 Feb 23. doi: [10.1128/spectrum.02376-21](https://doi.org/10.1128/spectrum.02376-21)

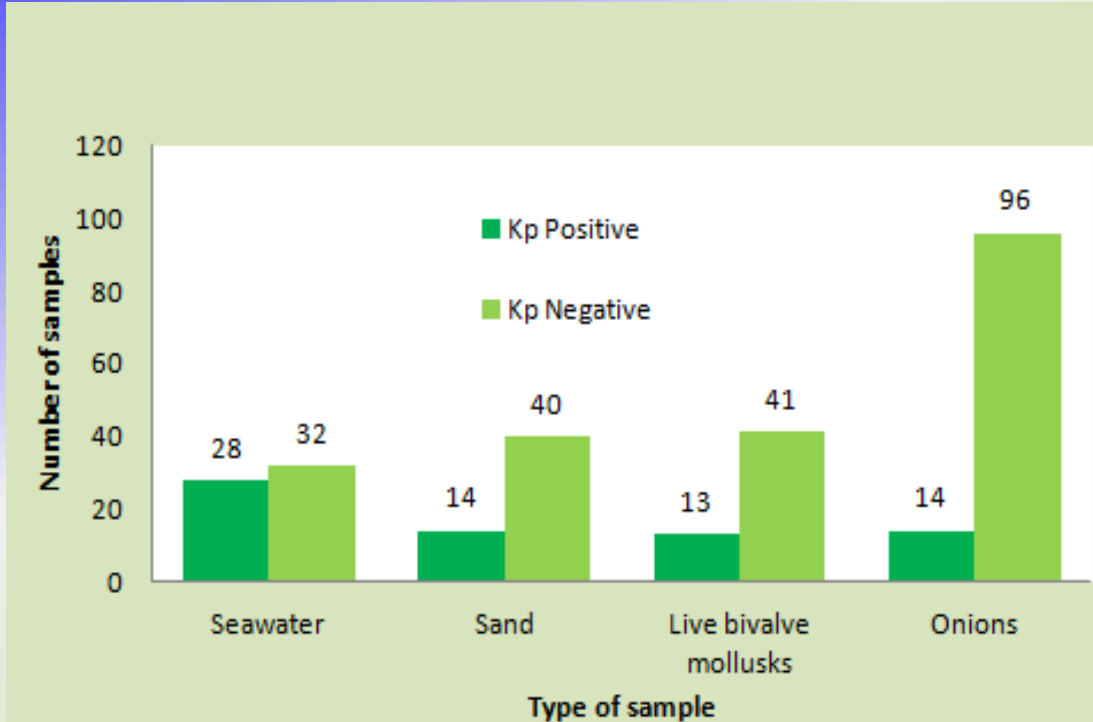
PMID: [35196810](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35196810/)

## High Prevalence of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* in European Food Products: a Multicentric Study Comparing Culture and Molecular Detection Methods

[Carla Rodrigues](#),<sup>✉ a</sup> [Kathrin Hauser](#),<sup>b</sup> [Niamh Cahill](#),<sup>c</sup> [Małgorzata Ligowska-Marzeta](#),<sup>d</sup> [Gabiella Centorotola](#),<sup>e</sup>  
[Alessandra Cornacchia](#),<sup>e</sup> [Raquel Garcia Fierro](#),<sup>f</sup> [Marisa Haenni](#),<sup>f</sup> [Eva Møller Nielsen](#),<sup>d</sup> [Pascal Piveteau](#),<sup>g</sup> [Elodie Barbier](#),<sup>h</sup>  
[Dearbháile Morris](#),<sup>c</sup> [Francesco Pomilio](#),<sup>e</sup> and [Sylvain Brisse](#)<sup>✉ a</sup>

Nilton Lincopan, Editor

# MedVetKlebs: some results



Seawater: **46,6 %**

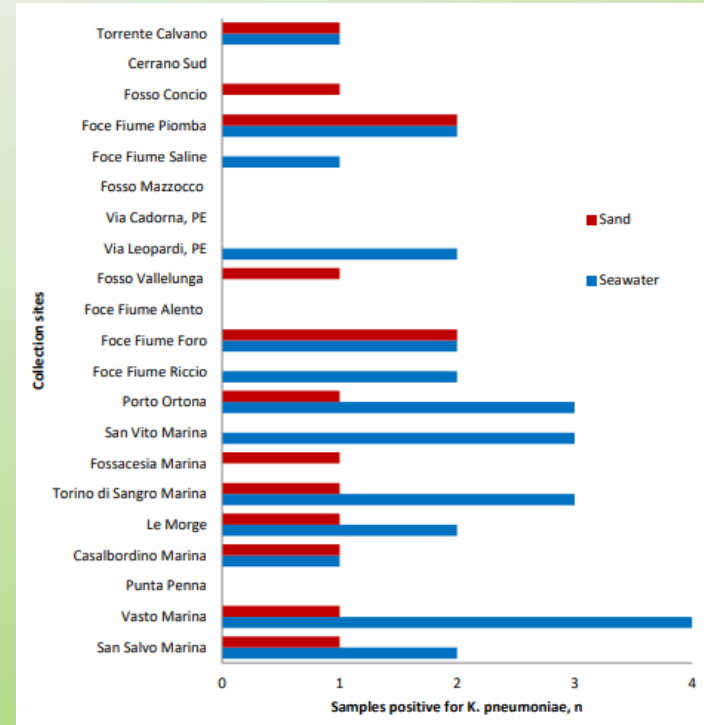
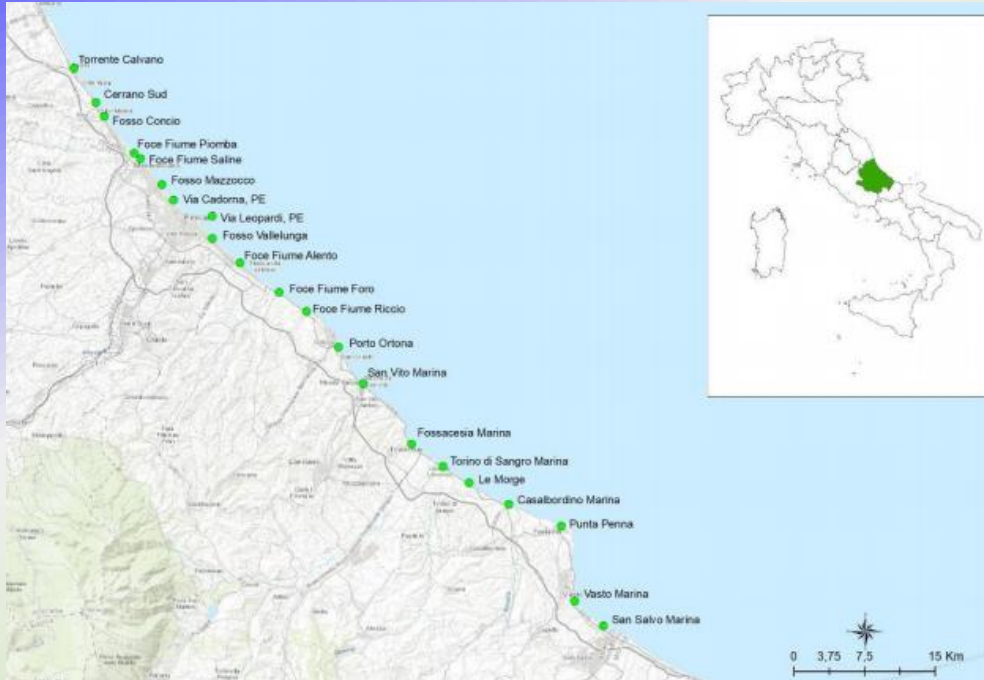
Sand: **25,9 %**

Live bivalve mollusks: **24 %**

Onions: **12,7 %**

# MedVetKlebs: some results

Presence of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* in sand and seawater for bathing along the Abruzzo Region shoreline



# MedVetKlebs: some results

- National and Regional Plan for surveillance of disease in Wild Fauna
- **420 wild animals** (18 mammals' and 15 birds' species)
- **457** diagnostic samples including faeces (n = 316), intestine (n = 95) and brain (n = 46)
- **106** *Klebsiella* spp. isolates collected (85 were *Kp*)





> Microbiol Resour Announc. 2022 Jun 16;11(6):e0014022. doi: 10.1128/mra.00140-22.  
Epub 2022 May 17.

## Whole-Genome Sequences of Two *Klebsiella pneumoniae* Strains (Sequence Types 23 and 35) from Wildlife

A Cornacchia <sup># 1</sup>, A Chiaverini <sup># 1</sup>, G Centorotola <sup>1</sup>, M Di Domenico <sup>1</sup>, A Cocco <sup>1</sup>, M Ancora <sup>1</sup>,  
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## Phenotypic and Genetic Characterization of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* Isolates from Wild Animals in Central Italy

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THANK YOU FOR  
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