Poster Session 2 – Workshop Rodent-Borne Diseases

72 Resistance to last-resort human antimicrobial agents among gramnegative bacteria recovered from Barcelona Norway rats (*Rattus norvegicus*)

Marta Marí-Almirall¹, Yaiza Vallejo¹, Sara Sabaté², Sandra Franco², Laura Muñoz¹, Maria Nieto ¹, Clara Cosgaya¹, Jordi Pascual², Ignasi Roca¹, Tomás Montalvo²

¹Department of Clinical Microbiology and ISGlobal, Hospital Clínic - Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain, tmontal@aspb.cat

²Pest Surveillance and Control, Agència de Salut Pública de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain

Gram-negative pathogenic bacteria are shared between humans and animals but also the intra-and the inter-species exchange of genetic determinants of resistance are common between bacterial pathogens. Recent reports have identified multidrug-resistant bacteria from sewage samples in different parts of the world but there is no data regarding the potential role of urban rats as reservoirs and source of antimicrobial resistant bacteria that are relevant to human health. From January through November 2017, two hundred and twelve Norway rats (Rattus norvegicus) were captured with kill traps in different sections of the Barcelona sewers. Intra-rectal samples from captured animals were cultured on selective media for the isolation of ESBL and/or carbapenem resistant gram-negative bacteria. Species identification was performed by MALDI-TOF/MS and antimicrobial susceptibility was determined by disc diffusion, and Etest and microdilution when necessary, following EUCAST guidelines. Detection of genes encoding ESBL and carbapenemases was performed by PCR and Sanger sequencing. Pulsed-field gel electrophoresis was used to study the clonal relatedness of all isolates and MLST analysis was performed on selected isolates. Overall, 229 isolates were recovered and identified, in order of abundance, as either Escherichia coli, Klebsiella pneumoniae, Enterobacter spp., Raoultella ornithinolytica, Serratia spp., Citrobacter spp., and Pseudomonas spp. Resistance to extended-spectrum cephalosporins was high among Escherichia coli, Klebsiella pneumoniae and Enterobacter spp (>50%) associated with carriage of ESBL. Resistance to carbapenems was identified in roughly 10% of the isolates, mostly associated with carriage of KPC and NDM carbapenemases. Isolates with the same mechanism of resistance were clonally related but overall there was high clonal diversity. Our results show alarming levels of antimicrobial resistance to clinically relevant antibiotics among gram-negative bacteria colonizing the intestinal tract of Barcelona rats. Additional studies to analyze transmission of resistance mechanisms and bacterial strains between humans and urban rats are ongoing.

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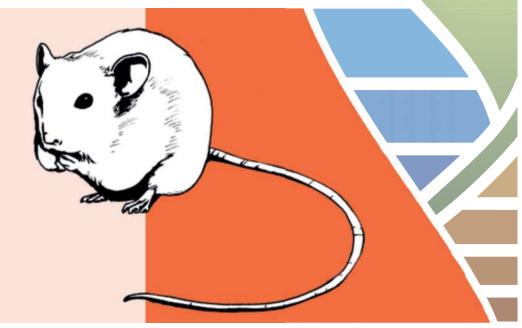
Jens Jacob, Jana Eccard (Editors)

6th International Conference of Rodent Biology and Management and

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Editors:

Jens Jacob¹ and Jana Eccard²
¹Julius Kuehn Institute, Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants,
Institute for Plant Protection in Horticulture and Forests, Vertebrate Research,
Toppheideweg 88, 48161 Münster, Germany
²University of Potsdam, Institute of Biochemistry and Biology,
Animal Ecology Group, Maulbeerallee 1,
14469 Potsdam, Germany

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