

DIVERSITY OF THERMOPHILIC *Campylobacter* ISOLATED FROM SLAUGHTER PIGS IN NORWAY

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Summary. Out of 100 faecal swab samples, 88 thermophilic *Campylobacter* representing ten herds were isolated. The species were identified by biotyping and multiplex polymerase chain reaction (PCR). Of the isolates, 86 (97.7%) were *C. coli*, one was *C. lari*, and one was *C. jejuni*. All three species were isolated from the same herd. Automatic riboprints were performed with the *Pst*I restriction enzyme and RiboPrinter® (automated microbial characterization system). The identification of the isolates was predicted when the corresponding pattern matched one of the patterns in the DuPont identification (DUP-ID) library and was then assigned an identification number. A total of 81 selected *C. coli* isolates were riboprinted. The isolates could be divided into two clades and five subclades, and 19 isolates could be given five different DUP-IDs from the library: DUP-PST1-1182 (n=6), DUP-PST1-1208 (n=10), DUP-PST1-1175 (n=1), DUP-PST1-1140 (n=1), and DUP-PST1-1163 (n=1). Pigs are healthy carriers of *C. coli* which showed a high degree of diversity among and within the herds.

Keywords: *Campylobacter*, diversity, pig, clustering, genotyping, riboprinting.