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## Intermediately virulent *Rhodococcus equi* isolates from pigs in Slovenia: discovery of new plasmid types and assessment of genetic diversity by pulsed-field gel electrophoresis

M. Pate, M. Ocepek, I. Zdovc, C. Minato, Y. Ohtsu, M. Matsuoka, Y. Honda, L. Hashimoto, Y. Sasaki, T. Kakuda, S. Takai

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Citation: Pate M., Ocepek M., Zdovc I., Minato C., Ohtsu Y., Matsuoka M., Honda Y., Hashimoto L., Sasaki Y., Kakuda T., Takai S. (2009): Intermediately virulent *Rhodococcus equi* isolates from pigs in Slovenia: discovery of new plasmid types and assessment of genetic diversity by pulsed-field gel electrophoresis. *Veterinarni Medicina*, 54: 111-117.

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The presence of large plasmids in 30 *Rhodococcus equi* strains isolated from pig lymph nodes with granulomatous changes was investigated. Plasmid DNAs were isolated and digested with the restriction endonucleases *Bam*HI, *Eco*RI, *Eco*T22I and *Hind*III for detailed comparison and estimation of plasmid sizes. A total of nine isolates were identified as intermediately virulent (VapB-positive), harbouring large plasmids of type 5 ( $n = 5$ ) and four new variants that we tentatively designated as type 19 ( $n = 1$ ), 20 ( $n = 1$ ), 21 ( $n = 1$ ) and 24 ( $n = 1$ ). All isolates were subjected to genotyping with pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE). High genetic diversity was observed: 21 distinct genotypes were detected; five were found in multiple isolates and the others were unique. Isolates of the same plasmid type exhibited different PFGE profiles and vice versa. In a few cases, multiple strains from certain farms were analysed, the majority of which exhibited diverse PFGE profiles. Our findings demonstrate the presence of a wide variety of *R. equi* strains even in small confined environments such as farms. This is the first molecular epidemiology study of intermediately virulent *R. equi* isolates from Slovenian pigs.

**Keywords:**

genotyping; molecular epidemiology; restriction enzyme analysis; virulence-associated genes

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2016: **0.434**  
5-Year Impact Factor: **0.71**

## SJR (SCOPUS)

2017: **0.280 – Q2** (*Veterina (miscellaneous)*)

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