

Aeromonas

Edited by

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Caister Academic Press
Norfolk, UK

www.caister.com

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN (hardback): 978-1-908230-56-0

ISBN (ebook): 978-1-908230-57-7

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Cover design adapted from Figures 8.10 and 9.2.

Contents

	Contributors	v
	Preface	vii
1	Introduction and Overview Joerg Graf	1
2	Taxonomy Geert Huys	3
3	<i>Aeromonas</i> Fish Pathogens Brian Austin	45
4	<i>Aeromonas</i> Infections in Humans Maria José Figueras and Roxana Beaz-Hidalgo	65
5	<i>Aeromonas</i> , a Multifaceted Microbe: Beneficial Associations with Animals Joerg Graf	109
6	Aeromonad Antigenic Structures Jennifer Parker and Jonathan Shaw	117
7	New Developments on the Virulence Mechanisms of <i>Aeromonas hydrophila</i> Elena V. Kozlova, Duraisamy Ponnusamy and Ashok K. Chopra	139
8	Molecular Diagnostics by Genetic Methods Antonio Martínez-Murcia and Brigitte Lamy	155
9	Occurrence and Virulence Potential of <i>Aeromonas</i> in Food and Water Christopher J. Grim	201
	Index	229

Preface

The conception of this book and the groundwork were done by Amy Horneman. Amy has been a driving force in the *Aeromonas* field, which is reflected by her being known to many of us in the community as 'Aeromonas' Amy. It was natural for her to be the editor of this book. Unfortunately for us in the *Aeromonas* research community, her new position as the Director of Microbiology and Molecular Diagnostics at the Veterans Administration Maryland Health Care System prevented her from editing this book. However, Amy had already convinced Horizon Press of the importance of *Aeromonas*. She laid out a plan identifying the major topics and got leading researchers in this field to commit to write chapters. So I would like to express my thanks to Amy for starting this work.

As the reader will discover in this book about *Aeromonas*, this genus of bacteria encompasses a very interesting group of bacteria that have something of interest to many different microbiologists. These bacteria are capable of causing disease in humans and fish, which can be food borne or acquired from the environment. In contrast, these bacteria are also beneficial symbionts in other animals. In addition, it has proven difficult to identify *Aeromonas* strains at the species level using standard biochemical tests, which complicates many different aspects. The sheer number of species contained within this genus is ever increasing. We now know of more than one dozen *Aeromonas* species and can be confident that more species are yet to be described. Perhaps a better knowledge of the taxonomy will aid in identifying the virulent strains. Over recent years there has been *tremendous* progress in understanding the mechanisms by which *Aeromonas* causes disease and the surface properties that can lay the groundwork for vaccine development.

I would like to thank all of the authors for contributing high-quality manuscripts that cover each of the topic areas in a comprehensive fashion. I would also like to thank Hugh Griffin, Melanie Woodward and other staff members from Horizon Press with editing the manuscripts and helping in the production process.

While science moves at a frantic pace and books are static in time, I hope that this book will provide the reader with an excellent overview of *Aeromonas* that will serve them as a valuable resource for many years.

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16S rRNA gene 2–7, 10–21, 23, 28–32, 47,
69–72, 77, 86, 90, 110, 157–161, 167, 169–171,
173–174, 179–180, 186, 206–207, 217

A

Aeromonas allosaccharophila 9, 11, 13–14, 17, 20,
29, 33, 45–46, 68, 71–73, 159, 165, 168, 170,
182, 185

Aeromonas aquariorum 15, 20, 28, 31, 33, 65–68,
71–76, 77–78, 81, 84, 159, 165, 168, 170–171,
185, 188–189, 193, 196, 219

Aeromonas bestiarum 6, 10, 13–14, 16, 19, 30,
45–47, 67–68, 71, 74, 159, 165, 168, 170–171,
186, 196, 218

Aeromonas bivalvium 15–16, 20, 30, 68, 71, 159,
165, 170, 182

Aeromonas caviae 1, 3, 5, 7–10, 18–19, 25, 27,
31, 45–46, 65, 68, 70–77, 79, 82, 118–121,
125–127, 129–130, 145, 150–151, 159, 163,
165, 168, 170–171, 173, 176–177, 182, 184,
189, 195, 197, 211, 215–220

Aeromonas encheleia 11–14, 16, 20, 29–30, 68,
71–72, 159, 167–168, 170, 182, 185, 189, 197

Aeromonas eucrenophila 10–11, 16, 19, 29–30, 68,
72, 79, 159, 165, 168, 170–171, 182, 186

Aeromonas hydrophila 1–4, 7–10, 13–15, 19, 25,
26–27, 29, 31, 32–34, 45–46, 49, 52–57, 65,
66–68, 70–79, 82, 87, 90, 109–111, 118–123,
125–130, 139–148, 154–160, 163, 165,
167–174, 176–179, 182, 183–189, 191–194,
196–198, 202–203, 205–206, 209–215,
217–220

Aeromonas jandaai 12, 15, 20, 25–26, 31, 45–46,
67–68, 72–74, 110, 159, 165, 168, 170–171,
182–183

Aeromonas media 2, 5, 10, 19, 23, 27, 67–68, 70,
72–74, 76, 90, 120, 131, 159, 165, 168, 170,
176, 182, 185, 189, 218–219

Aeromonas molluscorum 14–17, 20, 29, 67–68,
71, 159, 165, 170, 182

Aeromonas popoffii 14, 16–17, 20, 25, 29–31,
70–72, 159, 182, 186, 190, 194, 198

Aeromonas salmonicida 1–4, 6–10, 16, 19, 22–25,
30–32, 45–57, 68, 70–74, 97, 111, 118, 120,
122–124, 126–128, 130, 140, 144, 159, 163,
165, 167–168, 170–172, 176, 179, 181–187,
190, 192–194, 196–198

Aeromonas schubertii 11, 14, 16, 20, 23, 25–27,
31, 45–46, 67, 68, 72–74, 159, 162, 165, 168,
170–171, 182, 192, 215

Aeromonas simiae 14, 20, 68, 71, 158–159, 162,
165, 170–171, 182

Aeromonas sobria 3, 8–9, 11–12, 15, 17, 19,
25, 27, 45–46, 68, 70, 72, 77, 159, 165, 168,
170–173, 176–177, 182, 207, 215, 218

Aeromonas trota 5, 9, 12, 14, 20–22, 25–26, 31,
67–68, 70, 72–71, 77, 100, 159, 165, 170–172,
215–216, 220

Aeromonas veronii 1–2, 5, 11–15, 17, 19–21, 23,
25, 27, 30–31, 33, 45–46, 60, 65, 67–68, 71–77,
79–82, 86, 90–91, 96, 110–113, 120, 123–131,
148, 159–160, 163, 165, 167–168, 170–171,
176–177, 182–184, 186, 189, 194, 196, 198,
207, 215, 217–219

Amplified fragment length polymorphism
(AFLP) 3, 10–11, 13–16, 28–30, 60–61, 75,
180, 185–186

B

Biosensors 178

C

Capsule 2, 21, 52, 117, 126–127, 131

D

Diarrhoea 2, 29, 66, 68, 73, 78–85, 89, 97, 139,
172, 181, 184, 188, 192, 194, 198, 202, 214

DNA–DNA hybridization 1, 3–6, 8–17, 21, 23,
27–32, 47, 70, 174, 176, 181

DNA hybridization groups 1, 3–5, 8–11, 14, 21,
27–28, 30, 176

F

Fimbriae 2, 122–123, 153, 210–211

G

Genotyping 33, 69, 75, 155, 157, 164, 179–180, 191, 193, 198

H

History 1, 6–8, 11
Housekeeping genes 3, 13–18, 28, 31–32, 67, 69, 72, 75, 77, 79, 111, 157, 161–166, 169, 171, 176, 183, 186, 190, 198
Hybridization group 11 6, 11, 13, 20, 25, 29–30, 168, 170

L

Lateral flagella 2, 117–118, 120–122, 126, 145, 173, 210, 220
Leech 2, 65, 80, 89–92, 109–112, 125, 177–178
Leech therapy infections 89–91
Lipopolysaccharide 2, 45, 51–52, 112, 117, 125–129, 145

M

Media 21, 47, 81, 120, 127, 157, 171–172, 206, 215, 217
selective media 12, 157, 171–172, 217
Microarrays 178–179, 191
Mosquito 2, 15, 109, 113–114

N

Necrotizing fasciitis 65–66, 86–88, 93, 96, 213
Nosocomial infections 2, 89–90, 106

O

Outer membrane proteins 2, 45, 52–54, 117, 129–130, 145

P

Peritonitis 66, 97
Pili 2, 52, 117, 122–124, 129, 145, 210–211
Phylogeny 4–6, 28–29, 70, 115, 156, 159, 162

Polar flagella 2, 117–122, 126, 145, 210
Pulse-field gel electrophoresis 75, 83, 176, 180–181, 183–185

Q

Quorum sensing 144–149, 211

R

Restriction fragment length polymorphism analysis 17, 23, 28, 30–31, 71–72, 167–169, 180–181, 186, 190
Ribotyping 13, 16, 28, 30, 180–184, 192–193, 197

S

Sepsis 66, 78, 86, 88, 90, 95
Septicaemia 2, 45–46, 65–66, 75, 83, 90–94, 111, 127, 206
S-layer 2, 45, 47, 51–52, 54–56, 112, 117, 127–128, 131, 178, 196

T

Taxonomy 1–15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25–29, 31–33, 47–48, 65–66, 69, 110, 118, 155–156, 158, 161, 166–167, 217–218
Temporal temperature gradient gel electrophoresis 71, 169–171
Type II secretion system 111, 124, 128
Type III secretion system 2, 52–53, 82, 111, 118–119, 117, 139–140, 143–145, 177
Type VI secretion system 140–143, 145

U

Urinary tract infections 98

W

Wound infections 2, 73, 75, 79–80, 85–90, 213

Z

Zebrafish 113