OCCURRENCE, CHARACTERISATION AND DETECTION OF POTENTIAL VIRULENCE DETERMINANTS OF EMERGING AQUATIC BACTERIAL PATHOGENS FROM THE PHILIPPINES AND THAILAND

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SUMMARY

Strains of Aeromonas *spp., 'non-cholera vibrios' (NCVs) and* Plesiomonas shigelloides *isolated from aquatic environments, fish and human diarrhoeal cases in the Philippines and Thailand were characterised for potential virulence markers. Thus, the production of cytotoxin, cell-associated and cell-free haemolysin and their capacity to adhere to human intestinal (Henle 407) cells in vitro was investigated. In addition, the occurrence of* tlh *and* tdh *haemolysin genes and urease activity among* V. parahaemolyticus strains was investigated. The results showed that strains recovered from clinical sources (human and fish) produced these virulence factors, whereas these are absent in environmental strains.

KEY WORDS: Aeromonas spp.; Vibrio spp.; P. shigelloides; Philippines; Thailand; virulence factors

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