

DETECTION OF *BACILLUS* SPECIES IN SELECTED MEALS FROM AN APULIAN CATERING SERVICE

M. Fontanarosa¹, L. Novello², C. Conversano², M. Musti¹, M.G. Tantillo²

¹Dipartimento di Medicina Pubblica e Medicina Interna, Sezione di Medicina del Lavoro
Facoltà di Medicina e Chirurgia, Università degli Studi di Bari;

²Dipartimento di Sanità e Benessere degli Animali, Sezione di Ispezione degli Alimenti
Facoltà di Medicina Veterinaria, Università degli Studi di Bari

SUMMARY

The authors have started a microbiological survey of the meals given in a factory canteen in the town of Bari with the evaluation of food contamination from the bacteria of the genus Bacillus. In the examined meals, all the detected Bacillus species have the potential to cause food-borne illnesses, even if the relatively low bacterial counts are not dangerous for healthy consumers. The study underlines the need of guidelines to establish which levels of food contamination are significant potential risks to all community catering service users.

KEY WORDS: *Bacillus* species, catering service, ready-to-eat foods, spore-forming pathogens, food poisoning, enterotoxins;

Received February 15, 2004

Accepted June 10, 2004