

# Genetic Diversity and Antimicrobial Resistance Profiles of *Salmonella enterica* Serotype Derby Isolated from Pigs, Pork, and Humans in France

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1 **Genetic diversity and antimicrobial resistance profiles of *Salmonella enterica* serotype**  
2 **Derby isolated from pigs, pork and humans in France**

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16 Key words: *Salmonella* Derby, Pig, Pork, Human, characterization

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1 **Abstract**

2 In France, *Salmonella enterica* serotypes Typhimurium and Derby are the most often isolated  
3 serotypes in pigs. Moreover, serotype Derby usually ranks between 3rd and 4th in prevalence  
4 among human isolates in France. The aim of this study was to evaluate the genetic  
5 relationships between human and pig *S. Derby* isolates based on their Pulsed Field Gel  
6 Electrophoresis (PFGE) patterns after *Xba*I, *Bln*I and *Spe*I restriction and on their  
7 antimicrobial resistance profiles. The 196 studied isolates were isolated in 2006 and 2007: 73  
8 from fattening pigs, 27 from pork and 96 from humans. Forty-four PFGE *Xba*I patterns were  
9 identified. A major pattern (SDX01) was identified for 96 isolates (49%). This pattern was  
10 common to pig, pork and human isolates. Among the 146 isolates tested for their  
11 antimicrobial resistance, 84.2% (n=123) showed resistance to at least one antibiotic and  
12 69.2% (n=101) were simultaneously resistant to at least streptomycin, sulfonamides and  
13 tetracycline. Most of the isolates which resist to these 3 antibiotics also displayed the major  
14 SDX01 pattern. The use of two other restriction enzymes on a part of the panel (155 isolates)  
15 brought a significant increase in the discriminatory index, in particular for SDX01 strains. As  
16 *S. Derby* is essentially isolated from pigs, and major resistance and PFGE patterns of isolates  
17 from pigs and pork were very similar to human isolates, human salmonellosis due to *S.*  
18 *enterica* serotype Derby may be related to pigs.

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

2 *Salmonella enterica* subsp. *enterica* is the leading cause of bacterial food-borne disease in the  
3 world. *Salmonella* typically causes acute gastroenteritis and may cause more serious  
4 septicemic disease, most often in very young, elderly and immuno-compromised subjects. In  
5 France, *Salmonella* is responsible for 65% of all recorded outbreaks of foodborne diseases  
6 (Haeghebaert, 2002). Between 5700 and 12000 hospitalizations a year and, 92 and 535 deaths  
7 a year, were attributed to *Salmonella* (Vaillant *et al.*, 2005). *Salmonella* can be isolated from  
8 various food items: animal products such as eggs, meat, milk and dairy products, seafood,  
9 fruits and vegetables. Pork has often been described as a source of human salmonellosis and  
10 pigs have been identified in a number of countries as major carriers of *Salmonella* spp (Hald,  
11 2003, Letellier, 1999). *Salmonella* has the ability to colonize the guts of healthy pigs who then  
12 can serve as carriers. These asymptomatic pigs, when admitted to slaughterhouses, become a  
13 potential risk for *Salmonella* contamination. *S. enterica* serotypes Typhimurium and Derby  
14 (hereafter referred to as *S. Derby*) are both major *Salmonella* serotypes found in pigs in  
15 France and Europe (Beloeil *et al.*, 2004, EFSA, 2008a, Fablet, 2003). We focused in this  
16 study on *S. Derby* as this serotype is known to be especially linked to pigs (Giovannacci *et al.*,  
17 2001, Valdezate *et al.*, 2005). Furthermore, over the last few years in France, it has been  
18 ranked 3rd to 6th in prevalence among human serotyped isolates and is responsible each year  
19 for one or two family and/or hospital-based outbreaks  
20 (<http://www.pasteur.fr/ip/easysite/pasteur/fr/sante/centres-nationaux-de-referance-et-centres-collaborateurs-de-l-oms/cnr-et-ccoms/cnr-des-salmonella/actualites-rapports#rapports>).  
21  
22 This serotype may also be implicated in larger outbreaks (Ebuchi *et al.*, 2006) and has been  
23 among the twenty most frequently serotyped human *Salmonella* isolates in several European  
24 and Asian countries over the past decade (Hendriksen *et al.*, 2011). Therefore, this serotype is  
25 a major public health concern.

1 This study aimed at evaluating the link between pigs, pork and human isolates, in order to  
2 assess the farm-to-fork continuum. To demonstrate the spread of isolates from pigs *via* pork to  
3 humans, highly discriminatory typing methods are necessary. Traditional isolate typing  
4 methods such as serotyping or phage typing have been used for surveillance of *Salmonella*  
5 and outbreak investigations but they are supplemented nowadays with the development of  
6 molecular methods (Gebreyes *et al.*, 2006, Wonderling *et al.*, 2003). Pulsed field gel  
7 electrophoresis (PFGE), which is currently the gold standard, has generally good  
8 discriminatory power and has been proven to be highly useful and reliable especially for  
9 tracking contamination sources (Botteldoorn *et al.*, 2004, Vieira-Pinto *et al.*, 2006) and for  
10 outbreak investigations (Dominguez *et al.*, 2009, Noel *et al.*, 2006). As the PFGE method  
11 with *Xba*I has shown low discriminatory power for *S. Derby* (Kerouanton *et al.*, 2007), we  
12 combined it with cluster analysis of multiple restriction enzymes (*Xba*I, *Bln*I and *Spe*I) as  
13 recommended by Zheng *et al.* (Zheng *et al.*, 2011). Because resistance of *Salmonella* to  
14 antimicrobial agents is a worldwide problem, and antimicrobial resistance has already been  
15 described in human (Ling *et al.*, 2001) and non-human (Akiba *et al.*, 2006) *S. Derby* isolates,  
16 antibiotic drug susceptibility was also determined. The study was conducted over a two-year  
17 period on 196 isolates isolated in 2006 and 2007, 73 of which were from fattening pigs, 27  
18 from pork and 96 from humans.

## 1 MATERIAL AND METHODS

### 2 *S. Derby* Isolates

3 A total of 196 *S. Derby* isolates from various origins were considered in this study. The  
4 animal isolates (n=73) were collected from pig lymph nodes during the European baseline  
5 studies carried out in 2006-2007 (EFSA, 2008) by the National Reference Laboratory (NRL)  
6 for Salmonella (HQPAP unit ANSES Ploufragan). Isolates from pork (n=27), collected by the  
7 French Salmonella network (Associated NRL for Salmonella, ANSES Maisons-Alfort) in  
8 2006 and 2007 were also studied. Moreover, the French National Reference Center for  
9 Salmonella (FNRC-Salm, Institut Pasteur, Paris) provided 96 *S. Derby* isolates collected from  
10 human salmonellosis over the same period of time (47 isolates in 2006 and 49 in 2007). The  
11 set of isolates represented 34.3%, and 41.2% of all the *S. Derby* isolates for 2006 and 2007,  
12 respectively. In terms of representativity, it has been estimated that the FNRC-Salm network  
13 detected 66% of confirmed human *Salmonella* infections in France at the time of the study  
14 (Jourdan-Da Silva and Le Hello, 2012). In each lab, isolates were serotyped, according to the  
15 White-Kauffmann-Le Minor scheme, on the basis of somatic O and phase 1 and phase 2  
16 flagellar antigens by agglutination tests with antisera (Bio-Rad, Marnes la Coquette, France;  
17 Eurobio, Les Ulis, France; World Health Organization Collaborative Center for Reference and  
18 Research on *Salmonella*, Institut Pasteur, Paris, France).

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### 20 *PFGE* typing

21 The genetic typing of the isolates was carried out by RFLP-PFGE with a CHEF-DR III  
22 system (Bio-Rad) according to the PulseNet protocol (Ribot *et al.*, 2006). *S. enterica* serotype  
23 Braenderup H9812 strain was used as a molecular size marker (Hunter *et al.*, 2005). After  
24 staining with Ethidium Bromide, DNA patterns were visualized under UV light and images  
25 were taken with the Biovision+ 1500/36M X PRESS system (Fisher Bioblock). *BlnI* and *SpeI*

1 enzymes were also used on a panel of 155 isolates. This panel is representative of isolates that  
2 did not give a unique pattern after *XbaI* restriction. For *BlnI*-digested DNA, migration  
3 conditions were the same as for *XbaI*: fragments were resolved on 1% agarose gel using  
4 electrophoresis conditions of 6.0V/cm at 14°C for 20h. Pulse times were ramped from 2 s  
5 (initial switch) to 64 s (final switch). For *SpeI*-digested DNA, migration was performed in two  
6 steps, a 11.5h step with an initial switch time of 20 s and a final switch time of 40 s, followed  
7 by a 9.5h step with an initial switch time of 7 s and a final switch time of 13 s, at a gradient of  
8 6V/cm and an included angle of 120°. For cases of DNA lysis, we used an adapted DNA  
9 extraction protocol with HEPES buffer instead of Tris buffer and TBE migration was  
10 performed with 100 µM thiourea (Liesegang and Tschape, 2002, Silbert *et al.*, 2003)

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### 12 ***Genetic profile analysis***

13 Fragment size estimations and analysis of the similarities between genotypes were carried out  
14 using the BioNumerics® software (version 4.1, Applied Maths, Kortrijk, Belgium). The  
15 similarities were calculated using Dice's coefficient with a maximum tolerance of 1% and  
16 dendrograms were built according to the Unweighted Pair Group Method (UPGMA)  
17 (Struelens, 1996).

18 The Simpson index (Hunter and Gaston, 1988) was calculated to estimate the diversity of the  
19 sample and the 95% confidence intervals were also calculated based on the variance as  
20 suggested by Grundmann (2001).

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### 22 ***Antimicrobial susceptibility tests***

23 All pig and pork isolates were tested for their antimicrobial susceptibility. Resistance  
24 phenotypes were determined using the disc diffusion method as recommended by the  
25 Antibiogram Committee of the French Society for Microbiology (<http://www.sfm.asso.fr/>).

1 Sixteen antimicrobials (Bio-Rad) were tested: Ampicillin (10µg), amoxicillin + clavulanic  
2 acid (20/10 µg), cephalothin (30µg), cefotaxime (30µg), ceftazidime (30µg), chloramphenicol  
3 (30µg), tetracycline (30UI), streptomycin (10UI), kanamycin (30UI), gentamicin (15µg),  
4 sulfonamides (200µg), cotrimoxazole (1.25/23.75 µg), nalidixic acid (30µg), ofloxacin (5µg),  
5 enrofloxacin (5µg) and colistin (50µg). Automatic readings were performed using the OSIRIS  
6 system (Bio-Rad). For human isolates, only those isolated in 2006 were studied (n=47) by the  
7 FNRC-Salm for their resistance to the following 32 antimicrobial (Bio-Rad) as previously  
8 described (Weill et al., 2004).



# 1 RESULTS

## 2 *PFGE types after XbaI restriction*

3 The 196 isolates generated 44 different PFGE *XbaI* patterns (figure 1). The discriminatory  
4 ability (D-value) of the method for the entire panel was 0.75<sub>95%CI</sub> [0.68-0.81].

5 Thirty-three PFGE patterns (75%) were encountered for a single isolate and then specifically  
6 associated to a single origin: 4 PFGE patterns were attributed to a single pork isolate, 9 to pig  
7 isolates and 20 to human isolates.

8 One other pattern was also related to a single origin but grouped together 3 pig isolates.

9 Conversely, ten patterns grouped together isolates of different origins. Six PFGE patterns  
10 were common to pig, pork and human isolates (SDX01, 02, 12, 14, 30 and 32), 2 were  
11 common to human and pig isolates (SDX05 and 17), 1 to human and pork isolates (SDX42)  
12 and 1 to pig and pork (SDX39). Among these 10 patterns, SDX01 pattern was identified for  
13 96 isolates among the 196 studied with 44.8% of those of human origin (43/96), 56.2% of  
14 those of pig origin (41/73), 44.4% of those of pork origin (12/27). Actually, there was no  
15 significant difference ( $\chi^2$ , p=0.30) allowing to assign this major pattern to one of the origins.

16 Fourteen PFGE patterns –SDX02, SDX03, SDX04, SDX05, SDX06, SDX07, SDX09,  
17 SDX10, SDX11, SDX12, SDX18, SDX37, SDX43 and SDX46 patterns – were very similar  
18 to the major SDX01 pattern (86% similarity), and comprised 39 isolates. Thus, a total of 135  
19 isolates among the 196 studied (68.9%) were grouped into a single major cluster. This cluster  
20 included 65.6% of the human isolates, 74% of the pig isolates and 66.7% of the pork isolates.

1 ***PFGE types after *BlnI* and *SpeI* restriction***

2 Isolates (n=155) of various origins grouped into 8 of the 10 PFGE *XbaI* patterns gathering  
3 several isolates (isolates that did not give a unique pattern after *XbaI* restriction) were also  
4 analyzed after *BlnI* and *SpeI* restriction. A total of 18 *BlnI* PFGE profiles and 27 *SpeI* PFGE  
5 profiles have been highlighted. Eight isolates were non-typable with *BlnI* enzyme despite the  
6 addition of thiourea. A combination of the results obtained with the 3 enzymes gave 42  
7 combined PFGE patterns (figure 2). The discriminatory index for this panel of 155 isolates  
8 was of 0.53, 0.60 and 0.68 when using respectively *BlnI*, *XbaI*, and *SpeI*, and increase to 0.72  
9 when considering the results obtained with the three enzymes.

10 Most of the time, the use of the two others enzymes increased the discriminatory power of the  
11 PFGE method. For SDX05, SDX30 and SDX32 patterns, the use of *BlnI* and *SpeI* separated  
12 the human isolates from the others sources.

13 Sometimes, the use of *BlnI* and *SpeI* gave exactly the same discrimination than that obtained  
14 with *XbaI*. For example, for the 4 isolates carrying SDX12, the combined pattern  
15 SDX12/SDB01/SDS15 always correspond to 2 human, 1 pig and 1 pork isolates, as observed  
16 after only *XbaI* restriction.

17 Similar *BlnI* and/or *SpeI* patterns were also observed for different *XbaI* patterns. For example,  
18 the SDB01 pattern was highlighted for isolates carrying SDX01, SDX05 and SDX12 patterns;  
19 and SDS10 for isolates carrying SDX30, SDX32 and SDX39 patterns. Moreover we also  
20 noted that all animal isolates from these 3 *XbaI* patterns were non typable by *BlnI* enzyme.

21

22 ***Antimicrobial susceptibility***

23 No more than 15.5% (23/147) of the tested isolates were susceptible to all antimicrobials. For  
24 the remaining isolates, 11 different patterns of resistance were observed, with from one to 6  
25 resistances (Table 1). 79% of the isolates showed at least tetracycline (TE) resistance. TE

1 resistance was often associated with streptomycin (S) and sulfonamides (SSS) resistance.  
2 Hence, 98 isolates (66.7%) displayed the S SSS TE pattern of resistance. Four isolates were  
3 resistant to more than 3 antimicrobials. However, no resistance to fluoroquinolone or third  
4 generation cephalosporins was detected. For each resistance pattern, Table 1 shows the  
5 corresponding PFGE patterns. The 102 isolates harboring at least resistance to tetracycline,  
6 streptomycin and sulfonamides were subdivided into 18 PFGE patterns while 75 isolates  
7 (73.5%) belonged to the major PFGE pattern SDX01.

## 1 DISCUSSION

2 The genetic diversity of *S. Derby* isolates has rarely been investigated. In this study, a large  
3 panel of 196 isolates was studied and molecular characterization by PFGE showed that the  
4 genome of this serotype seems to have a highly homogeneous genetic composition. The  
5 discriminatory ability (*D* value) of the method was 0.75 [0.68-0.81] for the entire panel,  
6 confirming a previous study (Kerouanton *et al.*, 2007). A major *XbaI* pattern, SDX01, was  
7 found for 49% (96/196) of the isolates. This PFGE pattern was also observed in a German  
8 study by Hauser *et al.* (2011) but only for one isolate, while their main PFGE pattern,  
9 corresponding to our SDX42 pattern, was only found for two of our isolates (one pork and  
10 one human). This suggests that each country could have its own prevalent *S. Derby* pattern.  
11 In our study, 9 patterns presented more than 90% similarity with the major PFGE pattern and  
12 14 patterns more than 86% similarity.  
13 Among the 96 tested isolates carrying the pattern SDX01, 4 *BlnI* and 9 *SpeI* PFGE profiles  
14 were identified. However, among these 96 isolates, 81 isolates (32, 37 and 12 of human, pig  
15 and pork origin, respectively) remain identical after the use of *BlnI* and *SpeI* enzymes. Isolates  
16 with identical genetic profiles came from all tested sources. This result could suggest either  
17 that these isolates are closely related and can be carried by different hosts or that PFGE is not  
18 an appropriate method for *S. Derby*. Several other typing methods based on PCR  
19 amplification and capillary electrophoresis or sequencing such as MLVA (Bergamini *et al.*,  
20 2011, Boxrud *et al.*, 2007, Lindstedt *et al.*, 2003) and MLST (Achtman *et al.*, 2012, Ben-Darif  
21 *et al.*, 2010, Torpdahl *et al.*, 2005), CRISPR (Fabre *et al.*, 2012) are now used for *Salmonella*  
22 discrimination but they have rarely been described for *S. Derby* isolates. Genetic diversity of  
23 *S. Derby* evidenced after use numerous methods was recently discussed (Hauser *et al.*, 2011)  
24 but the conclusion was that PFGE remained the method with the highest index of diversity  
25 followed by VNTR sequence typing (STTR5 primer only) and *sop* genes (*sopA*, *sopB* and

1 *sopD*) sequence typing (sop-ST). MLST or DNA microarray on 275 genes provided lower  
2 discrimination of the 82 isolates studied. Consequently, according to the observations of  
3 Hauser *et al.* (2011) with regard to PFGE, our results seem to indicate that our isolates, with  
4 similar profiles after 3 different digestions, are genetically similar and have the ability to  
5 colonize different hosts.

6 The antimicrobial susceptibility tests revealed a low percentage (15.5%) of wild type *S. Derby*  
7 isolates (i.e., with no acquired mechanisms of resistance). This rate of wild type *S. Derby*  
8 isolates is very different depending on studies: from 0% (Ellerboek *et al.*, 2010) to 82% (Piras  
9 *et al.*, 2011). In our study, the majority of isolates (70.7%) were resistant to 3 antimicrobials,  
10 including the S SSS TE pattern that accounted for 66.7% of the isolates. Resistance to these 3  
11 antimicrobials was already highlighted for pigs isolates (Michael *et al.*, 2006b) and pork meat  
12 (Anjum *et al.*, 2011, Mürmann *et al.*, 2009). Antimicrobial resistance has been commonly  
13 associated with extended use in farm animals (Wegener *et al.*, 2003). While it is true that, in  
14 France, tetracycline is the most commonly-used antimicrobial for pigs (Chevance and Moulin,  
15 2011), consumption of antibiotics in pigs and resistance in *S. Derby* cannot be systematically  
16 linked. Although penicillins are used as often as sulfonamides, no resistance to beta-lactam  
17 antibiotics has been detected in any isolate from pigs or pork, whereas resistance to  
18 sulfonamides was detected in most isolates.

19 A correlation between macrorestriction patterns and resistance patterns was previously  
20 reported (Botteldoorn *et al.*, 2004, Michael *et al.*, 2006a, Michael *et al.*, 2006b). This  
21 correlation was also clearly observed in our study as the major PFGE pattern SDX01 was  
22 linked to the major antimicrobial resistance pattern: 75 (76.5%) of the 98 isolates resistant to  
23 streptomycin, sulfonamides and tetracycline were from the SDX01 pattern. All SDX01  
24 isolates tested (n=75) were resistant to these 3 antibiotics. A recent study (Cardoso *et al.*,  
25 2011) showed that each *S. Derby* isolate presenting a major PFGE pattern also exhibited the S

1 SSS TE pattern and carried a class 1 integron. Indeed, class 1 integrons carry the *sull* gene  
2 encoding sulphonamide resistance and frequently contain the *aadA* cassette gene, which is  
3 associated with streptomycin/spectinomycin resistance (Michael *et al.*, 2006a). Presence of a  
4 class 1 integron and *aadA* gene in *S. Derby* from pigs was also reported by Gebreyes *et al.*  
5 (2004). Less frequently *S. Derby* isolates from Asia have been found to contain the  
6 *Salmonella* genomic island 1 (SGI1) variant, which carries *aadA2*, *sull*, *floR* and *tet(A)*  
7 resistance genes (Chiu *et al.*, 2007).

8 As reported by Huang *et al.* (2009), in pig *S. Derby* isolates showed a low resistance rate to  
9 beta-lactams. Ampicillin resistance was found only in one human isolate. In our study, only  
10 four isolates showed resistance to more than three antibiotics; two were isolated from humans,  
11 one from pigs and one from pork. Pigs and pork isolates only showed resistance to  
12 streptomycin, sulfonamides, trimethoprim and tetracycline. Nevertheless, these antimicrobials  
13 are not the first used as a treatment for human salmonellosis.

14 A statistical attribution study based on outbreak data (Pires *et al.*, 2010) estimated that less  
15 than 1% of outbreak-associated salmonellosis cases were attributed to pork in Europe in 2005  
16 and 2006. However, in a report based on community observations, the European Food Safety  
17 Authority (EFSA) estimated that 10-20% of human *Salmonella* infections in the EU may be  
18 attributable to the pig reservoir (EFSA, 2010) and a more recent study (Pires *et al.*, 2011)  
19 found the pig reservoir to be the second largest contributor to human salmonellosis in the EU,  
20 responsible for 29.6% (95% CI: 28.9-30.3%) of reported cases. Pires *et al.* (2011) also  
21 showed that pigs were the main source of human salmonellosis in eight countries.

22 In this epidemiological study, isolates of human and pig origin showed a very high similarity  
23 in PFGE and in antimicrobial susceptibility. As serotype Derby is mostly associated with pigs  
24 and is the most prevalent, along with serotype Typhimurium, in pig production in France, we  
25 can conclude, as did Finley *et al.* (2008), that human salmonellosis due to this serotype is in

- 1 all likelihood linked to pigs. Implementation of another molecular method which is more
- 2 discriminatory than PFGE, as a complete MLVA scheme, and additional studies on isolates
- 3 from diverse origins could help us to confirm or infirm this hypothesis.

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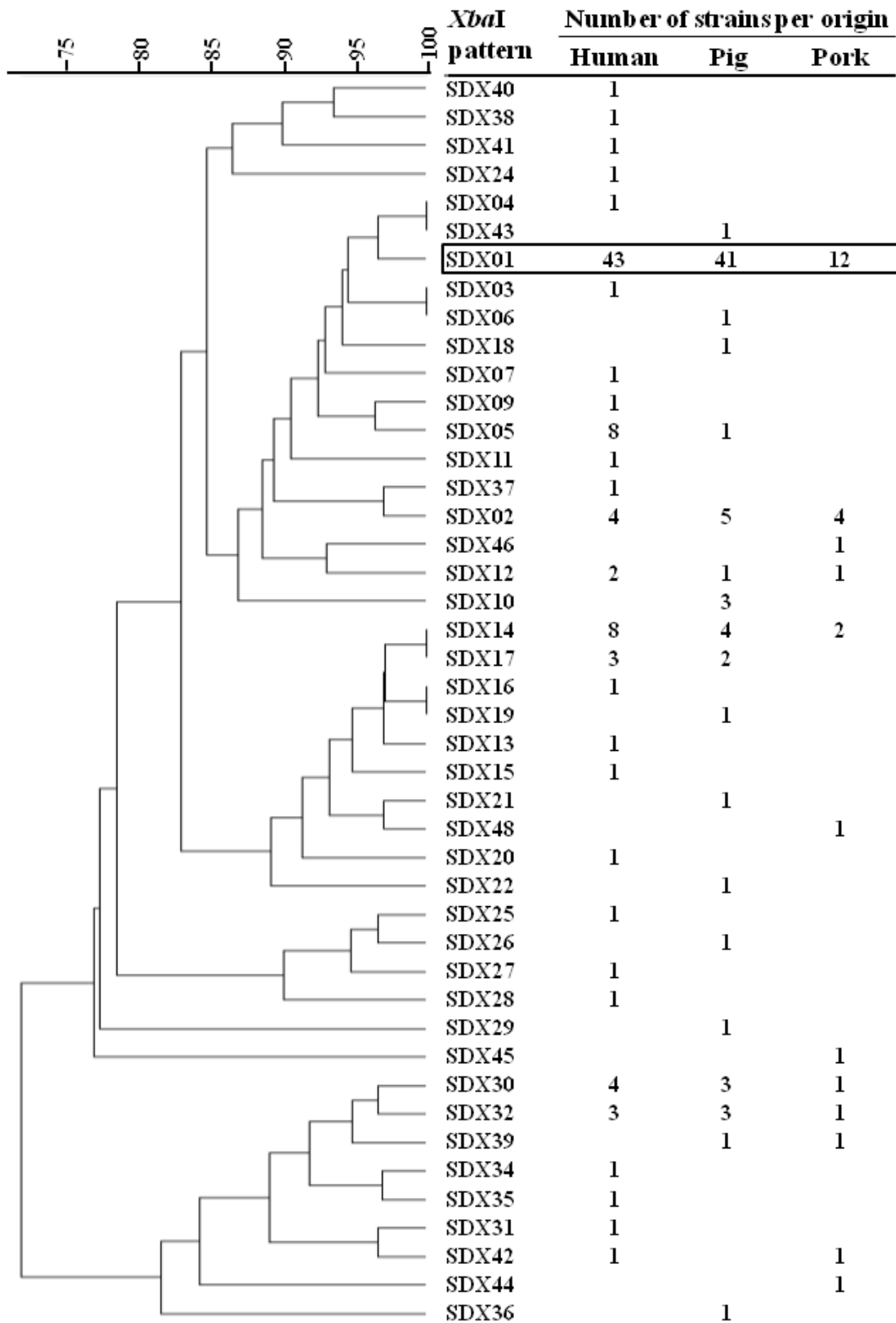
1 **Table 1:** Antimicrobial resistance distribution according to isolate origins

2

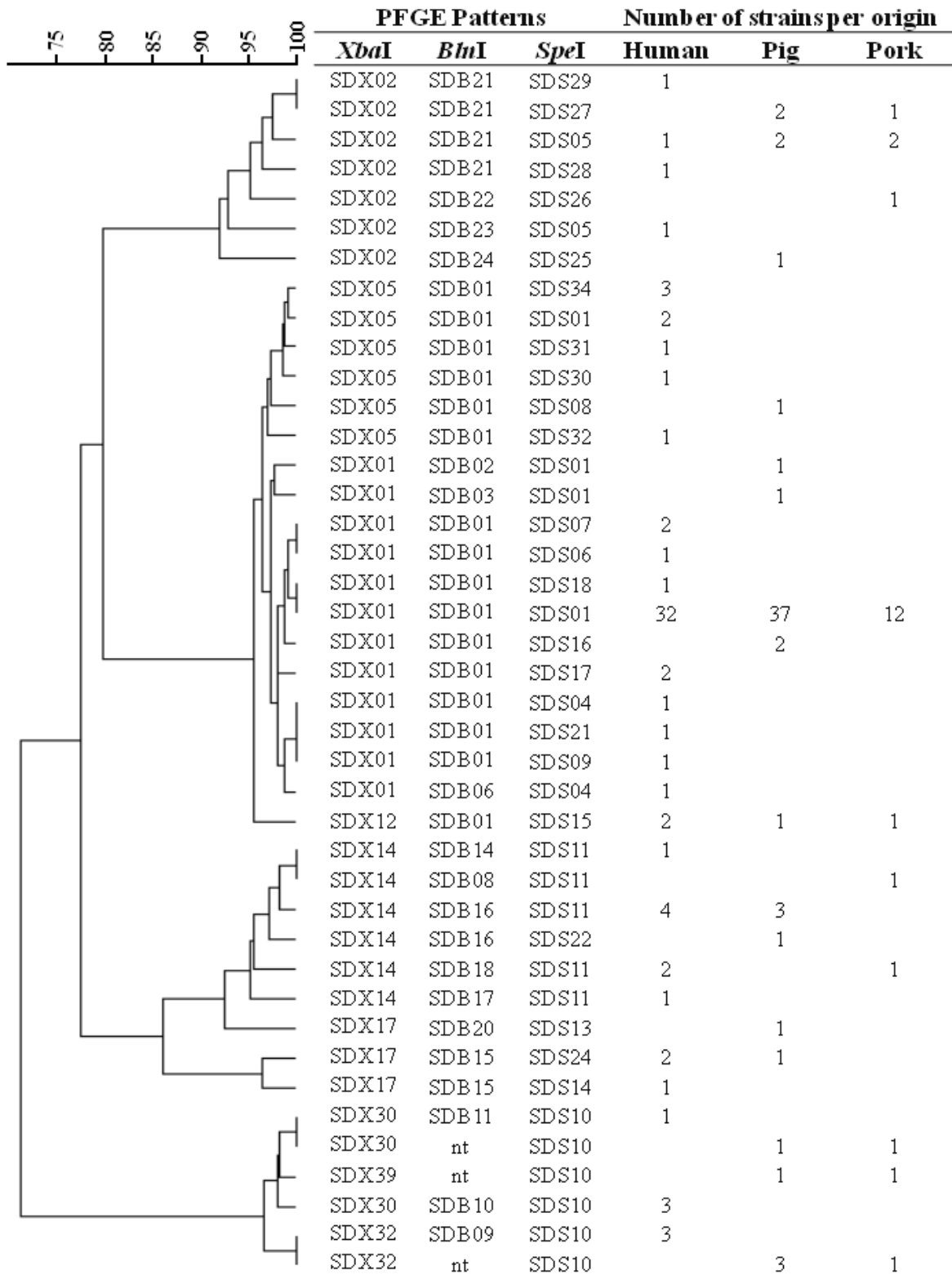
Antimicrobials*	Sample Origin			Associated <i>Xba</i> I patterns (No)
	Human No	Pig No	Pork No	
<i>Wild type strains (no acquired resistance)</i>	8	10	5	SDX02 (5), SDX14 (3), SDX30 (4), SDX31 (1), SDX32 (4), SDX36 (1), SDX37 (1), SDX39 (2), SDX41 (1), SDX42 (1)
TE	2		1	SDX013 (1), SDX25 (1), SDX48 (1)
S		4	1	SDX02 (1), SDX14 (1), SDX17 (1), SDX19 (1), SDX30 (1)
SSS, TE		2		SDX02 (2)
S, SSS		2		SDX22 (1), SDX43 (1)
S, TE		4		SDX14 (3), SDX26 (1)
SSS, TMP, TE	3		2	SDX09 (1), SDX17 (2), SDX42 (1), SDX45 (1)
S, SSS, TMP		1		SDX21 (1)
S, SSS, TE	32	49	17	SDX01 (75), SDX02 (1), SDX05 (7), SDX07 (1), SDX10 (3), SDXB11 (1), SDXB12 (2), SDXB14 (2), SDXB18 (1), SDXB29 (1), SDXB34 (1), SDXB40 (1), SDXB44 (1), SDXB46 (1)
S, SSS, TMP, TE		1	1	SDX02 (1), SDX06 (1)
A, S, SSS, TE	1			SDX35 (1)
S, K, TOB, GM, SSS, TE	1			SDX02 (1)

3 \* TE: tetracycline, S: streptomycin, SSS: sulfonamides, TMP: trimethoprim, A: ampicillin, K: kanamycin, TOB: tobramycin, GM:  
4 gentamicin. No: Number of isolates.

1 **Figure 1: Dendrogram representing the 44 PFGE-XbaI Patterns designated SDX01 to SDX48. The**  
 2 **number of isolates of each source (Human, Pig and Pork) is shown on the right side. The major**  
 3 **PFGE profile SDX01 is circled.**  
 4 **NB: Some patterns appear to be 100% identical with BioNumerics® analysis (1% tolerance), but**  
 5 **they have been visually identified as different from each other.**



1 **Figure 2: Dendrogram representing the 42 *XbaI*-*BlnI*-*SpeI* combined patterns obtained on 170**  
 2 **strains (nt = non typable strains). The number of strains of each origin is shown on the right side.**  
 3



4