

Bacillus cereus may produce two or more diarrheal enter toxins

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Date: 1997

Abstract

Bacillus cereus strains were tested for production of diarrheal enter toxin by the reverse passive latex agglutination test and for presence of B. cereus enter toxin gene (beet) by polymerase chain reaction. About 50% of 56 B. cereus strains reacted positive in broth culture in the reverse passive latex agglutination test, while the beet gene was detected in 41.1 %. Sixteen percent of the strains were positive for both diarrheal enter toxin and beet gene. A 741 bp probe prepared from the polymerase chain reaction product detected beet gene in all strains that were positive with the polymerase chain reaction. This study indicates a likelihood of two or more enter toxins being produced by B. cereus which may be involved in causing diarrheal type food poisoning.