

1-1-2010

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<https://doi.org/10.3906/sag-0904-9>

Available at: <https://journals.tubitak.gov.tr/medical/vol40/iss3/17>

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## Molecular analyses of Salmonella serotype Typhi and Salmonella serotype Paratyphi B strains isolated in Turkey

### Authors

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## Molecular analyses of *Salmonella* serotype Typhi and *Salmonella* serotype Paratyphi B strains isolated in Turkey

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**Aim:** To investigate the characteristics of *Salmonella* serotype Typhi and *Salmonella* serotype Paratyphi B, which still remain significant in Turkey.

**Materials and methods:** Eighteen *S. Typhi* and 42 *S. Paratyphi B* strains isolated from clinical samples were investigated by plasmid profile analysis, enterobacterial repetitive intergenic consensus-polymerase chain reaction (ERIC-PCR), and pulsed field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) methods.

**Results:** Plasmid profile analysis showed that 10 out of 18 (56%) *S. Typhi* isolates harbored 1 to 3 plasmids, and 11 out of 42 (26.2%) *S. Paratyphi B* isolates harbored 1 to 4 plasmids. PFGE performed with restriction enzyme *AvrII* grouped both *S. Typhi* and *S. Paratyphi B* isolates into 14 clusters; with restriction enzyme *XbaI*, *S. Typhi* and *S. Paratyphi B* isolates were grouped into 13 and 12 clusters, respectively.

**Conclusion:** These results showed that plasmid profile analysis and PFGE are reliable and discriminative methods complementing the phenotypic characters of *S. Typhi* and *S. Paratyphi B* isolates, and may contribute to the epidemiologic investigation of typhoid or paratyphoid diseases.

The study presented here is the first report on *S. Typhi* and *S. Paratyphi B* isolates from Turkey investigated by plasmid profile analysis, ERIC-PCR, and PFGE methods.

**Key words:** *Salmonella* serotype Typhi, *Salmonella* serotype Paratyphi B, plasmid profiles, ERIC-PCR, PFGE, Turkey

### Türkiye’de izole edilen *Salmonella* serotip Typhi ve *Salmonella* serotip Paratyphi B suşlarının moleküler yöntemlerle incelenmesi

**Amaç:** Bu çalışmada amacımız Türkiye’de halen önemini korumakta olan *Salmonella* serotype Typhi ve *Salmonella* serotype Paratyphi B suşlarının özelliklerini ortaya koymaktır.

**Yöntem ve gereç:** Klinik örneklerden izole edilen 18 *S. Typhi* ve 42 *S. Paratyphi B* izolatu, plasmid profil analizi, enterobacterial repetitive intergenic consensus-polymerase chain reaction (ERIC-PCR) ve pulsed field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) yöntemleri kullanılarak incelenmiştir.

**Bulgular:** Plasmid profil analizi sonuçları 18 *S. Typhi* izolatından 10’unun (% 56) 1-3 adet ve 42 *S. Paratyphi B* izolatının 11’inin (% 26,2) 1-4 adet plasmid taşıdığını göstermiştir.

*AvrII* kesim enzimi ile yapılan PFGE ile hem *S. Typhi* hem de *S. Paratyphi B* izolatları 14 gruba ayrılırken, *XbaI* enzimi *S. Typhi* izolatlarını 13, *S. Paratyphi B* izolatlarını ise 12 gruba bölmüştür.

**Sonuç:** Çalışma sonuçları hem plasmid profil analizi hem de PFGE’nin *S. Typhi* ve *S. Paratyphi B* izolatlarının karakteristiklerini ortaya koymada fenotipik özelliklerini tamamlayıcı, uygun ve ayırıcı yöntemler olduğunu göstermiştir. Aynı zamanda tifoid ve paratifoid hastalıkların epidemiyolojik araştırmalarına katkıda bulunabilecekleri ortaya konulmuştur.

Received: 22.04.2009 – Accepted: 26.10.2009

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Bu çalışma Türkiye'de *S. Typhi* ve *S. Paratyphi B* izolatlarının plasmid profil analizi, ERIC-PCR ve PFGE yöntemleriyle araştırıldığı ilk çalışma olma özelliğindedir.

**Anahtar sözcükler:** *Salmonella* serotip Typhi, *Salmonella* serotip Paratyphi B, plasmid profili, ERIC-PCR, PFGE, Türkiye

## Introduction

*Salmonella* infections are an important public health issue in Turkey as well as in many other parts of the world. Although *Salmonella* serotype Enteritidis and *Salmonella* serotype Typhimurium are the most common serotypes isolated from clinical samples in Turkey, the incidence of *Salmonella* serotype Typhi and *Salmonella* serotype Paratyphi B is gradually increasing (1,2). *S. Typhi* and *S. Paratyphi B* are the etiologic agents of typhoid and paratyphoid fever, very severe diseases with characteristic symptoms and complications in humans (3).

Despite the high morbidity of typhoid and paratyphoid fevers in Turkey, statistical and epidemiological data of *S. Typhi* and *S. Paratyphi B* isolated in Turkey are minimal (1). All information about *Salmonella* strains isolated in Turkey is based on the findings of a few individual studies (4,5). *S. Typhi* and *S. Paratyphi B* isolates are usually defined phenotypically by serotype and antimicrobial resistance patterns in the studies in Turkey. In epidemiological studies, when the majority of isolates show similar antibiograms, this phenotyping method is not sufficiently discriminative for the subtyping of *Salmonella* strains.

In order to understand the spread of infection and identify the sources of the bacteria and the transmission chains, a few molecular typing methods have been developed. Molecular techniques such as plasmid profiling and DNA fingerprinting provide data that complement traditional methods, but their use is limited by their cost and technical difficulties (6,7). Among these molecular techniques, pulsed field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) has been widely recommended for differentiation of *Salmonella* (8) because of its discriminatory power and successful application in epidemiological investigations (9-11).

The aim of the present study was to investigate the molecular epidemiological characteristics of *S. Typhi* and *S. Paratyphi B* strains isolated in Turkey by plasmid profile, enterobacterial repetitive intergenic

consensus-polymerase chain reaction (ERIC-PCR), and PFGE patterns, and to compare the value of these methods in the differentiation of these *Salmonella* isolates.

## Materials and methods

### Isolates

A total of 18 *S. Typhi* and 42 *S. Paratyphi B* strains were selected from the culture collection of the Enterobacteria Laboratory of Ankara University Medical School's Department of Microbiology and Clinical Microbiology. These strains were isolated, serotyped, and tested for antimicrobial susceptibility using the agar dilution method in a previous study (2).

In the previous study, *S. Typhi* strains were isolated from various clinical samples [from blood (12), stool (4), bone marrow (1), and pus (1)] of sporadic cases in 6 Turkish provinces [Ankara (5), Eskişehir (2), İstanbul (1), İzmir (1) Kayseri (5), and Konya (4)], and *S. Paratyphi B* strains were also isolated from various clinical samples [blood (19), stool (22), and bone marrow (1)] of sporadic cases in 6 Turkish provinces [Ankara (32), Bursa (2), Eskişehir (1), İzmir (3), Konya (2), and Trabzon (2)], all after the year 2000, using standard procedures.

### Plasmid extraction and profile analysis

Plasmids, extracted by the method of Kado and Liu (12) with modifications, were separated by electrophoresis on 0.7% horizontal agarose gel (Serva, Heidelberg, Germany) containing 0.5 µg mL<sup>-1</sup> of ethidium bromide with 0.5× Tris-boric acid-EDTA (TBE) buffer at 100 V for 2 h. Plasmid sizes were determined by coelectrophoresis with plasmids of known sizes from *Escherichia coli* standard strain V517 (53.7, 7.2, 5.6, 5.1, 3.9, 3.0, 2.7, and 2.1 kb), *S. Typhimurium* strain 020255-Ankara (90 kb), and *S. Enteritidis* strain 006956-Ankara (57, 5.8, and 4.8 kb). A GeneRuler™ 1 kb DNA Ladder (Fermentas Life Sciences, Vilnius, Lithuania) was used for

determining plasmid sizes. DNA bands were visualized on an ultraviolet transilluminator (TFX 20M; Vilber Lourmat, Marne-la-Vallée, France). Control strains (*S. Typhimurium* 020255-Ankara and *S. Enteritidis* 006956-Ankara) were obtained from the Communicable Diseases Research Department, Refik Saydam National Hygiene Center, Ankara, Turkey.

#### ERIC-PCR

Chromosomal DNA was obtained using a commercial DNA extraction kit (NucleoSpin extraction kit; Macherey-Nagel, Düren, Germany) according to the manufacturer's guidelines. The PCR was performed using the enterobacterial repetitive intergenic consensus primer 2, ERIC-2 (AAG TAA GTG ACT GGG GTG AGC G), as described previously (13) with minor modifications. The PCR products were analyzed by electrophoresis on 1% agarose gel (Serva, Heidelberg, Germany) containing 0.5 mg mL<sup>-1</sup> of ethidium bromide with 0.5× TBE buffer, visualized on an ultraviolet transilluminator (TFX 20M; Vilber Lourmat, Marne-la-Vallée, France), and photographed. The GeneRuler™ 100 bp DNA Ladder Plus (MBI Fermentas, St. Leon-Rot, Germany) was used as a DNA size marker.

#### PFGE

PFGE was performed according to World Health Organization protocols (14). In this method, each isolate was separately digested with *AvrII* and *XbaI* macrorestriction enzymes (Fermentas, Lithuania).

Briefly, all isolates were grown overnight at 37 °C. Agarose plugs were prepared with 1.3% low melting point agarose. Genomic DNA was digested with 20 U of restriction endonucleases, *AvrII* and *XbaI*, for 4 h each, according to the manufacturer's recommendations. PFGE was performed with 1.3% agarose gel using the CHEF-DR II system (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA, USA) at 6 V cm<sup>-1</sup> and 14 °C, in 0.5× TBE for 18 h with switch times of 2.2-63.8. The gels were stained with ethidium bromide (0.2 mg mL<sup>-1</sup>) and photographed under UV light. PFGE patterns were analyzed both visually as described previously by Tenover et al. (9) and with computer-assisted analysis with Gene Directory software (Syngene, Cambridge, UK). A similarity index was determined by using Dice's coefficient and the unweighted pair-

group method average (UPGMA) method with 1% band tolerance.

## Results

### Plasmid profile analysis

The plasmid DNA of *S. Typhi* and *S. Paratyphi B* isolates was identified according to its molecular weight in kilobase pairs (kb). Plasmid profile analysis showed that 10 out of 18 (56%) *S. Typhi* isolates harbored 1 to 3 plasmids ranging in size from 1.5 to 120 kb (Table 1), and 11 out of 42 (26.2%) *S. Paratyphi B* isolates harbored 1 to 4 plasmids ranging from 1.5 to 150 kb (Table 2). Eight (44%) *S. Typhi* and 31 (73.8%) *S. Paratyphi B* isolates did not reveal any plasmids.

### ERIC-PCR analyses

After ERIC-PCR with ERIC-2 primers, the 18 isolates of *S. Typhi* generated the same band patterns, with 6-10 major bands between 150 and 6000 bp. With ERIC-2 primers, all of the 42 *S. Paratyphi B* strains displayed similar band models, with 3-6 major bands between 150 and 6000 bp. It was not possible to discriminate *S. Typhi* or *S. Paratyphi B* strains with ERIC-PCR analysis.

#### PFGE

PFGE of chromosomal DNA from 18 *S. Typhi* isolates digested by *AvrII* and *XbaI* displayed stable and reproducible patterns consisting of 9-15 fragments between 48.5 and 1018 kb and 12-16 fragments between 48.5 and 824 kb, respectively (Figures 1a, 1b, 2a, and 2b). Fourteen different PFGE patterns of *S. Typhi* strains were observed after digestion by *AvrII* (AT1-AT14), with a range of similarity between 53% and 95% (Table 1 and Figure 1a). Using *XbaI* enzymes, *S. Typhi* isolates were grouped into 13 clusters (XT1-XT13) with a range of similarity between 68% and 95% (Table 1 and Figure 2a).

Digestion of *S. Paratyphi B* strains by *AvrII* displayed 10-15 DNA fragments ranging from approximately 48.5 to 970 kb (Figures 3a and 3b). PFGE profiles for the *S. Paratyphi B* strains using *XbaI* enzyme revealed 9-14 fragments with sizes between 48.5 and 921 kb (Figures 4a and 4b). *S. Paratyphi B* isolates were grouped into 14 clusters using *AvrII*

Table 1. PFGE patterns after restriction with *AvrII* and *XbaI* enzymes and plasmid profiles of *S. Typhi* isolates.

| Isolate no. | Isolation date | City      | Sample      | Resistance pattern | Plasmid profile (kb) |         | PFGE ( <i>AvrII</i> ) | PFGE ( <i>XbaI</i> ) |
|-------------|----------------|-----------|-------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1           | 12-04-2001     | Ankara    | Blood       | A A/C T            | -                    |         | AT3                   | XT8                  |
| 2           | 17-08-2001     | Kayseri   | Stool       | A A/C C            | 120                  | 4.0 3.0 | AT13                  | XT13                 |
| 3           | 23-07-2001     | Ankara    | Blood       | Susceptible        | 57                   |         | AT9                   | XT4                  |
| 4           | 18-08-2000     | Ankara    | Bone marrow | Susceptible        | 100                  |         | AT8                   | XT8                  |
| 5           | 15-04-2001     | Ankara    | Pus         | Susceptible        | -                    |         | AT7                   | XT12                 |
| 6           | 18-10-2001     | Ankara    | Blood       | Susceptible        | 3.5                  |         | AT11                  | XT9                  |
| 7           | 20-04-2001     | Kayseri   | Blood       | Susceptible        | 90                   |         | AT7                   | XT7                  |
| 8           | 21-04-2001     | Kayseri   | Blood       | Susceptible        | 90                   |         | AT5                   | XT5                  |
| 9           | 22-04-2001     | Kayseri   | Blood       | Susceptible        | -                    |         | AT5                   | XT3                  |
| 10          | 22-12-2001     | Kayseri   | Blood       | Susceptible        | 13                   |         | AT11                  | XT9                  |
| 11          | 20-01-2001     | Konya     | Stool       | Susceptible        | -                    |         | AT1                   | XT8                  |
| 12          | 05-02-2001     | Konya     | Blood       | Susceptible        | -                    |         | AT1                   | XT2                  |
| 13          | 06-02-2001     | Konya     | Blood       | Susceptible        | 15                   | 2.5 1.5 | AT6                   | XT1                  |
| 14          | 19-02-2001     | Konya     | Blood       | Susceptible        | 15                   |         | AT2                   | XT1                  |
| 15          | 07-01-2001     | Eskişehir | Stool       | Susceptible        | -                    |         | AT10                  | XT10                 |
| 16          | 08-01-2001     | Eskişehir | Stool       | Susceptible        | 90                   |         | AT14                  | XT6                  |
| 17          | 12-09-2000     | İstanbul  | Blood       | Susceptible        | -                    |         | AT12                  | XT11                 |
| 18          | 30-07-2001     | İzmir     | Blood       | Susceptible        | -                    |         | AT4                   | XT5                  |

Susceptible: Susceptible to all studied antimicrobials.

A A/C T: Resistant to ampicillin, amoxicillin/clavulanic acid, and tetracycline.

A A/C C: Resistant to ampicillin, amoxicillin/clavulanic acid, and chloramphenicol.

enzyme (AP1-AP14) with a range of similarity between 30% and 80% (Table 2 and Figure 3a). Using *XbaI* enzyme, the isolates were grouped into 12 clusters (XP1-XP12) with a range of similarity between 24% and 69% (Table 2 and Figure 4a).

## Discussion

Salmonellosis is one of the most significant public health problems in developing countries, and despite measures taken for its control it still affects large numbers of people. The importance of this infection has led to the creation of instruments for monitoring and controlling these processes (6).

*S. Typhi* and *S. Paratyphi B* isolates are usually defined phenotypically by serotype and antimicrobial resistance patterns in studies in Turkey. Since most *S.*

*Typhi* and *S. Paratyphi B* strains isolated in Turkey are susceptible to all tested antimicrobials (15), the phenotypic typing method based on antibiogram (R-typing) is not useful in the discrimination of *S. Typhi* isolates. Epidemiological studies require the use of more efficient methods to trace precisely the spread of the strains (2).

Characterization of *S. Typhi* and *S. Paratyphi B* isolates traditionally depended on phage typing. However, this method is not very discriminating and would not provide useful epidemiological information if there were only a few predominating phage types. Moreover, acquisition or loss of lysogenic phages might result in a change in the phage type. Furthermore, the requirement for specialized phage collections and bacterial strains for their propagation has resulted in a protocol that is routinely practiced



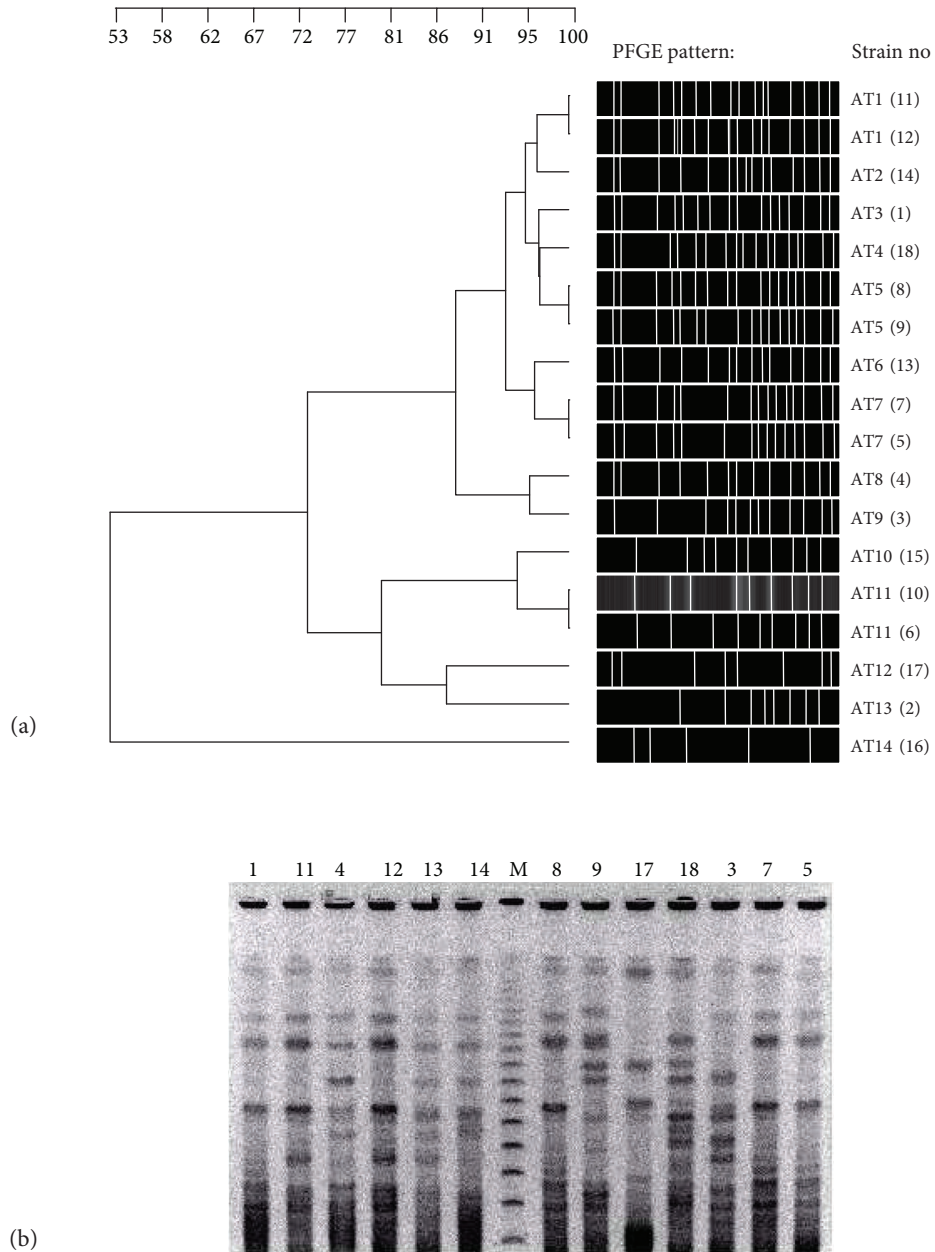
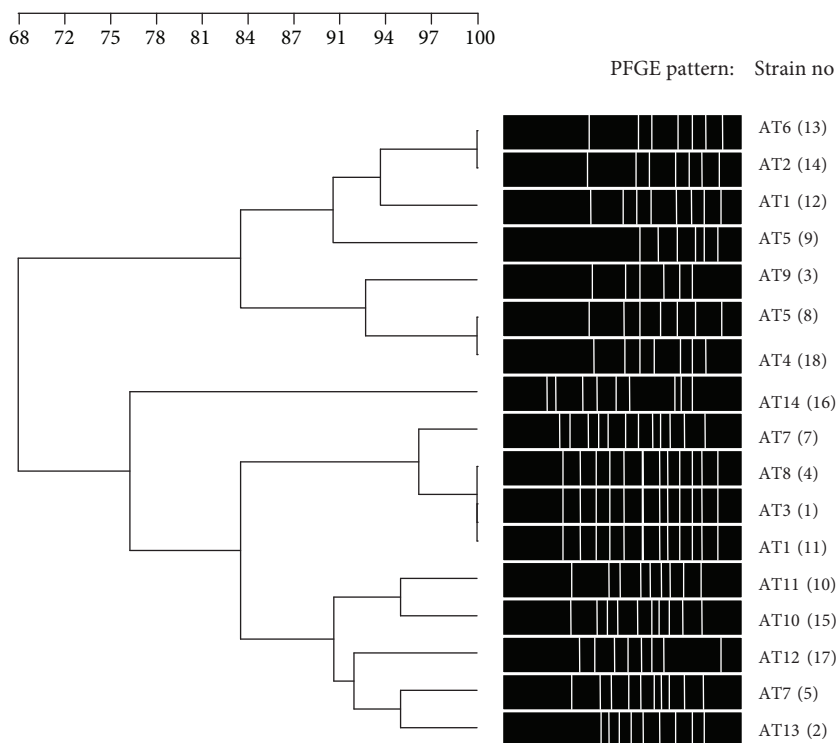


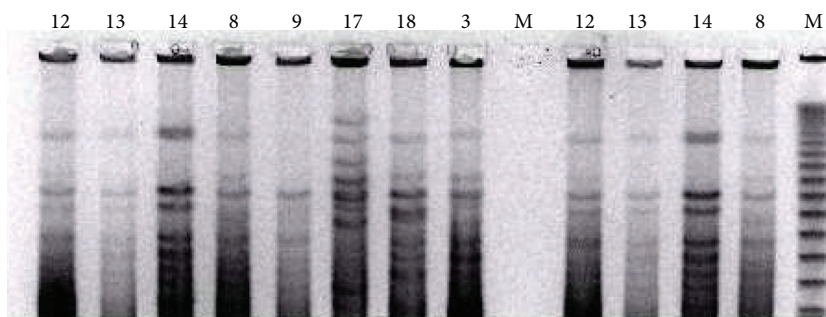
Figure 1. (a) Dendrogram of PFGE *AvrII* band patterns of *S. Typhi* isolates generated by Gene Directory software using the unweighted pair group with arithmetic mean (UPGMA) method. (b) Examples of representative PFGE fingerprint patterns of *S. Typhi* strains after restriction with *AvrII* enzyme. 1, 11, 4, 12-14, 8, 9, 17, 18, 3, 7, and 5: strain numbers; M: lambda ladder PFGE marker (N0340S, New England Biolabs, Hertfordshire, UK; band size: 48.5-1018.5 kb).

in only a few reference laboratories. There is no reference center for phage typing of *Salmonella* isolates in Turkey.

During the last decade, traditional methods of strain typing have been supplemented or replaced in many laboratories with newer molecular methods (9).



(a)



(b)

Figure 2. (a) Dendrogram of PFGE *XbaI* band patterns of *S. Typhi* isolates generated by Gene Directory software using the unweighted pair group with arithmetic mean (UPGMA) method.

(b) Examples of representative PFGE fingerprint patterns of *S. Typhi* strains after restriction with *XbaI* enzyme. 12-14, 8, 9, 17, 18, 3, 12, 13, 14, and 8: strain numbers; M: lambda ladder PFGE marker (N0340S, New England Biolabs, Hertfordshire, UK; band size: 48.5-1018.5 kb).

In this study, *S. Typhi* and *S. Paratyphi B* clinical isolates from various Turkish provinces were investigated by plasmid profile analyses, ERIC-PCR, and PFGE.

Plasmid profile analysis is based on the numbers and molecular weights of plasmids after extraction

and electrophoresis of plasmid DNA. This method is restricted to strains possessing plasmids. Plasmid profiles are not very useful for subtyping *Salmonella* strains when strains do not carry plasmids or possess only serotype-specific plasmids, or when only a few of the strains harbor plasmids (16,17).



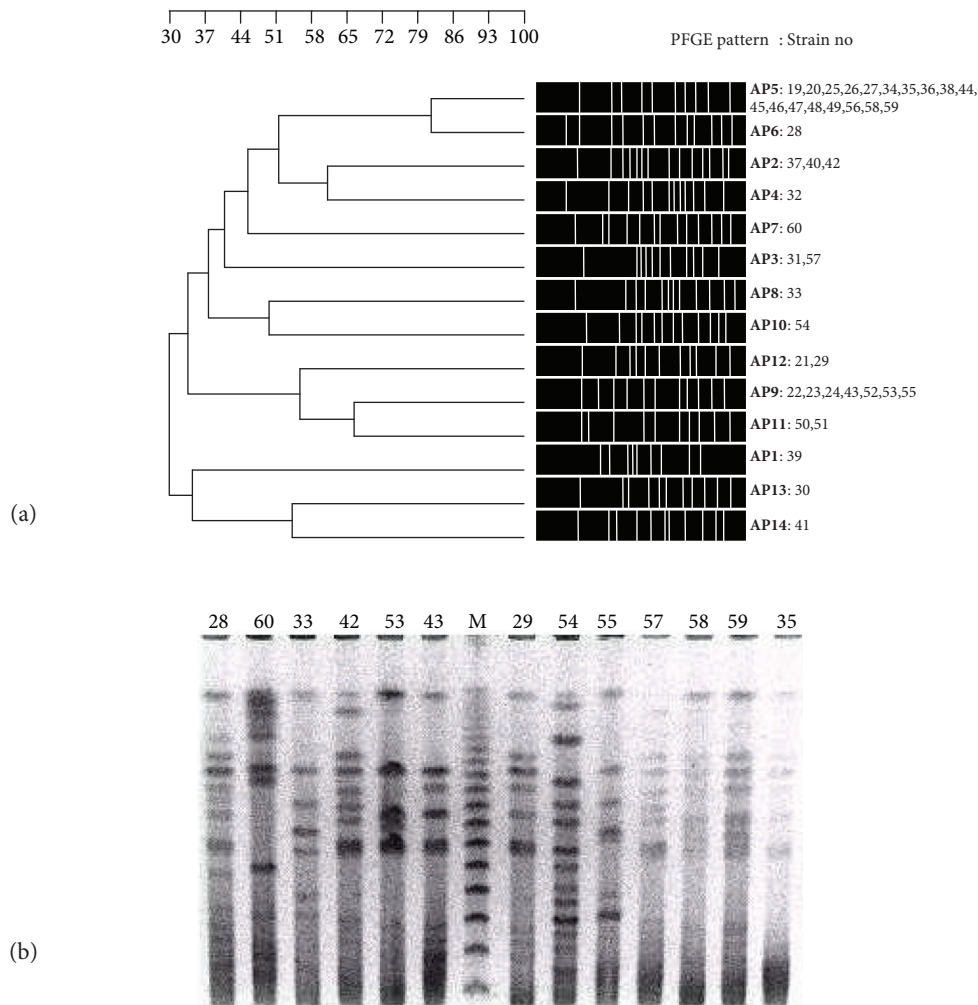


Figure 3. (a) Dendrogram of PFGE *AvrII* band patterns of *S. Paratyphi B* isolates generated by Gene Directory software using the unweighted pair group with arithmetic mean (UPGMA) method. (b) Examples of representative PFGE fingerprint patterns of *S. Paratyphi B* strains after restriction with *AvrII* enzyme. 28, 60, 33, 42, 53, 43, 29, 54, 55, 57-59, and 35: strain numbers; M: lambda ladder PFGE marker (N0340S, New England Biolabs, Hertfordshire, UK; band size: 48.5-1018.5 kb).

According to Quintaes et al. (18), a total of 36.7% of the 30 *S. Typhi* isolates showed plasmids, and it was possible to distinguish 4 different profiles. Molecular weights of plasmids varied from 4.2 to 105 kb, but plasmids of 16.5 and 105 kb were prevalent. The majority of strains (63.3%) did not show any plasmids, even in a second analysis. According to Le et al. (19), 107 multidrug-resistant (MDR) serotype *Typhi* isolates were investigated; their transconjugants harbored a large plasmid ( $184.8 \pm 8.2$  kb), and 50 of these serotype *Typhi* isolates contained a second

plasmid ( $94.6 \pm 3.5$  kb). They also showed that multidrug resistance was associated with  $184.8 \pm 8.2$  kb self-transferable plasmids.

In this study, 22 of 60 (36.6%) strains examined had 1 to 4 plasmids. Plasmid profile analyses showed that 10 of 18 (56%) *S. Typhi* isolates harbored 1 to 3 plasmids ranging in sizes from 1.5 to 120 kb, and 11 of 42 (26.2%) *S. Paratyphi B* isolates harbored 1 to 4 plasmids ranging from 1.5 to 150 kb. Eight (44%) *S. Typhi* and 31 (73.8%) *S. Paratyphi B* isolates did not reveal any plasmids.

Table 2. PFGE patterns after restriction with *AvrII* and *XbaI* enzymes and plasmid profiles of *S. Paratyphi B* isolates.

| Isolate No. | Isolation date | City      | Sample      | Resistance pattern | Plasmid profile (kb) | PFGE ( <i>AvrII</i> ) | PFGE ( <i>XbaI</i> ) |      |
|-------------|----------------|-----------|-------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------|
| 19          | 05-11-2001     | Ankara    | Stool       | Susceptible        | -                    | AP5                   | XP7                  |      |
| 20          | 13-11-2001     | Ankara    | Stool       | Susceptible        | -                    | AP5                   | XP7                  |      |
| 21          | 16-10-2001     | Ankara    | Stool       | Susceptible        | -                    | AP12                  | XP7                  |      |
| 22          | 04-12-2001     | Ankara    | Stool       | Susceptible        | -                    | AP9                   | XP7                  |      |
| 23          | 24-09-2002     | Ankara    | Blood       | Susceptible        | -                    | AP9                   | XP10                 |      |
| 24          | 28-07-2003     | Ankara    | Blood       | Susceptible        | -                    | AP9                   | XP7                  |      |
| 25          | 31-08-2000     | Ankara    | Blood       | Susceptible        | -                    | AP5                   | XP7                  |      |
| 26          | 31-08-2000     | Ankara    | Stool       | Susceptible        | -                    | AP5                   | XP7                  |      |
| 27          | 12-09-2000     | Ankara    | Blood       | Susceptible        | -                    | AP5                   | XP7                  |      |
| 28          | 18-10-2000     | Ankara    | Blood       | Susceptible        | 85                   | AP6                   | XP7                  |      |
| 29          | 18-09-2001     | Ankara    | Blood       | Susceptible        | -                    | AP12                  | XP7                  |      |
| 30          | 10-08-2003     | Ankara    | Blood       | Susceptible        | -                    | AP13                  | XP7                  |      |
| 31          | 28-08-2000     | Konya     | Stool       | Susceptible        | 57                   | AP3                   | XP2                  |      |
| 32          | 26-09-2000     | Konya     | Stool       | Susceptible        | -                    | AP4                   | XP3                  |      |
| 33          | 06-04-2001     | İzmir     | Stool       | Susceptible        | 150, 90, 80          | AP8                   | XP5                  |      |
| 34          | 01-09-2000     | Eskişehir | Stool       | Susceptible        | 90                   | AP5                   | XP7                  |      |
| 35          | 29-08-2001     | Ankara    | Stool       | A                  | -                    | AP5                   | XP7                  |      |
| 36          | 25-09-2001     | Ankara    | Blood       | A                  | 20                   | AP5                   | XP7                  |      |
| 37          | 25-12-2001     | Ankara    | Stool       | A                  | -                    | AP2                   | XP7                  |      |
| 38          | 01-02-2005     | Ankara    | Stool       | AA/C               | 110, 90,             | 5.0                   | AP5                  | XP7  |
| 39          | 04-09-2000     | İzmir     | Stool       | T/S                | -                    | 7.5, 7.0              | AP1                  | XP1  |
| 40          | 09-10-2000     | İzmir     | Stool       | T                  | 90,                  | 20, 5.0, 1.5          | AP2                  | XP3  |
| 41          | 01-02-2005     | Ankara    | Stool       | T                  | -                    | 5.0                   | AP14                 | XP11 |
| 42          | 21-08-2001     | Ankara    | Blood       | C                  | 110, 90              | -                     | AP2                  | XP6  |
| 43          | 17-09-2001     | Ankara    | Blood       | C                  | -                    | -                     | AP9                  | XP12 |
| 44          | 01-11-2001     | Ankara    | Stool       | C                  | -                    | -                     | AP5                  | XP7  |
| 45          | 30-10-2001     | Ankara    | Blood       | C                  | -                    | -                     | AP5                  | XP7  |
| 46          | 30-10-2001     | Ankara    | Blood       | C                  | -                    | -                     | AP5                  | XP7  |
| 47          | 09-11-2001     | Ankara    | Blood       | C                  | -                    | -                     | AP5                  | XP7  |
| 48          | 13-10-2001     | Ankara    | Blood       | C                  | -                    | -                     | AP5                  | XP6  |
| 49          | 13-11-2001     | Ankara    | Stool       | C                  | -                    | -                     | AP5                  | XP7  |
| 50          | 27-09-2001     | Trabzon   | Bone marrow | C                  | -                    | -                     | AP11                 | XP9  |
| 51          | 27-09-2001     | Trabzon   | Stool       | C                  | -                    | -                     | AP11                 | XP7  |
| 52          | 05-09-2000     | Ankara    | Blood       | AC                 | -                    | -                     | AP9                  | XP9  |
| 53          | 28-06-2001     | Ankara    | Blood       | CT                 | -                    | -                     | AP9                  | XP7  |
| 54          | 24-04-2001     | Bursa     | Stool       | AT                 | -                    | -                     | AP10                 | XP8  |
| 55          | 21-07-2001     | Bursa     | Stool       | AT                 | 120                  | -                     | AP9                  | XP7  |
| 56          | 27-07-2001     | Ankara    | Stool       | AT                 | -                    | -                     | AP5                  | XP7  |
| 57          | 24-08-2001     | Ankara    | Blood       | ACT                | -                    | -                     | AP3                  | XP7  |
| 58          | 28-08-2001     | Ankara    | Blood       | ACT                | -                    | -                     | AP5                  | XP7  |
| 59          | 23-09-2001     | Ankara    | Blood       | ACT                | -                    | -                     | AP5                  | XP7  |
| 60          | 22-11-2000     | Ankara    | Stool       | AA/CCT             | -                    | -                     | AP7                  | XP4  |

Susceptible: Susceptible to all studied antimicrobials.

A: Resistant to ampicillin, A/C: Resistant to amoxicillin/clavulanic acid,

T/S: Resistant to trimethoprim sulfamethoxazole, T: Resistant to tetracycline, C: Resistant to chloramphenicol.

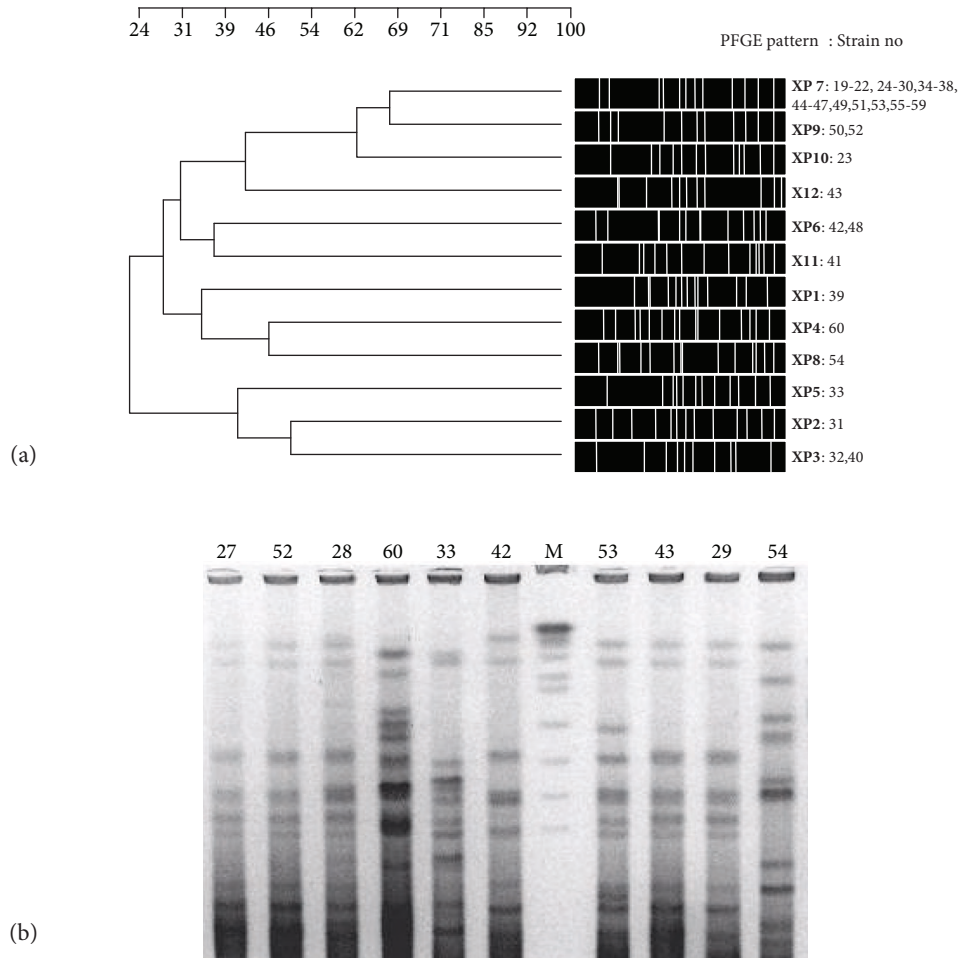


Figure 4. (a) Dendrogram of PFGE *XbaI* band patterns of *S. Paratyphi B* isolates generated by Gene Directory software using the unweighted pair group with arithmetic mean (UPGMA) method.

(b) Examples of representative PFGE fingerprint patterns of *S. Paratyphi B* strains after restriction with *XbaI* enzyme. 27, 52, 28, 60, 33, 42, 53, 43, 29, and 54: strain numbers; M: lambda ladder PFGE marker (N0340S, New England Biolabs, Hertfordshire, UK; band size: 48.5-1018.5 kb).

Our study revealed 8 different plasmid profiles among *S. Typhi* strains, and 7 plasmid profiles were shown among antimicrobial susceptible *S. Typhi* strains. Different plasmid profiles were observed in each of the 11 *S. Paratyphi B* strains carrying plasmids, and the *S. Paratyphi B* isolates with similar antimicrobial resistance patterns also harbored different plasmids. These results indicate that there is no relation between antimicrobial resistance and plasmids. Therefore, for the subtyping of *S. Typhi* and *S. Paratyphi B*, it would be useful to examine

antibiotic resistance and plasmid profiles of the isolates together.

In this study, ERIC-PCR was performed using ERIC-2 primers. Since isolates within the *Typhi* and *Paratyphi B* serotypes showed similar band models, we came to the conclusion that the technique of ERIC-PCR with ERIC-2 primers is not suitable for differentiating the Turkish strains of *S. Typhi* and *S. Paratyphi B* or for grouping the isolates into clusters.

PFGE, which separates by size DNA fragments produced by digestion with restriction enzymes

targeting specific nucleotide sequences, has been a standard whole genome typing method for bacteria (9). PFGE has been adopted by the Centers for Disease Control as the standard for *Salmonella* genotyping. In comparison with other methods, several authors have specifically recommended using PFGE for *Salmonella* genotyping (10,20-24).

Use of PFGE with endonuclease *Xba*I has been widely recognized as a sensitive means of fingerprinting *Salmonella* serotypes. It was demonstrated that macrorestriction analysis with 2 enzymes was a more discriminatory method for subtyping *Salmonella* (11).

Among 11 *S. Typhi* isolates that were typed with PFGE after digestion by *Xba*I, Le et al. (19) demonstrated that 4 patterns were observed and that the number of DNA fragments obtained by *Xba*I digestion by PFGE ranged between 11 and 13. Navarro et al. (25) showed that 48 sporadic *S. serotype Typhi* isolates, after digestion with *Xba*I, generated 38 different PFGE patterns and 15-21 DNA fragments, whereas, in our study, among 18 isolates, 14 different PFGE patterns of *S. Typhi* strains were observed after digestion by *Avr*II and 13 patterns were observed after digestion by *Xba*I; 9-15 and 12-16 DNA fragments were observed, respectively.

In this study, a total of 60 isolates of *S. Typhi* and *S. Paratyphi B* obtained from various clinical samples of sporadic cases were analyzed by PFGE using *Avr*II and *Xba*I macrorestriction enzymes. *S. Typhi* strains generated 14 different PFGE patterns after digestion with macrorestriction enzyme *Avr*II, while *S. Paratyphi B* strains also generated 14 different PFGE patterns. *S. Typhi* strains generated 13 different PFGE patterns after digestion with macrorestriction enzyme *Xba*I, while *S. Paratyphi B* strains generated 12 different PFGE patterns. Consequently, *S. Typhi* and *S. Paratyphi B* isolates were divided into 17 and 22 distinct PFGE cluster profiles (such as AT3-XT8 and AP5-XP7), respectively, obtained using both enzymes (Tables 1 and 2). Thus, the isolates that have the same resistance type and harbor the same plasmids were differentiated easily by the PFGE patterns of these 2 restriction enzymes.

When antimicrobial resistance patterns, plasmid profiles, and the PFGE patterns of the 2 enzymes were

used together, nearly all isolates could be differentiated. This was not an unexpected result, since these strains were obtained from sporadic cases.

While a total of 5 *S. Typhi* strains from Ankara showed 5 different patterns of PFGE with 2 enzymes, 5 isolates from Kayseri revealed 5 different patterns and 4 Konya strains showed 4 different PFGE patterns. These data reveal that *S. Typhi* strains isolated in Turkey show genomic variety.

The 2 strains (numbers 6 and 10) that showed similar PFGE models (AT11-XT9) among *S. Typhi* isolates were isolated from blood cultures in Ankara and Kayseri during a time span of 2 months. Both were susceptible to antimicrobials, and while one of them carried a 3.5 kb plasmid, the other carried a 13 kb plasmid (Table 1).

Goh et al. (26) observed 22 *Xba*I-pulsotypes among 65 D-tartrate-negative (dT-) strains and 17 *Xba*I-pulsotypes among 22 D-tartrate-positive (dT+) strains of *S. Paratyphi B* isolates. According to Weill et al. (27), PFGE, using *Xba*I, subtyped 49 *S. Paratyphi B* strains into 14 pulsotypes, and the *Xba*I patterns were characterized by 10-15 fragments ranging in size from <30 kb to >700 kb. Meanwhile, in our study, among 42 isolates, 14 different PFGE patterns of *S. Paratyphi B* strains were found after digestion by *Avr*II and 12 patterns were found after digestion by *Xba*I; 10-15 and 9-14 DNA fragments ranging from approximately 48.5 to 970 kb and 48.5 to 921 kb were observed, respectively.

Among *S. Paratyphi B* strains, 22 PFGE models were revealed by using 2 enzymes. Among these PFGE models the AP5-XP7 model was the most prominent and 17 isolates shared it. Table 2 shows that 3 of the 17 isolates that showed AP5-XP7 model had plasmids. However, they showed different plasmid profiles. Strain number 34 carried 90 kb sized plasmid, strain number 36 carried 20 kb sized plasmid, and strain number 38 carried 110, 90, and 5.0 kb sized plasmids (Table 2). Furthermore, their antimicrobial resistance models were rather different. Four strains of *S. Paratyphi B* (numbers 22, 24, 53, and 55) showed another PFGE model, AP9-XP7. Their antimicrobial resistance models were also the same. Only one of them (number 55) carried a 120 kb plasmid. Two strains (numbers 21 and 29) that had

the same PFGE model (AP12-XP7) had similar characteristics and could not be separated from each other. These strains were isolated in Ankara during the span of a month, were both susceptible to antimicrobials, and carried no plasmids (Table 2). A total of 32 strains isolated in Ankara were distributed among 16 different PFGE patterns by using 2 enzymes. These findings showed the genetic variety of *S. Paratyphi* strains in Turkey.

These results showed that plasmid profile analysis and PFGE are reliable methods for subtyping *S. Typhi* and *S. Paratyphi* B strains and could be used as discriminative methods complementing antibiograms. Combining these 3 methods would be useful for the investigation of outbreak epidemiology.

### Acknowledgements

This study was supported by TÜBİTAK, the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (Project no: 106S354 SBAG-HD-201).

We thank the members of the Turkish Salmonella Study Group (Coordinator: B. Erdem), along with

participating hospitals, as follows: A.D. Aysev, Ankara University School of Medicine; G. Haşçelik, D. Gür, and S. Erciş, Hacettepe University School of Medicine; S. Gedikoğlu, Uludağ University School of Medicine; B. Sümerkan and D. Esel, Erciyes University School of Medicine; I. Tuncer, Selçuk University School of Medicine; M. Tuğrul and M. Tatman-Otkun, Trakya University School of Medicine; A. Tünger, Ege University School of Medicine; Y. Akgün, Osmangazi University School of Medicine; N. Acar, Ankara Teaching Hospital, Ministry of Health; M. Gültekin, Akdeniz University School of Medicine; İ. Köksal, Karadeniz University School of Medicine; and G. Söyletir, Marmara University School of Medicine, for isolating and sending the strains to the coordinating center of the study.

We also thank Dr. B. Esen and B. Levent from the Communicable Diseases Research Department, Refik Saydam National Hygiene Center, Ankara, Turkey, for kindly providing the control strains of *Salmonella* Braenderup (H9812), *Salmonella* Typhimurium (020255-Ankara), and *Salmonella* Enteritidis (006956-Ankara).

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