

Genomic Relationship of *Salmonella enterica* Serovar Typhimurium DT104 Isolates from Korea and the United States

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(Received December 8, 2003 / Accepted February 12, 2004)

Salmonella enterica serovar Typhimurium DT104 (*Salmonella* Typhimurium DT104 or DT104) has been emerging as a common pathogen for human in Korea since 1997. In order to compare the genomic relationship and to search for the dominant strains in Korea, we conducted pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) and IS200 fingerprinting of 25 epidemiological unrelated isolates from human and animals from Korea and cattle from America. Two *Salmonella* Typhimurium DT104 isolates from human in Korea and all 8 isolates from American cattle had indistinguishable patterns from the PFGE and IS200 fingerprinting but multidrug-resistant *Salmonella* Typhimurium isolates, including DT104, from Korean animals had diverse genetic patterns. The data suggest that a dominant DT104 strain might have circulated between Korean and American cattle and that it had a high level of clonality.

Key words: DT104, IS200, fingerprinting, PFGE, resistance, clonality

Salmonella enterica serovar Typhimurium definitive type 104 (*S.* Typhimurium DT104) is a major virulent pathogen that has emerged as a world health problem (Threlfall *et al.*, 1996; Besser *et al.*, 1997; Brisabois *et al.*, 1997; Glynn *et al.*, 1998; Metzger *et al.*, 1998; Poppe *et al.*, 1998; Daly and Fanning, 2000). In Europe and in America, the multidrug-resistant *S.* Typhimurium DT104 has been isolated at an increased frequency from humans and animals (Poppe *et al.*, 1998; Paszti *et al.*, 2001). In Japan, multidrug-resistant *S.* Typhimurium that was similar to predominant isolates of western countries was reported recently (Izumiya *et al.*, 2001).

Salmonella enterica serovar Typhimurium has been one of the most frequent isolates of *Salmonella* serovars in Korea (Park *et al.*, 2002). The frequency of phage type DT104 in all isolated *S.* Typhimurium was 26.6%, 10.8%, and 2.5% in 1997, 1998, and 1999, respectively (our unpublished data). Furthermore, multidrug-resistant *S.* Typhimurium has been isolated from diarrheal patients with a gradual increase in recent years (Davis *et al.*, 2002). *S.* Typhimurium DT104 often has resistance to ampicillin, chloramphenicol, streptomycin, sulfonamides, and tetracycline; such a resistance to many antibiotics is referred to as a pentadrug-resistant pattern (ACSSuT)

(Bolton *et al.*, 1999, Boyd *et al.*, 2000, Kahn *et al.*, 2000). The five genes that are responsible for triggering the ACSSuT resistance are located between two integrons and are clustered in a chromosomal region of about 13 kb in size. Briggs and Fratamico (1999) have sequenced the gene cluster region conferring ACSSuT antibiotics resistance in an American strain of DT104. Boyd *et al.* reported the complete nucleotide sequence of a genomic island that was associated with the multidrug resistance region and has also reported that the resistance region is harbored on a 43 kb-long genetic element, which has been inserted into the chromosomal *thdF* gene (Boyd *et al.*, 2001, Boyd *et al.*, 2002).

Food-producing animals are reservoirs for non-typhoidal *Salmonella*. In the USA, most human *Salmonella* infections result from eating foods of animal origin (Angulo *et al.*, 2000). Ribot *et al.* reported that ACSSuT-resistant *S.* Typhimurium DT104 isolates that were obtained in the years 1985, 1990, and 1995 shared an indistinguishable PFGE pattern. It was suggested that the emergence of *S.* Typhimurium DT104 during the mid-1990s in the US probably was a result of the dissemination of multidrug-resistant DT104 in food-producing animal reservoirs (Ribot *et al.*, 2002). In Singapore, dried anchovy was found to be the vehicle of transmission for multidrug-resistant *S.* Typhimurium DT104 (Ling *et al.*, 2002).

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In our previous studies, we characterized phenotypes and genotypes of multidrug-resistant *S. Typhimurium* that were isolated from Korean and American animals (Yang *et al.*, 2002), and the molecular epidemiological characteristics of DT104 isolates from the patients in Korea (Park *et al.*, 2002). A pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) was performed to characterize clinical and food isolates of diseases caused by foodborne bacteria and to chase the origin of infection in outbreak investigations (Gautom, 1997; Swaminathan *et al.*, 2001). Through the analysis of the insertion sequence IS200 distribution among *Salmonella* serovars, clonal relationships among the isolates were delineated (Burnens *et al.*, 1996). In this study, representative isolates of *S. Typhimurium* DT104 and other phage types from Korean patients, Korean animals and American cattle were analyzed by IS200 fingerprinting and PFGE in order to compare the genomic relationship among these isolates.

Materials and Methods

Bacteria

A total of 25 isolates of *Salmonella* serovar Typhimurium were tested in this study. Representative 4 *S. Typhimurium* DT104 strains were isolated from the patients (Park *et al.*, 2002), and 8 *S. Typhimurium* DT104 strains were from Washington State University (Yang *et al.*, 2002). Two *S. Typhimurium* DT104 and 11 multidrug-resistant *S. Typhimurium* strains were isolated from animals in Korea (Yang *et al.*, 2002). All of the isolates were identified and confirmed by using the API 20E (bioMérieux, Marcy l'Etoile, France) kit and serums (Difco, USA) in biochemical and serological tests, respectively.

Preparation of nonradioactively labeled IS200 probe

An IS200 probe was prepared from genomic DNA of *Salmonella typhimurium* ATCC 14028 by PCR with IS200-L2 (5'-CCT AAC AGG CGC ATA CGA TC-3') and IS200-R2 primers (5'-ACA TCT TGC GGT CTG GCA AC-3') as described elsewhere (Burnens *et al.*, 1996). After the electrophoresis run in TAE buffer, the 556-bp PCR product was excised from the agarose gel and was purified with the QIAquick Gel Extraction Kit (Qiagen, USA). The probe was labeled using Enhanced Chemiluminescence (ECLTM) direct nucleic acid labeling and detection systems (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech, USA).

Southern blotting and chemiluminescent detection.

Bacterial genomic DNA was extracted through the use of the G-Spin Genomic DNA Purification Kit (iNtRON Biotechnology, Korea). Two micrograms of extracted DNA was digested to completion with *Bam*HI and *Pst*II (IS200 sequences do not have the recognition sites of these enzymes) as directed by the manufacturer (New England Biolabs, USA). Restriction fragments were separated through

electrophoresis by using 1.0% w/v agarose gels in TAE buffer (40 mM Tris-acetate, 1 mM EDTA) at 0.9 V/cm, and these fragments were transferred by rapid downward transfer systems (Schleicher & Schuell, BioScience, Germany) to the Hybond-N+ nylon membrane (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech, USA). DNA was fixed to the membrane by incubating it at 80°C for 2 h. Prehybridization, hybridization, and detection of hybrids that uses ECL detection reagents were carried out as recommended by the manufacturer (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech, USA).

PFGE

The preparation of genomic DNA blocks and the digestion of them with a restriction enzyme were carried out as described in an earlier publication (Gautom, 1997, Kim *et al.*, 2003). All *Salmonella* Typhimurium isolates were analyzed through the use of the restriction enzyme, *Xba*I (New England Biolabs, USA). Typing by PFGE of genomic DNA digested with *Xba*I was carried out in a CHEF Mapper system (Bio-Rad Laboratories, USA). The PFGE pulsing and running conditions were an initial 2.2 sec to a final 63.8 sec for 15 h and 6 Volts/cm at 14°C. Lambda ladder (New England Biolabs, USA) was used as the molecular size marker. After electrophoresis, the gels were stained with ethidium bromide for 20 min and were photographed using Gel Doc 2000 (Bio-Rad Laboratories, USA).

Genomic clustering of isolates

IS200 profiles and PFGE patterns of *Salmonella* Typhimurium isolates were visually compared and numbered in sequence according to the molecular sizes of the bands. Coefficients of dice similarity were calculated, and cluster analysis was performed with the unweighted pair group mathematical average (UPGMA) algorithm in the Molecular Analyst Fingerprinting software version 1.12 (Bio-Rad, USA) (Sneath and Sokal, 1973).

Results and Discussion

Screening of the presence of insertion element IS200 in *S. Typhimurium* DT104 and other phage types from animals were screened for the presence of the insertion element IS200 using the restriction enzymes: *Bam*HI and *Pst*II. IS200 fingerprinting with *Bam*HI showed five different patterns including the pattern for the strain ATCC 14028 (Fig. 1A and C). Two *S. Typhimurium* DT104 human isolates from Korea and eight DT104 cattle isolates from USA had exactly the same IS200 fingerprinting pattern, B1 (Fig. 1E). IS200 fingerprinting with *Pst*II showed more alternate patterns than fingerprinting with *Bam*HI, but two DT104 human isolates from Korea and eight DT104 cattle isolates from USA had an indistinguishable pattern between each other, namely P1 (Fig. 1B, D, and F). Two DT104 swine isolates had different

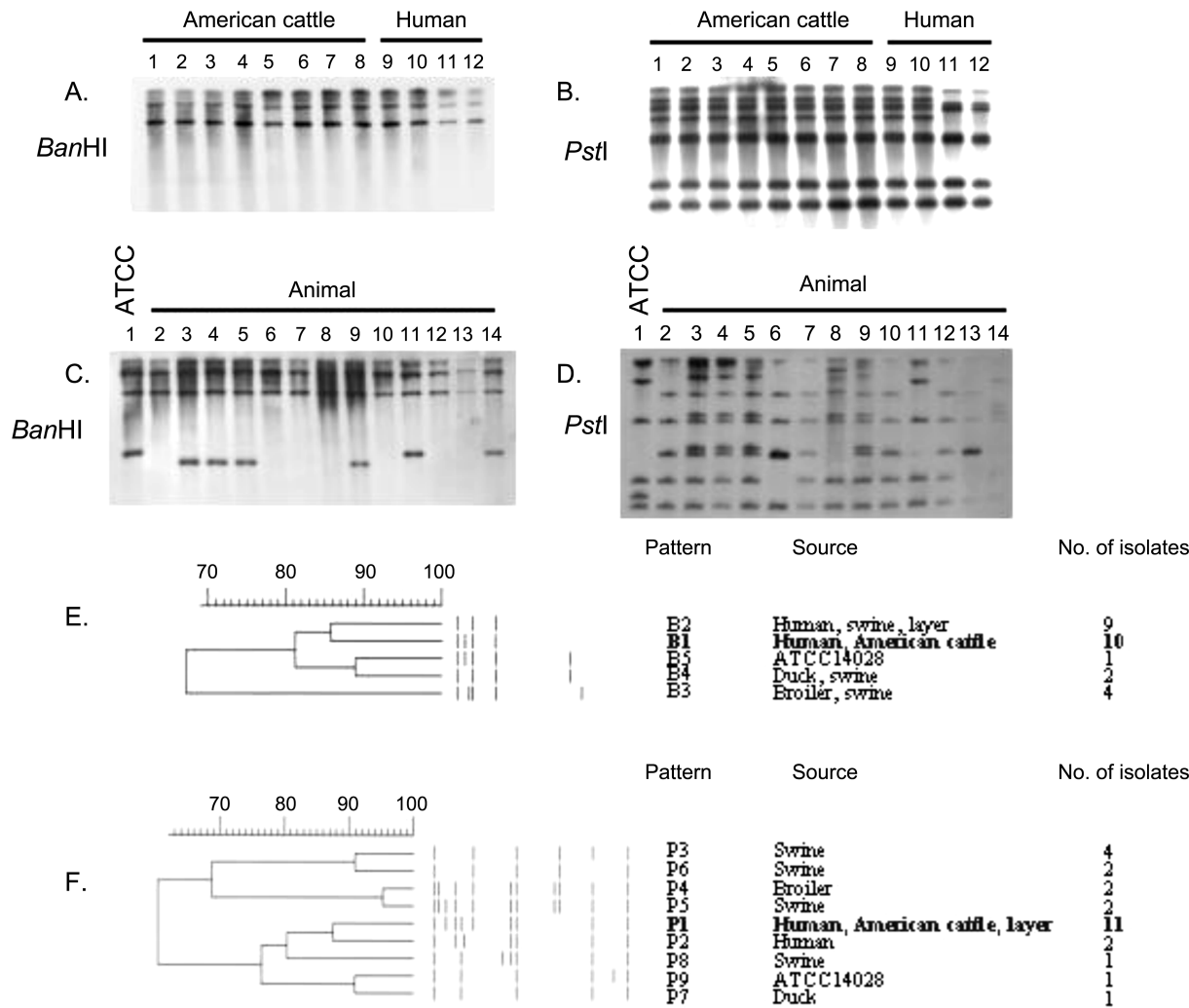


Fig. 1. IS200 fingerprinting patterns and the dendrograms of multidrug-resistant *Salmonella* Typhimurium isolates from humans of Korean origin, American cattle, and Korean animals digested with the restriction enzymes, *Bam* HI (A, C, E) and *Pst* I (B, D, F). Lane 1-8 in panel A and B show the IS200 fingerprinting patterns of *S. Typhimurium* DT104 isolates from American cattle, DT2380, DT2486, DT2490, DT2498, DT2501, DT2502, DT2505 and DT2581, respectively. Lane 9-12 in panel A and B show the patterns of DT104 isolates from humans of Korean origin, DT14, DT24, DT35 and DT42, respectively. Lane 2-14 in panel C and D show the patterns of multidrug-resistant *S. Typhimurium* isolates from Korean animals, ST1-ST6, ST10-ST12, and ST19-22, respectively. Lane 1 in panel C and D show the patterns of *S. typhimurium* ATCC 14028.

IS200 fingerprinting patterns, B2 and B4 with *Bam* HI, and P6 and P8 with *Pst*I, respectively, when compared with Korea human and American cattle isolates. Other multidrug-resistant *S. Typhimurium* isolates from Korean animals had a variety of IS200 fingerprinting patterns that were distinguishable from ten DT104 human and American cattle isolates. *Xba*I PFGE patterns of all these *S. Typhimurium* isolates illustrated the most variable genomic relationship and the highest discriminative power among the molecular epidemiological results in this study (Fig. 2A). However, from the IS200 fingerprinting results with *Bam*HI and *Pst*I, two DT104 human isolates and eight DT104 American cattle isolates had an indistinguishable pattern, called X1. This X1 PFGE pattern was highly similar to the pattern of human isolates from America (Ribot *et al.*, 2002). Other isolates had vari-

able PFGE band patterns and were discriminated into each pattern in a similarity range greater than 75% with the exception of two broiler isolates (X 4, < 45% similarity) and the strain ATCC 14028 (X 14, < 40% similarity) (Fig. 2B).

A combination of IS200 fingerprinting and PFGE identifying of genomic relationships between human DT104, animal DT104, other phage types, and American cattle DT104 isolates allowed a clear differentiation of the ACSSuT-resistant DT104 clone from the other *S. Typhimurium*, which originated from various sources. Among the total 14 clones, X1/B1/P1 was the most frequent and was found in all ACSSuT-resistant DT104 isolates from human and American cattle. Two DT104 from swine had two different clones, X12/B2/P6 and X13/B4/P8, compared to the most prominent type, X1/B1/P1. DT24 and

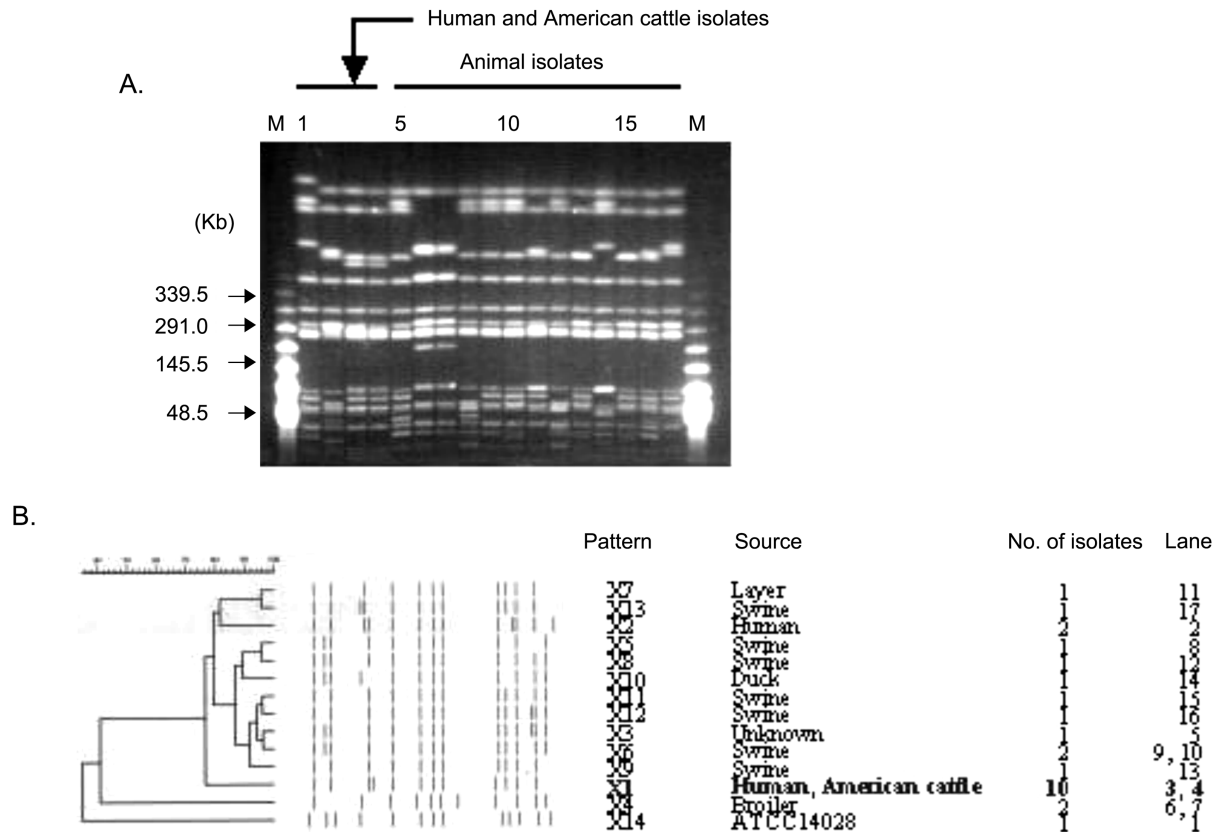


Fig. 2. *Xba*I PFGE patterns of multidrug-resistant *Salmonella* Typhimurium isolates from humans of Korean origin, American cattle, and Korean animals. M is a Lambda ladder as the molecular size marker.

Table 1. Origins, phage types, PFGE, and IS200 patterns of *Salmonella* Typhimurium isolates

Strain designation	Date and source	Phage type	<i>Xba</i> I PFGE pattern	<i>Bam</i> HI IS200 pattern	<i>Pst</i> I IS200 pattern	Reference
DT14	1997, human	DT104	X 1	B 1	P 1	19
DT24	1997, human	DT104	X 2	B 2	P 2	19
DT35	1997, human	DT104	X 2	B 2	P 2	19
DT42	1997, human	DT104	X 1	B 1	P 1	19
DT2380	WSU, bovine	DT104	X 1	B 1	P 1	25
DT2486	WSU, bovine	DT104	X 1	B 1	P 1	25
DT2490	WSU, bovine	DT104	X 1	B 1	P 1	25
DT2498	WSU, bovine	DT104	X 1	B 1	P 1	25
DT2501	WSU, bovine	DT104	X 1	B 1	P 1	25
DT2502	WSU, bovine	DT104	X 1	B 1	P 1	25
DT2505	WSU, bovine	DT104	X 1	B 1	P 1	25
DT2581	WSU, bovine	DT104	X 1	B 1	P 1	25
ST1	1983, unknown	RDNC ¹	X 3	B 2	P 3	25
ST2	1985, unknown	RDNC	X 4	B 3	P 4	25
ST3	1989, broiler	RDNC	X 4	B 3	P 4	25
ST4	1992, swine	RDNC	X 5	B 3	P 5	25
ST5	1992, swine	4	X 6	B 2	P 6	25
ST6	1992, swine	17	X 6	B 2	P 3	25
ST10	1993, layer	RDNC	X 7	B 2	P 1	25
ST11	1993, swine	RDNC	X 8	B 3	P 5	25
ST12	1994, swine	RDNC	X 9	B 2	P 3	25
ST19	1997, duck	RDNC	X 10	B 4	P 7	25
ST20	1997, swine	RDNC	X 11	B 2	P 3	25
ST21	1997, swine	DT104	X 12	B 2	P 6	25
ST22	1997, swine	DT104	X 13	B 4	P 8	25

¹RDNC: Reaction Does Not Conform to any recognized phage types.

DT35 isolates (X2/B2/P2) were also human DT104, but these isolates were resistant to ASSuT drugs but not ACSuT (Park *et al.*, 2002). Table 1 summarizes the molecular epidemiological results for the combined types.

The purpose of this study was to investigate the genomic relationships among human and animal *S. Typhimurium* DT104 isolates from Korea and America. IS200 fingerprinting and PFGE are already established as molecular epidemiological tools which have been performed to provide the genomic relationship and proper discriminatory power for *Salmonella* and other gram-negative bacteria (Burnens *et al.*, 1996, Izumiya *et al.*, 2001, Kim *et al.*, 2002, Park *et al.*, 2002, Ribot *et al.*, 2002). In recent studies that pertain to *Salmonella* fingerprinting, there has been a higher preference and confidence for PFGE than any other subtyping methods. For fine structure subtyping, many researchers have used a combination of methods. For example, combinations of PFGE and IS200 fingerprinting or PFGE and plasmid profiling were used. Recently, a group of Norwegian scientists developed a method of DNA fingerprinting based on a variable number of tandem repeat loci, which showed greatly improved resolution when compared to the *Xba*I PFGE and other subtyping methods (Lindstedt *et al.*, 2003). However, the method has not been used well in other countries and needs more verification by other scientists in order to be recognized for use.

Although we performed PFGE and IS200 fingerprinting as a combinational subtyping, pentadrug-resistant DT104 isolates from Korean and American cattles were indistinguishable. This result indicated that a dominant and highly clonal DT104 strain might have circulated among Korean and American cattles. We did not elucidate substantial evidence of any link between isolates from humans and animals. More DT104 isolates are required for substantial tracking of epidemiological linking between human and animal isolates.

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