Genetic Diversity Among *Bacillus anthracis* *Bacillus cereus* and *Bacillus thuringiensis* Strains Using Repetitive Element Polymorphism-PCR

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Received in the revised form 27 September 2004

Abstract

Repetitive element polymorphism-PCR (REP-PCR) is one of the tools that has been used to elucidate genetic diversity of related microorganisms. Using the MB1 primer, REP-PCR fingerprints from 110 *Bacillus* strains within the "*B. cereus* group" have identified eighteen distinct categories, while other more distantly related bacterial species fell within six additional categories. All *Bacillus anthracis* strains tested were found to be monomorphic by fluorophore-enhanced REP-PCR (FERP) fingerprinting using the MB 1 primer. In contrast, other non-*B. anthracis* isolates displayed a high degree of polymorphism. Dendrographic analysis revealed that the non-*B. anthracis* strains possessing the Ba813 chromosomal marker were divided into two clusters. One of the clusters shared identity with the *B. cereus* strains examined.

Key words: REP-PCR. *B. anthracis*. *B. cereus*. *B. thuringiensis*

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