hydrates in the 2 API kits, except for ribose, maltose, glucose, and sucrose. Discrepancies in results between the 2 test kits were seen with ribose in 1 isolate (M398) and maltose in 2 isolates (M124 and M397). One isolate (M380) did not hydrolyze hippurate but produced acid from trehalose and xylose. This isolate was also α-galactosidase positive, a result different from that of the type strain. All 4 isolates were α-glucosidase positive and 3 were alan
gly-phenyl-alanyl-proline aryIamidase positive. Some of the biochemical re
eactions for the 4 isolates, including all tests for delineating V. cambri
ense from other catalase-negative Actino
myces spp. (1), are summarized in the Table.

We report the isolation of V. cambr
ien se from 4 patients with purulent skin
and soft tissue infections. Our find
ings contribute to understanding of the clinical and pathogenic po
tential of this anaerobic bacterium. Gram-positive diphtheroid organ
isms from wound specimens are occasion
ally considered to be skin commensal org
anisms. Clinical microbiologists should be aware of this organism and the current inadequacy of commercial systems for its identification. We have shown that 16S rRNA gene sequen
cing is a useful alternative to gas–liquid chromatographic analyses of cell wall fatty acids or metabolic products for identification of anaerobic gram-pos
itive bacilli.

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Man-Yu Chu, Cara P.F. Cheung,
Terence K.M. Cheung,
Cindy Tse, Wei-Kwang Luk,
and Janice Y.C. Lo

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Outbreaks of Hemotrophic Mycoplasma Infections in China

To the Editor: Infections caused by hemotrophic mycoplasmas (for
ermly called erythrozoonoses) in animals and humans have been emerging in the People’s Republic of China in recent years. To date, 6 hemotrophic Mycoplasma spp. have been identified in rodents and mammals (1). M. suis from pigs, M. wenyonii from cattle, and M. ovis from sheep have been con
firmed; the human pathogen, which is most frequently observed in China, has not been genetically identified (2). However, the zoonotic potential of the bacteria is evident because the disease is more prevalent in farmers and veterinary doctors, who have frequent close contact with domestic animals, than in other persons (2). Vertical trans
mission from mother to fetus has also been confirmed (2). In animals, espe
cially in piglets, the disease is charac
terized by febrile acute anemia, jaund
cice, and eventual death resulting from concurrent infection with other mi
crobes (3–6). Infected humans may be asymptomatic or have various clinical signs, including acute fever, anemia, and severe hemolytic jaundice, espe
cially in infected neonates. Pregnant women and newborns were reported to be more vulnerable to the disease than others and to show more severe clinical signs after infection (2).

We conducted an epidemiologic investigation of hemotrophic myco
plasma infections in China by review
ing all reported cases and outbreaks for 1994–2007. Clinical cases for >6 animal species (including pigs, cows, goats, horses, foxes, chickens, and hu
mans) were reported during the period (Table). The number of reported cases varied from year to year. Human infec
tions were confirmed by clinical and laboratory methods (2). We reinvesti
gated blood samples of >600 pigs with previous diagnoses of mycoplasma in
fection accompanied by clinical signs of fever and jaundice. Slides were made and stained in Giemsa-staining solution. We used light microscopy to look for the presence of M. suis on the erythrocyte surface. We also used flu
orescence microscopy to look for the microbes by mixing a drop of infected blood with acridine orange solution (0.1 mg/mL). The microbes bound to red blood cells were examined with a confocal microscope. Positive cases were confirmed by PCR using primers of the small subunit RNA gene sequences. All samples were PCR positive, but PCR sensitivity is higher than sensitivity of acridine or
ange staining, which is higher than sensitivity of Giemsa staining.

Hemotrophic mycoplasma infec
tion is still a neglected zoonotic disease, which poses a threat to public health and the animal industry, especially in China (2,7). The prevalence of the dis

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tion of some Actinomyces-like isolates from human clinical sources: description of Va

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ease in domestic animals (e.g., pigs) and humans has reached an alarming level (Table). Human infection rates in certain areas in China have been high; for example, in Inner Mongolia, samples collected from 1,529 randomly selected persons during 1994–1996 showed that 35.3% of the local population, 57.0% of local pregnant women, and 100% of newborns of infected mothers were positive for hemotrophic mycoplasma infection (2). Infections in animals in China have been recognized since 1995, and the number of cases has been increasing rapidly. For example, >600,000 pigs infected with M. suis were reported in 2003 (Table). These infections have had a large economic impact on regions where the infection is endemic (8). Infections in other animals, including cows, sheep, and foxes, were also common, indicating a high prevalence of the bacteria in China. However, because of the lack of in vitro cultivation systems that assist in characterizing pathogens, progress in species identification and molecular characterization of these pathogens has been slow. Thus far, names of hemotrophic mycoplasma species have been based on the hosts from which they were identified. Due to the zoonotic nature of these pathogens, more in-depth studies on these microorganisms are needed.

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Sensitivity of Andes Hantavirus to Antiviral Effect of Human Saliva

To the Editor: Hantaviruses cause 2 severe and often fatal human diseases, hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome (HFRS) in Eurasia and hantavirus cardiopulmonary syndrome (HCPS) in the Americas. Rodents are the natural hosts for hantaviruses that cause HFRS and HCPS, and humans are usually infected by aerosolized virus-contaminated rodent excreta (1,2). Except for Andes virus (ANDV), human-to-human transmission of hantaviruses does not seem to occur. ANDV clearly is transmitted directly

Table. Number of reported hemotrophic mycoplasma infections, China, 1994–2007*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Human</th>
<th>Cow</th>
<th>Swine</th>
<th>Sheep</th>
<th>Fox</th>
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<td>1994</td>
<td>200</td>
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<td>NR</td>
<td>NR</td>
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<td>331</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>NR</td>
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<tr>
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<td>740</td>
<td>64</td>
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<td>NR</td>
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<td>60</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*NR, no record.

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