GENETIC VARIATIONS IN *AEROMONAS HYDROPHILA* ISOLATES FROM CLINICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SOURCES IN THAILAND

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Abstract. *Aeromonas hydrophila*, a widely distributed human pathogen causing a variety of diseases, can be isolated from clinical and environmental sources. Analysis in Thailand of 110 isolates of *Aeromonas hydrophila* by randomly amplified polymorphic DNA-PCR (RAPD-PCR) revealed one specific RAPD pattern group (G) that was associated only with strains from environmental sources. Cytotoxic activity, adhesion to epithelial cells and exoenzyme secretions of *A. hydrophila* were also investigated. A comparison of isolates with pattern group G with a set of isolates derived from human blood showed low induction of cytotoxicity from those with RAPD pattern group G suggesting low virulence of these strains.

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