

QUALITY ANALYSIS OF COMMERCIAL PROBIOTIC PRODUCTS FOR FOOD ANIMALS

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Abstract. Thirteen commercial probiotic feed products were examined for microbiological content and the results were compared with the information available on the product labels. Antibiotic resistance of *Lactobacillus* and *Bacillus* was investigated. All the products were inaccurately labelled in either numbers or species of bacteria. Mis-naming at the species level was the most common flaw. *Lactobacillus* exhibited higher-antibiotic resistance than *Bacillus* did. Plasmid was found in both *Lactobacillus* (22%) and *Bacillus* (2.5%). The *vanA* gene was present in one *L. plantarum* and one *B. subtilis* isolate. The *vanA*-containing *B. subtilis* also harbored the *tetW* gene. None of the genes detected appeared to be associated with a conjugative plasmid.

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