



# طرق الفحص السريعة للكشف عن عن الممرضات البكتيرية المنتقلة عن طريق

الأغذية

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> Detection Methods of Bacterial Pathogens.

محددات بعض الفحوصات البكتيرية

> The Limitations of Some Microbial Tests.

طرق الحرارية

- > Thermal DNA Amplification Methods.
  - Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR).
  - Real time PCR (Quantitative –PCR).
    - Bax Screening System Q7 (Qualicon).
    - IQ Real –time PCR (Bio-Rad).
    - ADIA Food (AES Chemunex).

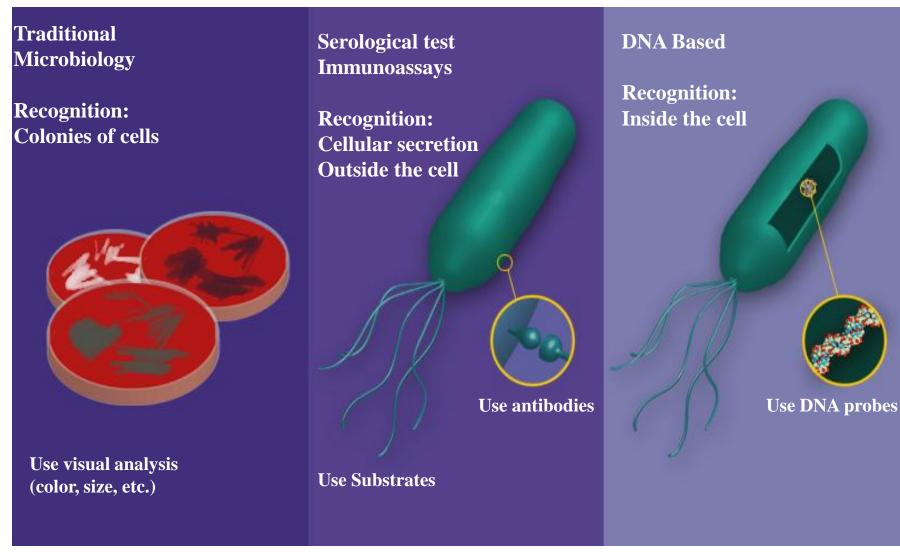
طرق غير الحرارية

- **► Isothermal DNA Amplification Methods.** 
  - •Molecular Detection Assay (3M).
  - •ANSR System (Neogen).

طرق التنميط الجزيئي

- **➤**Molecular Typing Methods.
  - •Ribotyping Riboprinter System (Qualicon).
  - •Pulsed Field Gel Electrophoresis (PFGE).

# طرق الكشف عن الممرضات البكتيرية



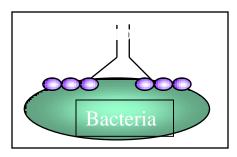
# تطور تقنيات الكشف عن الممرضات البكتيرية



Traditional Microbiology

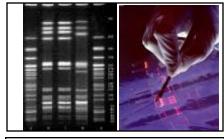
**Specificity** Sensitivity



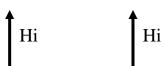


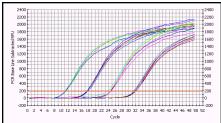
Immunoassay





PCR
(Requires post-PCR processing)





Real-Time PCR
(No post-PCR processing
Results are processed as they happen)



# محددات بعض الفحوصات المايكروبية

#### **Biochemical Tests**

الفحوصات الكيموحيوية

Often lack discriminatory power because of variations gene expression and random mutations that may alter biologic properties of microorganisms.

#### **Serological Tests**

الفحوصات المصلية

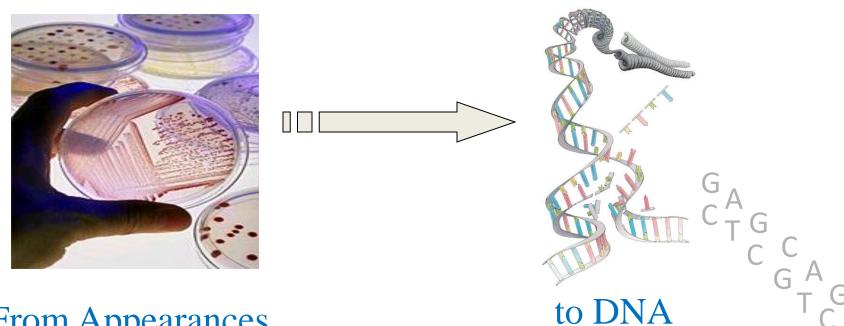
Limitations of serotyping include a **lack of availability of certain antisera** and **difficulties with standardization** of different methods.

#### **Bacteriophage Tests**

الفحوصات المعتمدة على البكتيريوفاج

have some weakness due to a **lack of widespread availability of biologically active phages** and **the technical difficulty** of performing the technique. Moreover, Bacteriophage typing is **labor-intensive** and the method often demonstrates **poor reproducibility and standardization**.

# بأستخدام الطرق المعتمدة على الحامض النووي يمكن تغيير طرق الفحص



From Appearances

# Thermal DNA Amplification Methods:

# - Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)

is a revolutionary method developed by Kary Mullis in the 1980s.

**PCR** is a biochemical in vitro reaction that permits the synthesis of large quantities of a targeted nucleic acid sequence.

Because DNA polymerase can add a nucleotide only onto a preexisting 3'-OH group, it needs a **primer** to which it can add the first nucleotide.

This requirement makes it possible to define a specific region of template sequence that the researcher wants to amplify.

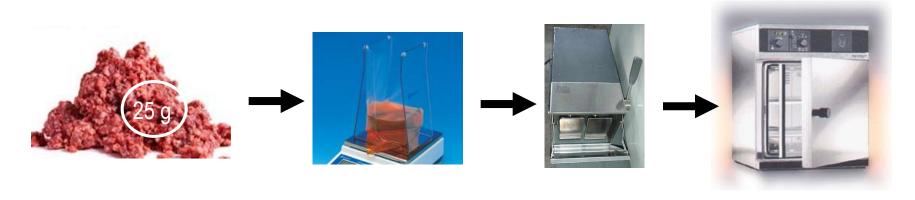
At the end of the PCR reaction, the specific sequence will be accumulated in billions of copies (amplicons).

#### **Consumables:**

- -DNA template
- -Polymerase
- -Nucleotides (d ATP/ d TTP/d CTP/d GTP)
- -Primers
- -Ions (e.g., Mg<sup>2+</sup> in soluble complex with dNTPs)
- -Buffer

# For Rapid Methods (DNA - Based )

Step 1: Enrichment.



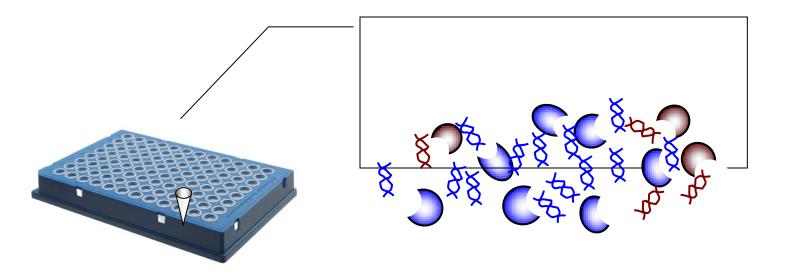
Sample collection

Enrichment medium

Homogenize

Incubate

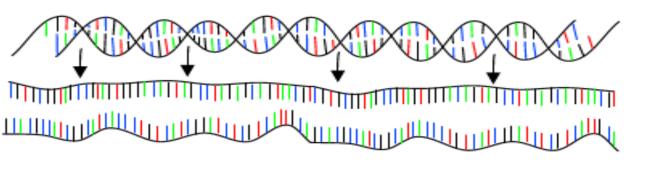
# Step 2: Extraction:



Bacterial cells are lysed — DNA released into the solution

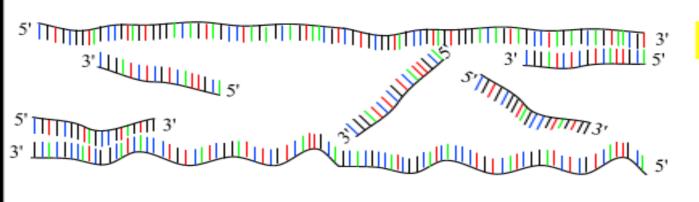
#### PCR: Polymerase Chain Reaction

30 - 40 cycles of 3 steps:



Step 1 : denaturation

1 minut 94 °C

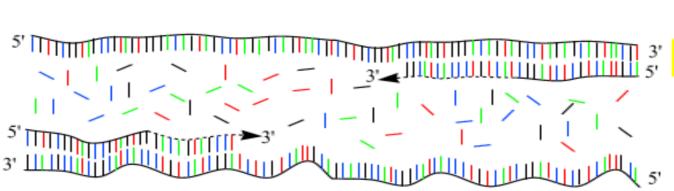


Step 2 : annealing

45 seconds 54 °C

forward and rayars

forward and reverse primers !!!

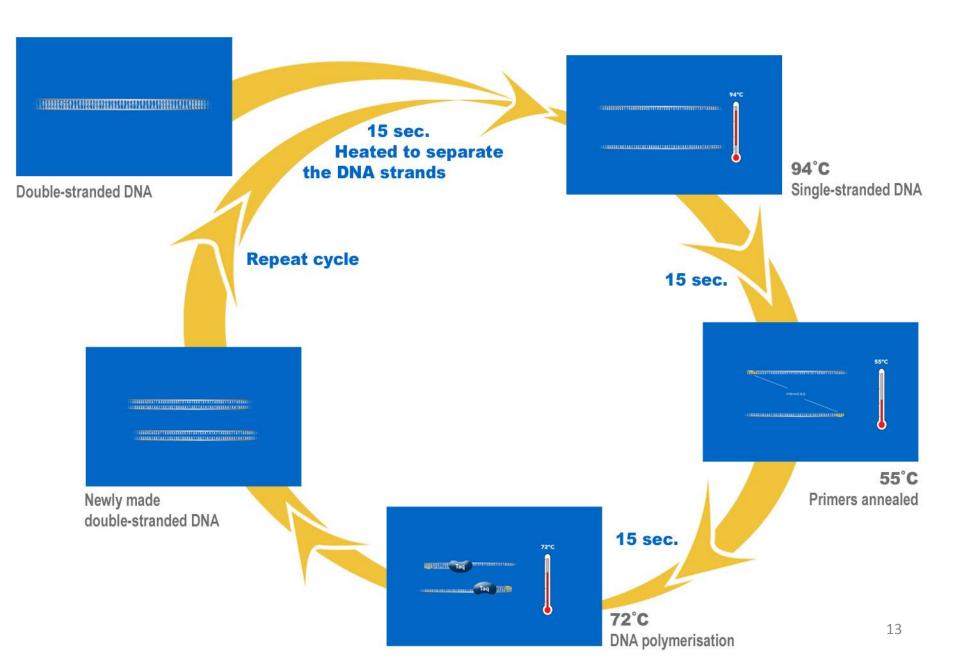


Step 3: extension

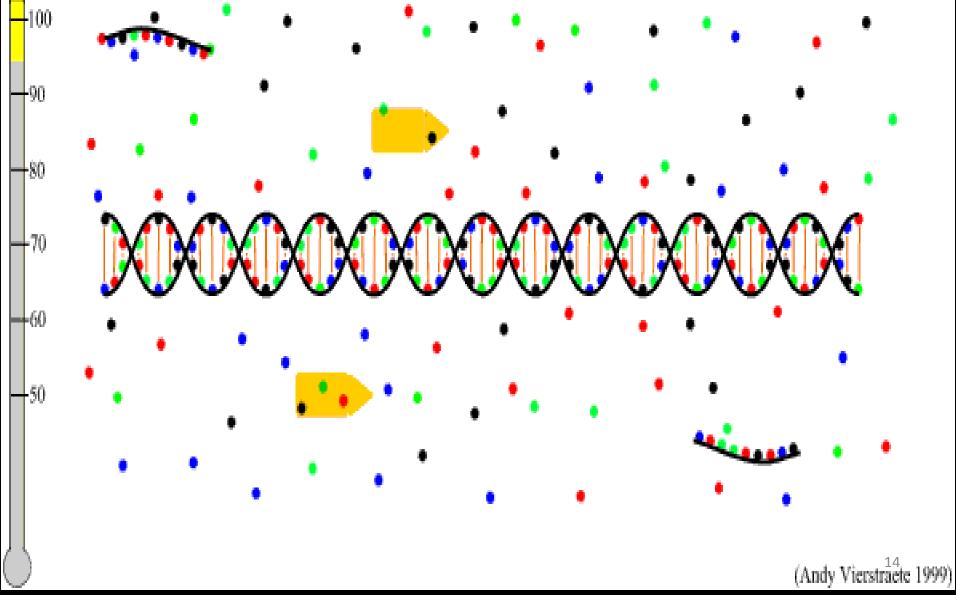
2 minutes 72 °C only dNTP's

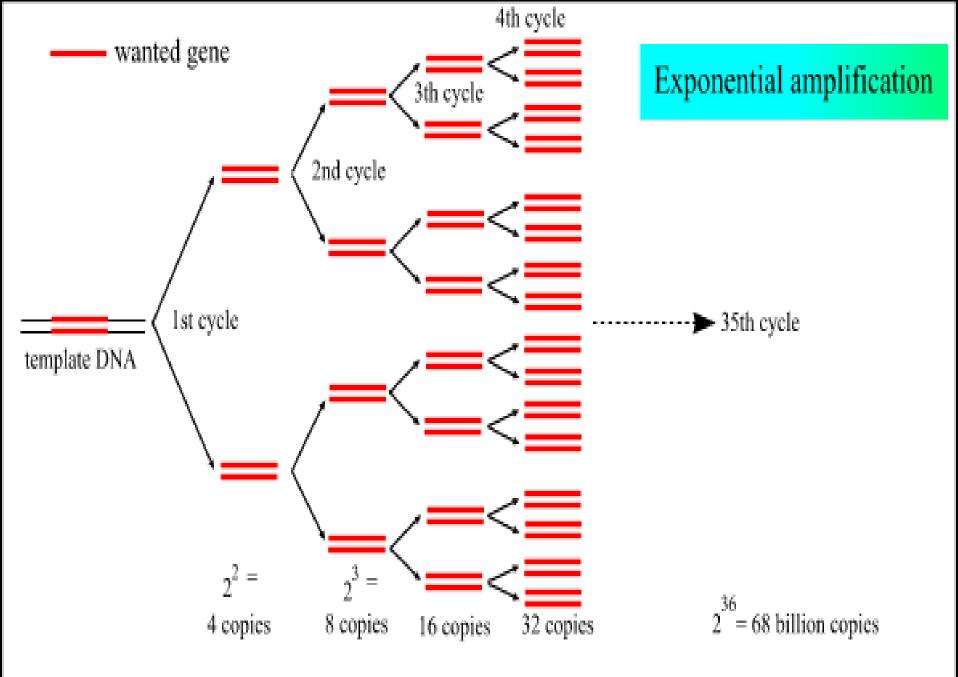
12

# **PCR Technique:**

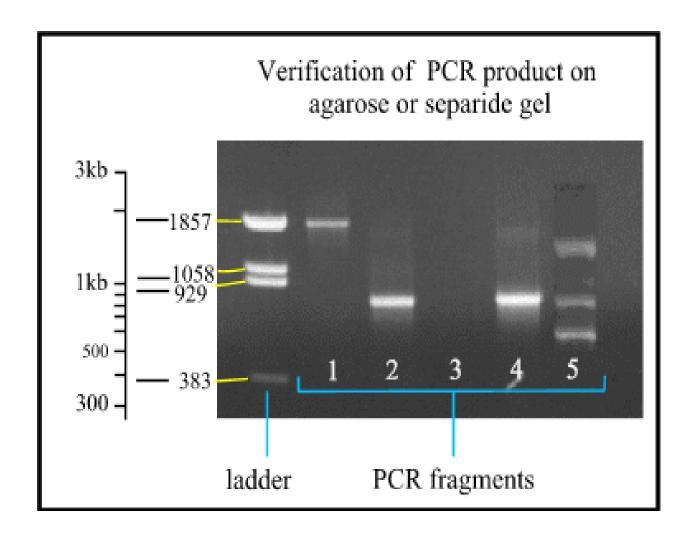


# PCR: Denaturation 94°C





(Andy Vierstracte 1999)



# **Multiplex PCR:**

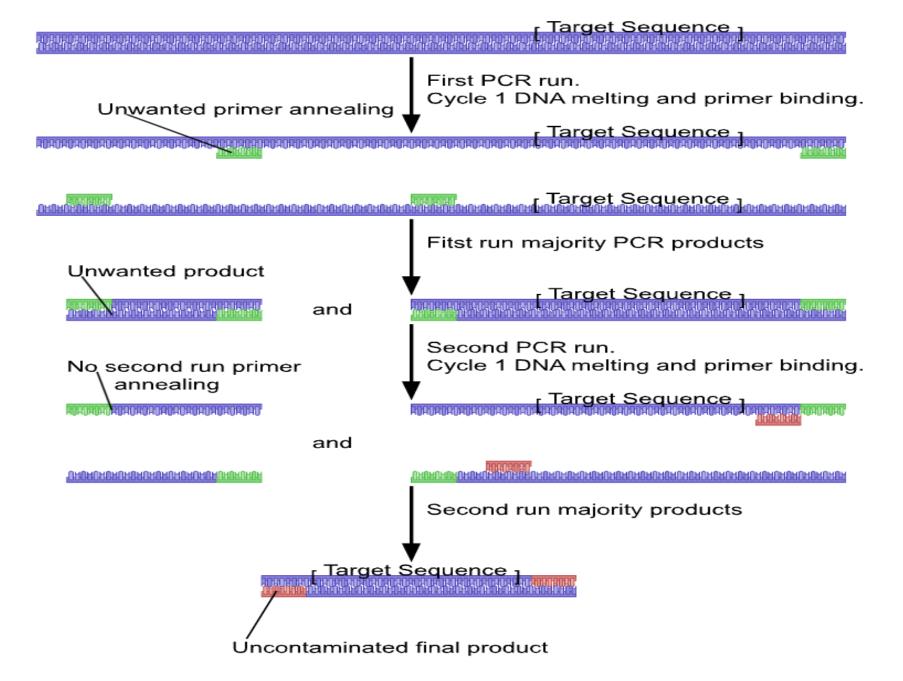
Multiple sets of primers can be included in a single reaction tube in order to increase the efficiency of PCR typing and cut down on reagent costs.

A key strategy in the development of that assay is the design of the primers. Primers must be designed such that **all of the primers have very close annealing temperature** optimums and the amplification products that they produce need to be noticeably different sizes to facilitate interpretation.

#### **Nested PCR:**

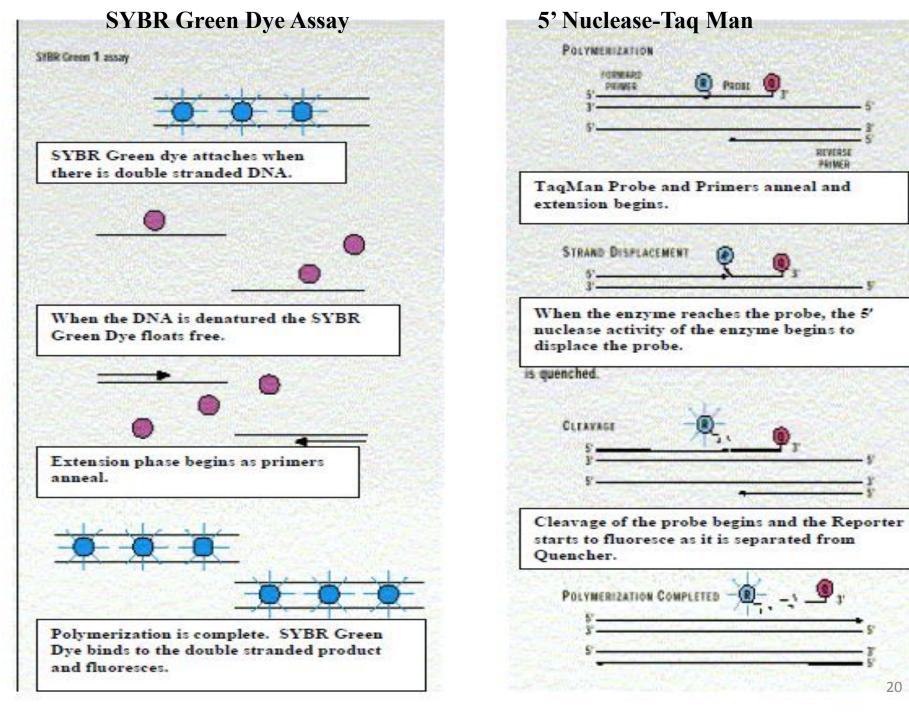
Intended to reduce the contaminations in products due to the amplification of unexpected primer binding sites.

Two sets of primers are used in two successive PCR runs, the second set intended to amplify a secondary target within the first run product. This is very successful, but requires more detailed knowledge of the sequences involved.



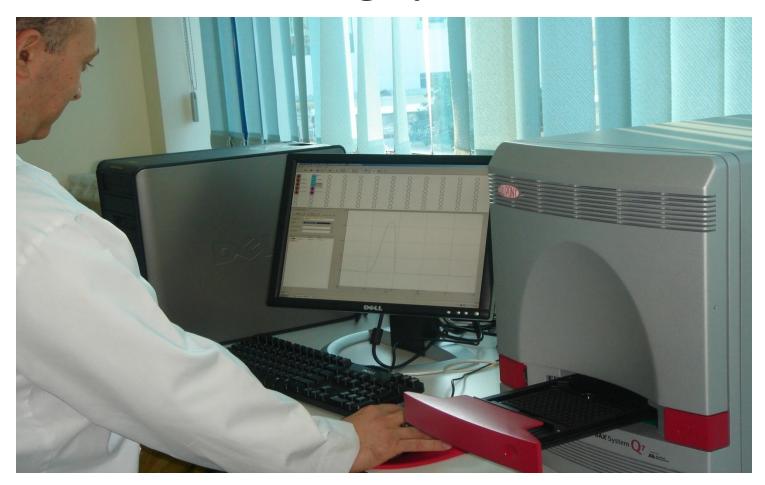
# - Quantitative Real-time PCR:

- Real time PCR is a modification of conventional PCR methodology that eliminates the need for gel electrophoresis, thus providing results more quickly.
- This method uses **fluorescent dyes and probes** to measure the amount of amplified product in real time by monitoring fluorescence.



PRIMER

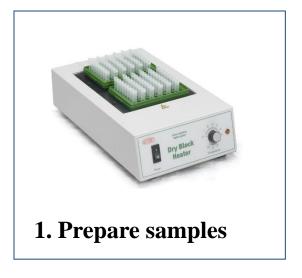
# Detection of Food-borne Pathogens Using Bax Screening System Q7



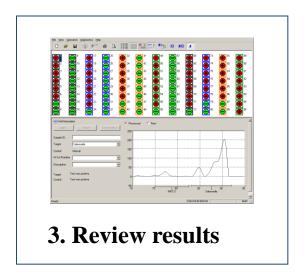
#### BAX® System Protocol Requires 3 Major Steps for Salmonella



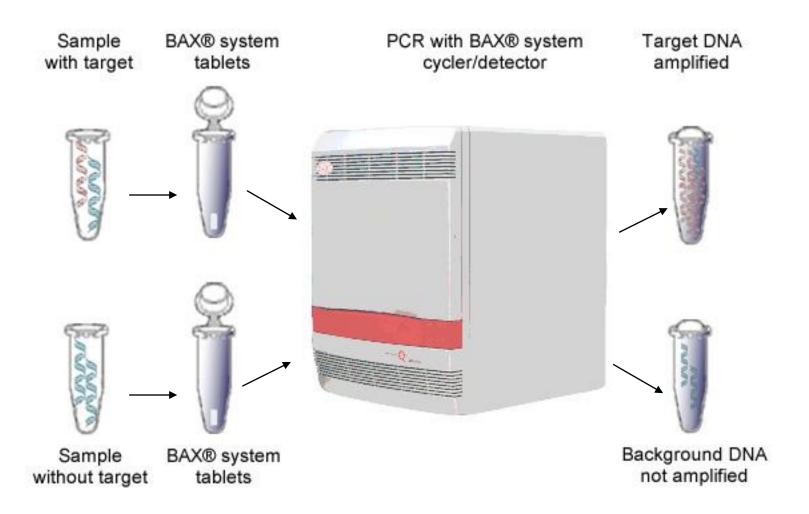
On enriched/re -grown samples...







# **BAX®** System and PCR



# **BAX® Systems**

#### **Next-day results for most assays**

Target	Enrichment	Lysis	PCR	Total Time to Result
Salmonella	20-26 hr* (some need extra 3 hr re-growth)	30 min	3.5 hr	24-33 hr
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7	14-24 hr (beef)	30 min	3.5 hr	18-28 hr
Listeria monocytogenes	30-50 hr	1 hr	3.5 hr	34.5-64.5 hr
Genus Listeria	22-30 hr	1 hr	3.5 hr	26.5-34.5 hr
Enterobacter sakazakii	24 hr	30 min	3.5 hr	28 hr
Campylobacter jejuni/coli	24 hr	30 min	3.5 hr	28 hr

# **BAX®** System PCR Assays for Screening

#### **Available today:**

- ✓ Salmonella
- ✓ *E. coli* O157:H7
- ✓ Genus Listeria
- ✓ Listeria monocytogenes
- ✓ Enterobacter sakazakii
- ✓ Yeast and mold



#### Each kit contains 96 tests:

- PCR tubes with tablets
- Optical caps
- Lysis buffer
- Protease

# Foods Tested with the BAX® System

- **✓** Dairy
- ✓ Meat
- ✓ Seafood
- ✓ Fruits/Vegetables/Salad
- **✓** Grains

- **✓** Spices
- **✓** Chocolate
- **✓** Pet food
- **✓** Environmental samples
- **✓** Other

# **BAX®** Systems are Credible

#### - AOAC International Official Method

Salmonella #2003.09; L. monocytogenes #2003.12

#### - AOAC-RI Performance Tested Method

Salmonella #100201; Listeria monocytogenes #070202; E. Coli O157:H7 #010401; E. coli O157:H7 MP #050501; Genus Listeria #030502

#### - USDA-FSIS Adoption

Salmonella #MLG 4C.00; Listeria monocytogenes #MLG 8A.00; E. coli O157:H7 and E. coli O157:NM #MLG 5A.00 – MP assay

#### - Health Canada Certification

Salmonella #MFLP-29; Listeria monocytogenes #MFLP-28; Genus Listeria #MFLP-15e; E. coli O157:H7 #MFLP-30; Enterobacter sakazakii #MFLP-27

#### - AFNOR Certification

Salmonella #QUA 18/3-11/02

#### - NordVal Certification

Salmonella #2003-20-5408

#### - Brazil MAPA Official Reference Method

Salmonella MLG-4C.01: Listeria MLG-8A.01

#### - Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

Listeria; Listeria monocytogenes

#### - Swedish National Food Association

# **Price Quotation:**

QTY	PART#	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE		
Q7 ST	Q7 START-UP PACKAGE (NEW SYSTEMS)				
41720001	41720001	EQUIPMENT	\$52,000.00		
	(120v) 41720003 (220v)	One BAX® system Q7 cycler/detector* with tube holders; computer workstation, monitor, software, and printer**			
		Two BAX® system heating blocks with inserts and thermometers			
		Two capping/decapping tools (cluster tubes, PCR tubes)			
		One multi-channel pipette (8 channels; 5-50 $\mu$ l); two adjustable pipettes (one 20-200 $\mu$ l and one 5-50 $\mu$ l); one repeating pipette	μl and		
		Three cooling block assemblies (one PCR and two lysis)			
		SUPPLIES			
		Cluster tubes with caps and racks			
		Tips for pipettes			
		Extra PCR tube caps			
		Two fuses			
		Powder-free nitrile gloves			
		User documentation package			
		TRAINING (2 days)			
		Lab set-up, equipment validation, procedural instruction			
		*Extended service agreements are available for purchase.			
		**Printers and power cables are not shipped with 220V systems, but are sourced locally through regional Qualicon representatives.			

# **Price Quotation:**

Real-Time	e PCR Assays		
	D14203648	BAX® System Real-Time PCR Assay for <i>E.coli O157:H7</i> PCR tubes with tablets, extra PCR caps, lysis buffer, protease (96 tests)	\$864.00
	D14642964	BAX® System Real-Time PCR Assay STEC SCREENING KIT PCR tubes with tablets, extra PCR caps, lysis buffer, protease (96 tests)	\$1,400.00
	D14642970	BAX® System Real-Time PCR Assay STEC PANEL 1 KIT PCR tubes with tablets, extra PCR caps, lysis buffer, protease (48 tests)	\$864.00
	D14642987	BAX® System Real-Time PCR Assay STEC PANEL 2 KIT PCR tubes with tablets, extra PCR caps, lysis buffer, protease (48 tests)	\$864.00
Standard	PCR Assays		
	D11000133	BAX® System PCR Assay for Screening Salmonella PCR tubes with tablets, extra PCR caps, lysis buffer, protease (96 tests)	\$864.00
	D11000157	BAX® System PCR Assay for Screening L. monocytogenes PCR tubes with tablets, extra PCR caps, lysis buffer, protease (96 tests)	\$864.00
	D11000147	BAX® System PCR Assay for Screening Genus Listeria PCR tubes with tablets, extra PCR caps, lysis buffer, protease (96 tests)	\$864.00
	D12404903	BAX® System PCR Assay for Screening <i>E. coli</i> O157:H7 MP PCR tubes with tablets, extra PCR caps, lysis buffer, protease (96 tests)	\$864.00

# Bio-Rad Real-Time PCR Assay for *Listeria* Receives Health Canada Approval

al

for detection of *Listeria* spp. in **Environmental samples**.

The iQ-Check *Listeria monocytogenes* and *Listeria* spp. kits are also being evaluated in the joint AOAC/Health Canada for detection of the organisms from ready to eat (RTE) foods.

The iQ-Check *Listeria* spp. method involves a **single 24 hr primary enrichment.** Due to the sensitivity and specificity of the kit, a <u>secondary</u> enrichment is not necessary. A simple one-step DNA extraction is performed and PCR is run.

**Results** are available in approximately 2 hr.

# **Category Products:**

➤ iQ-Check *E.coli* O157:H7 Kit In <u>food samples</u>. Results available in 12 hr.



- ➤ iQ-Check *Listeria* spp. Kit in <u>food and environmental samples</u>. Next day results.
- ➤ iQ-Check *Listeria monocytogenes* II Kit In <u>food and environmental samples</u>. Next-day results ..
- ➤ iQ-Check Salmonella II Kit
  In food, animal feed, and environmental samples.
  Next-day results for all samples
  or in 12 hr for raw meat samples.

# **Price Quotation:**

Product Description	List Price
CFX96 Real-Time PCR Detection System.  Modular thermal cycler platform, includes C1000 thermal cycler chassis and CFX96 optical reaction module.	\$48,930.00
iQ-Check Salmonella II kit, 96 tests	\$1,236.00
iQ-Check Listeria spp. II kit , 96 tests	\$1,236.00
iQ-Check Listeria monocytogenes II kit, 96 tests	\$1,236.00
iQ-Check E.coli O157:H7, 96 tests	\$1,236.00
iQ-Check Campylobacter, 96 tests	\$1,500.00
Tota	al \$ 55,374.00

# Some of the Common Real Time Cyclers



Rotorgene Corbett



**LightCycler**Roche



Smartcycler Cepheid



iCycler BioRad



**7500**Applied Biosystems

# **Main Characteristics of the Equipments**

Manufacturer	Equipment	Sample Format	Particularities
Applied Biosystems	ABI 7500 ABI 7700 ABI 7900	Microplate (96) Microplate (96) Microplate (384)	High turnover Speed
BioRad	iCycler	Microplate (96) Tubes (96)	Image of the plate
Cepheid	SmartCycler	Tubes (16)	Individual programmes for each tube possible Speed
Corbett	Rotor-Gene	Tubes (32) Striptubes (72)	No temp. gradient, no need for expensive tubes or capillars
Roche	Lightcycler	Capillaries (32)	Speed Melting curves
Stratagene	Mx 4000	Microplate (96)	Multiplex

# Isothermal DNA Amplification Methods

3M<sup>™</sup> Molecular Detection Assay *E. coli* O157 (including H7)

3M<sup>™</sup> Molecular Detection Assay *Listeria* 

3M<sup>™</sup> Molecular Detection Assay *Salmonella* 

#### **Features**

- Detects 1–5 CFU of Salmonella per sample size
- Simultaneous amplification and detection process that is complete in 75 minutes
- Positive samples identified as early as 15 minutes

### **Chemistry Overview**

#### Isothermal DNA Amplification

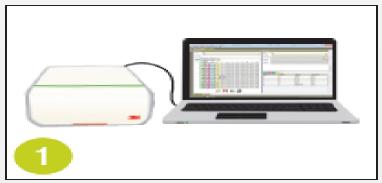
- Multiple primers recognize distinct regions of the genome
- A DNA polymerase with strand displacement activity
- Efficient, rapid and continuous amplification of target DNA

#### **Bioluminescence Detection**

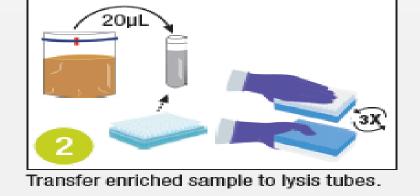
- Exponential generation of pyrophosphate, a by-product of the DNA amplification
- Pyrophosphate conversion to Adenosine Tri Phosphate (ATP)
- Thermostable luciferase uses ATP to generate light

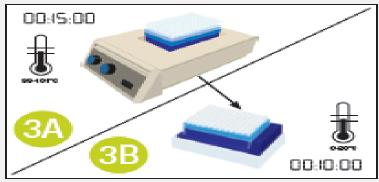
#### **Cost Effective:** Isothermal DNA amplification proceeds at a constant temperature, removing the need for complicated instrumentation. **ATP Pyrophosphate Ions** Light ATP Luciferase Sulfurylase Light Adenosine 36 **Phosphosulfate**

#### 3M™ Molecular Detection Assay Process

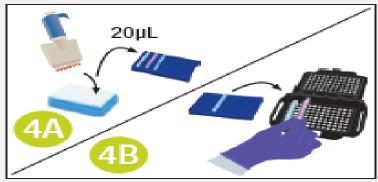


Set up run in software.





Heat lysis tubes, then chill.



Transfer lysate to reagent tubes.



Place speed loader tray into instrument.



Amplification and detection in real time.



#### Neogen® ANSR™

ANSR's DNA amplification methodology exponentially amplifies the DNA of any target bacteria present in an **enriched food or environmental sample** to detectable levels (10<sup>4</sup> cfu/mL) in only **10 minutes**.

ANSRs unique enrichment and assay results in minimal matrix effects compared to conventional method, in **food** matrices and environmental samples.

#### What is ANSR?

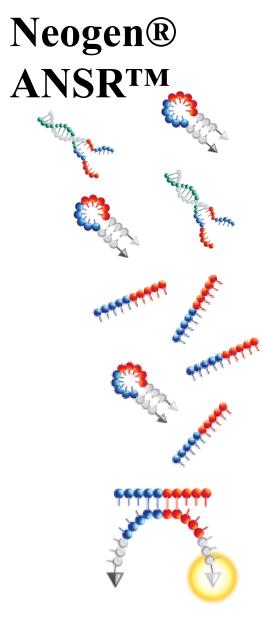
- -Unlike PCR, ANSR is isothermal, replicating DNA at a constant temperature using a polymerase to exponentially amplify the DNA at 56°C.
- -Target nucleic acid is amplified through a mechanism of polymerization from the ends of nicks created in double-stranded DNA by the action of a specific endonuclease.
- -Amplified target sequences are **detected** in real time **using fluorescent molecular beacon probes.**



#### ANSR Salmonella Lysis Protocol

- Step 1. Mix enriched sample with lysis buffer. Heat for 20 minutes (max. 60 minutes).
- Step 2. Mix lysed samples with reagents in the reader.
- Step 3. Seal the tubes, start the reader. Results available in 10 minutes.

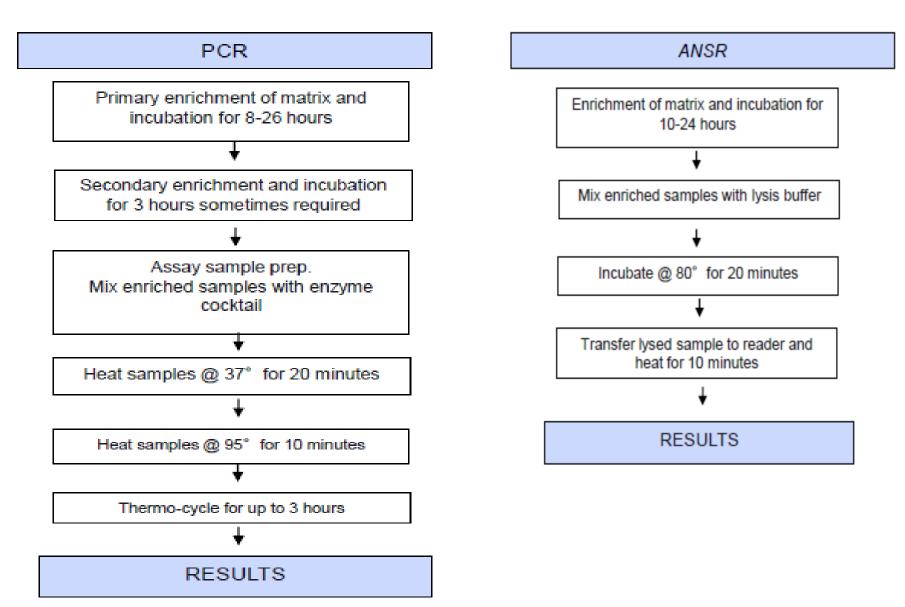




- Target pathogen DNA is released through the lysis of the enriched sample. A special molecular beacon is part of the ANSR reagent mixture.
- When the lysed sample is added to the ANSR reagents, a **special primer targets specific regions** of the pathogen DNA and starts the amplification process.
- Millions of copies of the target pathogen DNA are created in minutes.
- Amplified segments of the pathogen DNA attach to special molecular beacons.
- The **molecular beacons fluoresce** when bound to the pathogen DNA. This is detected by the ANSR reader.

Amplification and detection are continuous and rapid, resulting in the fastest assay time of only 10 minutes.

#### **Comparative Workflow**



# **Price Quotation:**



#### Neogen ANSR™

9820	ANSR for Salmonella – 96 tests	
9825	ANSR Basic System – contains reader with computer, lysis system and 8-channel pipette	11,630.00
9826	ANSR Lysis System – contains lysis system, thermometer and heater block	850.00
9832	ANSR Computer	950.00
9811	ANSR Enrichment Broth 1	50.00
9812	ANSR Enrichment Broth 2	50.00
9813	ANSR Enrichment Broth 3	50.00
9829	ANSR Lysis Block	225.00
9828	ANSR Reader	
9828C	ANSR Reader with Computer – contains reader with computer	10,500.00
9386	Heater Block	650.00
9385	Pipettor, 50-300 μL, 8-channel	675.00
9463	Pipettor, 50-300 μL, 8-channel  Pipettor, 100-1000 μL  Pipettor, 20-200 μL  Pipettor, 50 μl fixed	340.00
9276	Pipettor, 20-200 μL	245.00
9282	Pipettor, 50 μL, fixed	85.00
9833	Pipette tip rack, filtered, 50 μL (96 tips per rack)	6.50
9487	Pipette tip rack, 100-1000 μL	10.00

## طرق التنميط الجزيئي Molecular Typing Methods

#### **Bacterial Typing Systems**

- Tracking sources of microbial contaminants has been a concern since the early days of commercial food processing.
- -Molecular methods have provided tools that permit more rapid and highly precise determinations of microbial contamination sources.

#### Ribotyping

التنميط االرايبوسومي

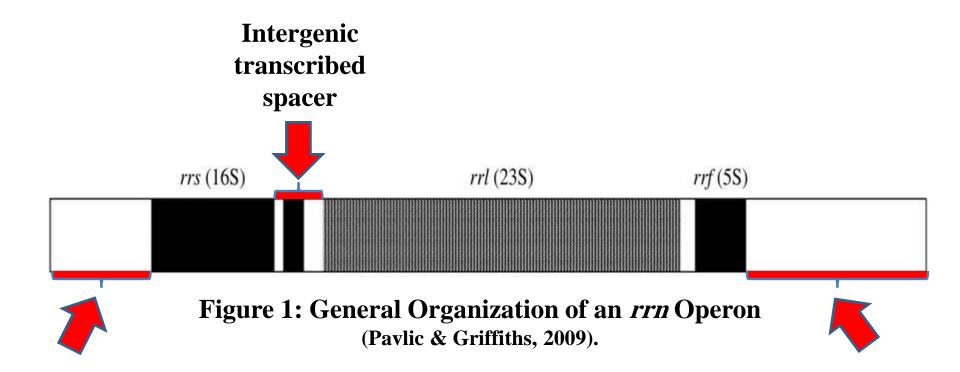
- -Ribotyping is a molecular technique that allows for identification and typing of bacteria to the strain level.
- It is based upon differences in rRNA.

### **Ribotyping:**

Ribotyping is a form of restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP) analysis that relies on differences in:

- >Location,
- Number of ribosomal RNA (rRNA) gene sequences present in the bacterial genome.

It is the analysis of **band pattern differences** obtained through **hybridization** 



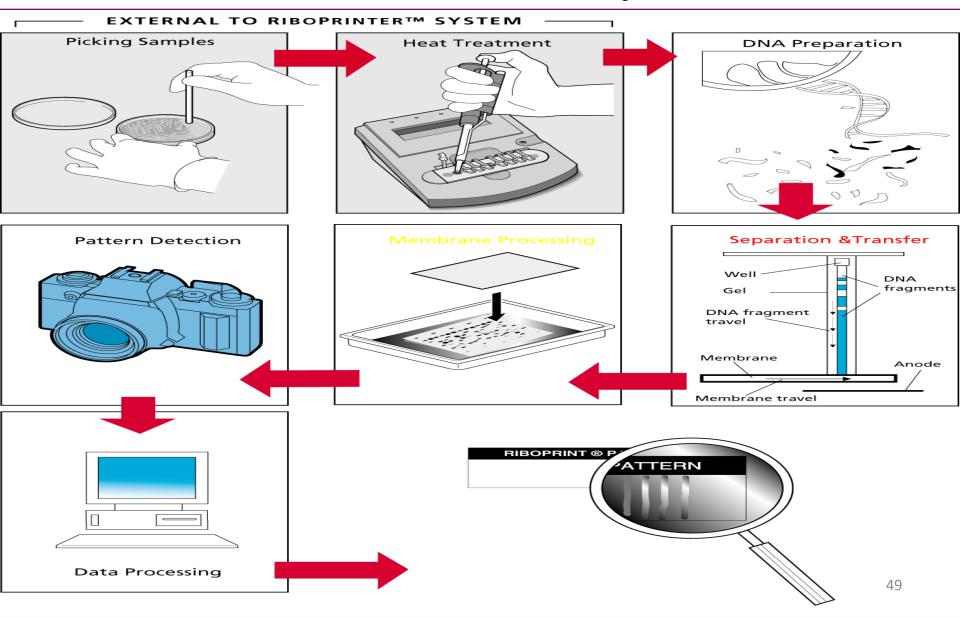
Variations in the **flanking and spacer sequences** give rise to variations in ribopatterns generated by ribotyping.

## **Automated Ribotyping (AR):**

AR is a genotyping method that can be used to generate genetic fingerprints of bacterial isolates of interest.

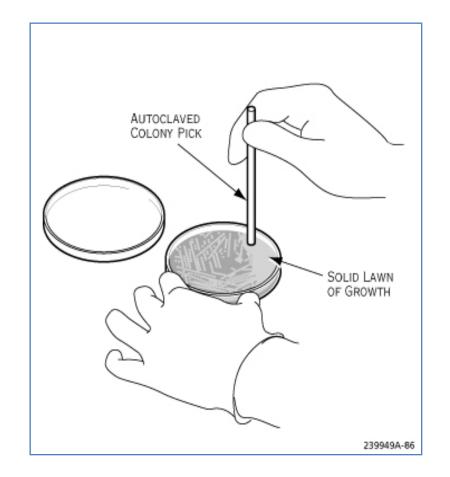
An entirely automated system, commercially available with a high level of **reproducibility** and **standardization**.

## How the RiboPrinter System Works



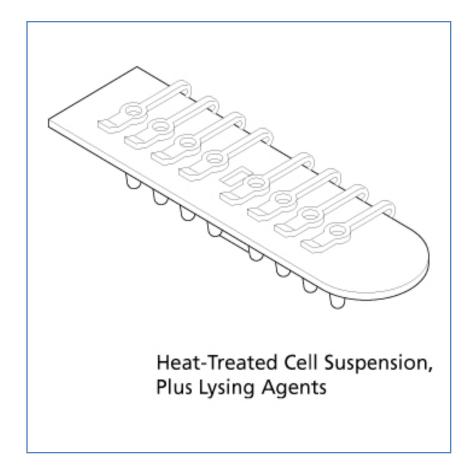
### **Sample Preparation: Colony Picks:**

Start with a pure colony on an agar plate (no selective enrichment required).



### Sample Preparation: Sample Carrier:

Dilute sample with buffer
Transfer to one of the eight
wells in the sample
carrier.



#### **Sample Preparation: Heat Treatment:**

- Pre-process samples in the heat treatment station to inactivate viable cells and nucleases.

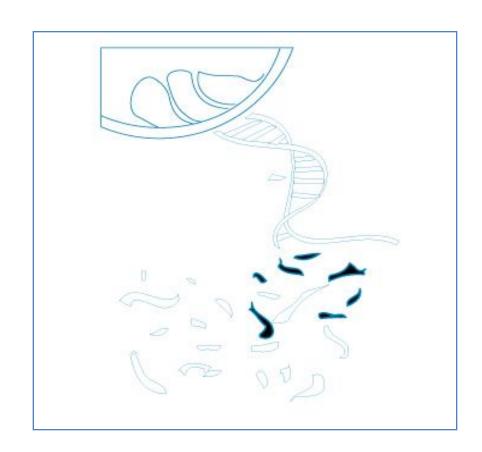
- Add lysing agents.



### **DNA Preparation (Automated):**

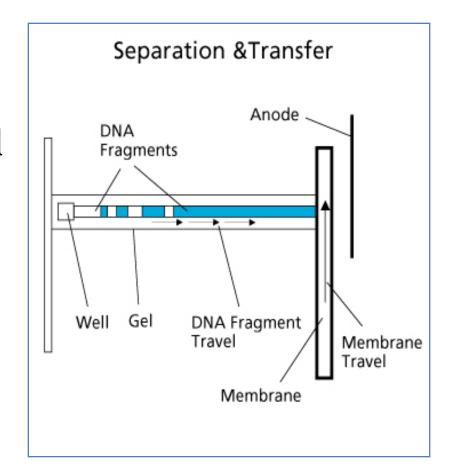
- **Lysis**: breaks open the cells.

**Digestion**: restriction enzyme "cuts" DNA into fragments.



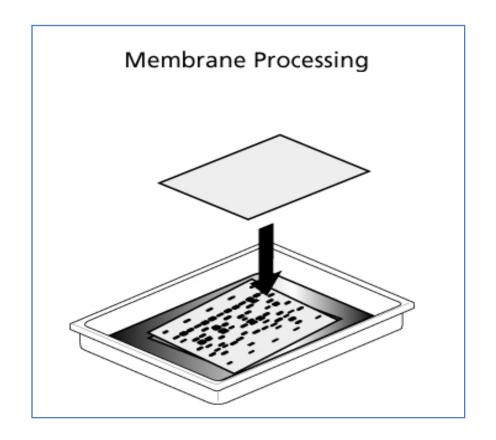
### **Separation and Transfer (Automated):**

- -DNA fragments are separated by size using gel electrophoresis.
- Fragments are then transferred and immobilized on a moving nylon membrane (direct blotting).

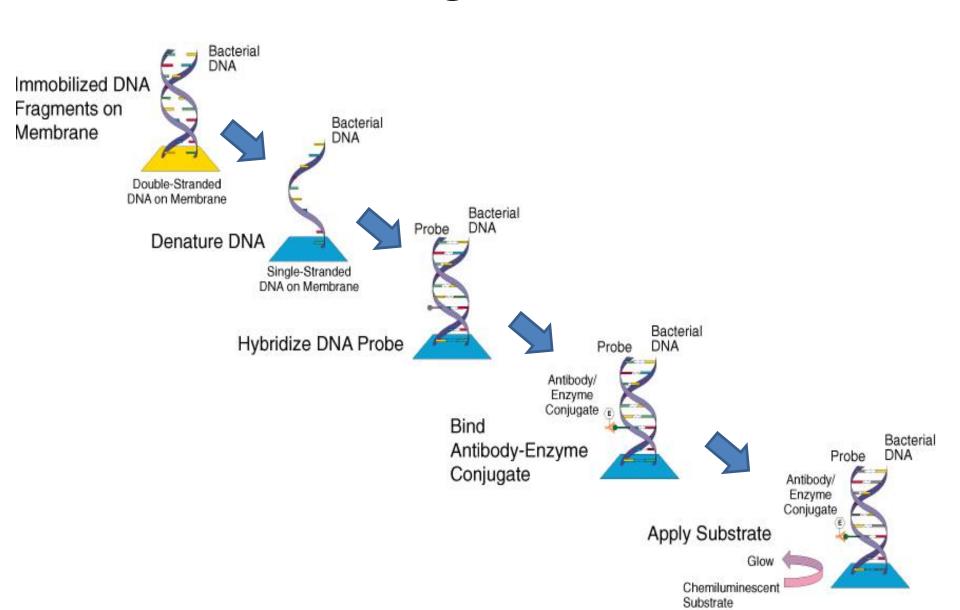


#### **Membrane Processing (Automated):**

Membrane is exposed to a series chemical/enzymatic treatments.

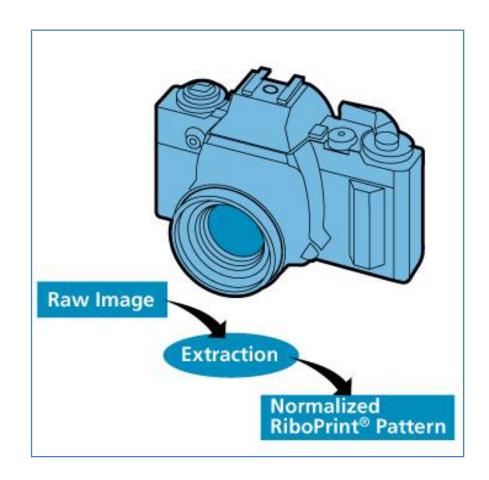


## **Membrane Processing (Automated):**

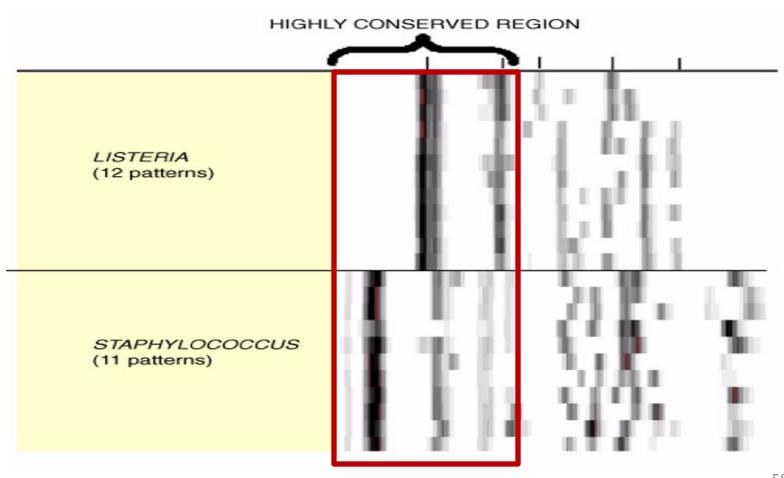


#### **Detection (Automated):**

- -Band pattern image is captured by a low-light camera.
- -Image is **stored** in the **computer memory.**
- -Software creates RiboPrint® patterns.

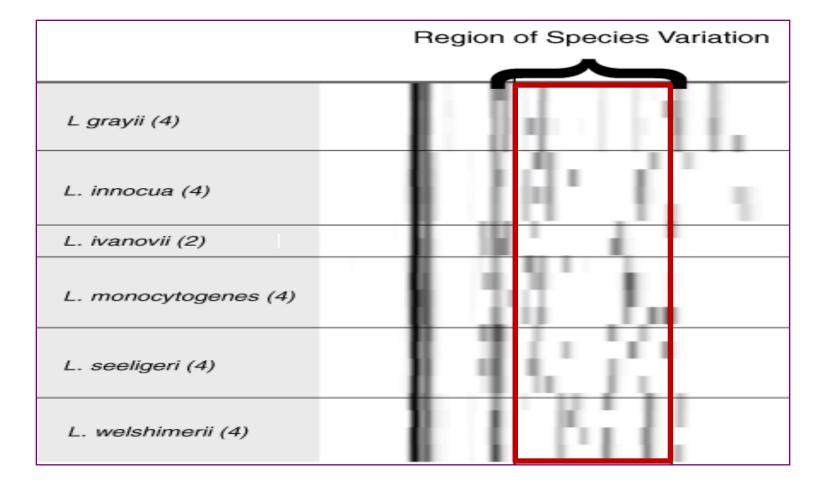


## RiboPrint Patterns Clearly Demonstrate Genera Differentiation:

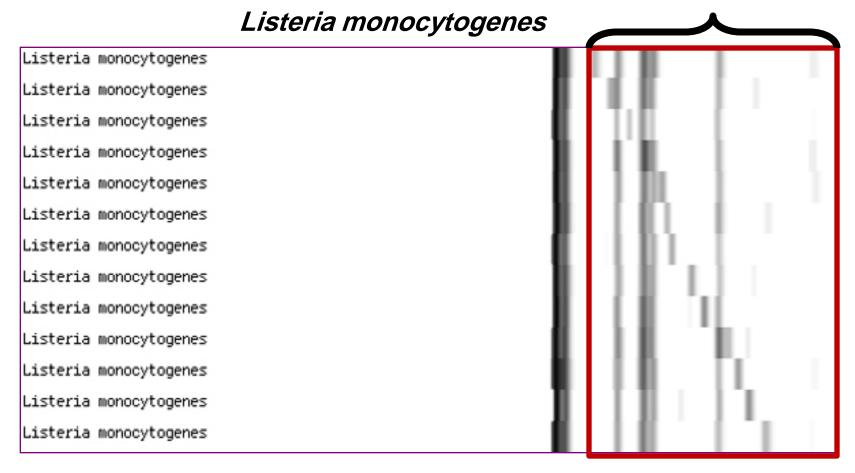


# RiboPrint Patterns Provide Conserved Characters that Show Species Variation:

Listeria



# RiboPrint Patterns Provide Non-Conserved Characters that Discriminate Below the Species Level:



# **Price Quotation:**

Qty. Part No.	Description	Unit Price*
RIBOPRINTER® SY	STEM - WINDOWS PLATFORM	
20520001 (110 volt) 20520002 (220 volt)**	RiboPrinter® System*  Characterization unit and integrated software license Computer workstation, monitor, removable storage device, UPS, and printer Windows® operating system, RiboPrinter® system software with online help, backup and antivirus software Heat treatment station and mixer Documentation package Installation and training First year service, including preventive maintenance, field visits, parts and licensed software upgrades  *Extended service agreements are available for purchase.  **Printers and power cables are not shipped with 220V systems, but are sourced locally through regional Qualicon representatives.	\$175,000.00
RIBOPRINTER® SY	STEM DISPOSABLES	•
17020464	Sample Preparation Pack (60 batches, 480 tests) Sample Carriers, Sample Buffer, Colony Picks	\$240.00
17720533	RiboPrinter® System <i>Eco</i> RI Batch Kit (6 batches, 48 tests) DNA Preparation Pack, Gel Cassette, Membrane, MP Base Pack, MP Conjugate, MP Probe, MP Substrate, Purified Water, Lysing Agents, Lactic Agent, DNA Prep Enzyme	\$2,160.00
17720632	RiboPrinter® System <i>Eco</i> Rl Batch Kit (without water)	\$2,142.00
17720601	RiboPrinter® System Pvull Batch Kit (6 batches, 48 tests) DNA Preparation Pack, Gel Cassette, Membrane, MP Base Pack, MP Conjugate, MP Probe, MP Substrate, Purified Water, Lysing Agents, DNA Prep Enzyme	\$2,160.00
17720634	RiboPrinter® System Pvull Batch Kit (without water)	\$2,142.00
17720641	RiboPrinter® System Batch Kit (without enzyme) DNA Preparation Pack, Gel Cassette, Membrane, MP Base Pack, MP Conjugate, MP Probe, MP Substrate, Purified Water, Lysing Agents	\$2,110.00
17720642	RiboPrinter® System Batch Kit (without enzyme or water) DNA Preparation Pack, Gel Cassette, Membrane, MP Base Pack, MP Conjugate, MP Probe, MP Substrate, Lysing Agents	\$2,092.00

Seven samples from the same dairy plant were found to belong to one distinct ribotype pattern (pattern no.8) isolated at different dates (from 1996-2007) using *Eco*RI and *Pvu*II enzymes separately.

Pattern#	Strain #	Source/Site
	697	Cheese/ Dairy Plant A
	1458	Smear/Dairy Plant A
	2540	Cheese rasp/ Dairy Plant A
	2720	Smear/ Dairy Plant A
8	3177	Smear/ Dairy Plant A
	4359	Washing Water/ Dairy
		Plant A
	4898	Washing Water/ Dairy
		Plant A

Among 18 different DuPont ID, 7 isolates in a group containing 13 isolates from the same dairy plant were found to belong to one distinct ribotype pattern no.8, isolated at different dates (from 1996-2007) using *Eco*RI and *Pvu*II enzymes separately.

These results may be a good indicator for the persistence of *L. monocytogenes* belong to pattern no.8 in the same dairy plant during that period.

The presence of ribotype DUP-18598 in the finished product (cheese, sample no.697) as well as in the washing water (sample no.4359)

EcoRI Pattern #	Strain #	Source/Site	RiboPrinter Pattern	DuPont -ID
8	697	Cheese/ Dairy Plant A		DUP-18598
	4359	Washing Water/ Dairy Plant A		DUP-18598

Indicates probable pre-processing contamination of finished products from the washing water source.

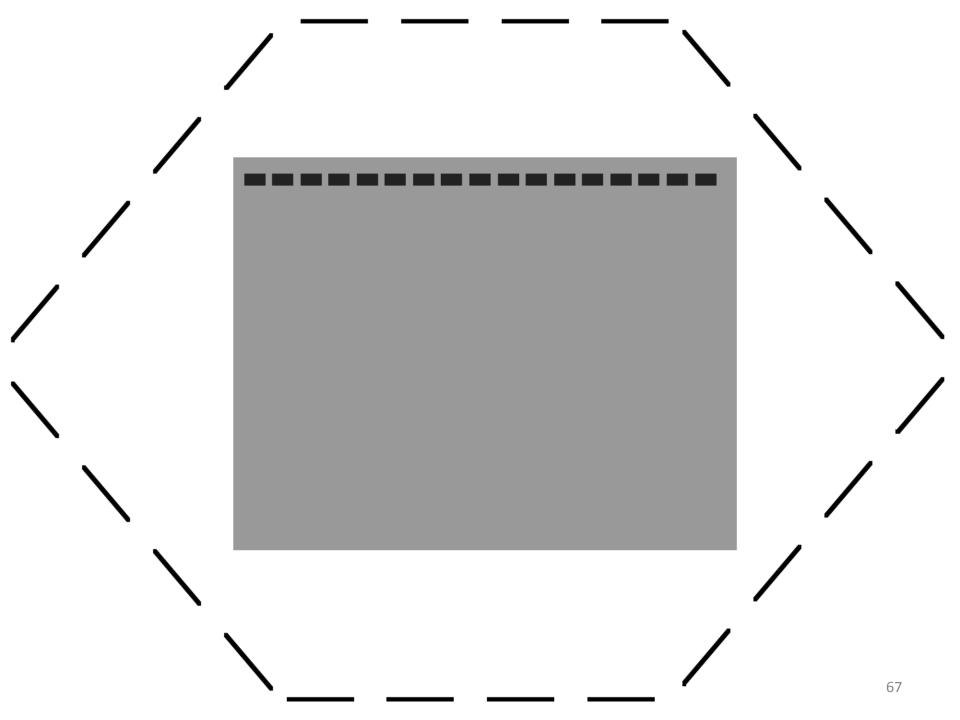
EcoRI Pattern #	Strain #	Source/Site	RiboPrinter Pattern	DuPont –ID
8	697	Cheese/ Dairy Plant A		DUP-18598
	4359	Washing Water/ Dairy Plant A		DUP-18598

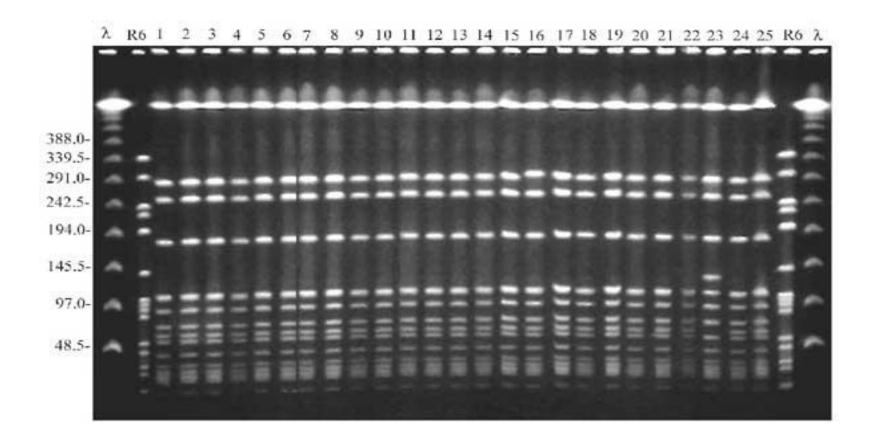
### Pulsed Field Gel Electrophoresis (PFGE):

**PFGE** is the 'gold standard' for subtyping of bacterial foodborne pathogens.

The concept of subjecting chromosomal DNA of microorganisms to two alternating electric fields for separation of large DNA fragments within agarose gels was introduced in 1984.

PFGE separate large fragments of 40-1000 kb or even 40-2000 kb in agarose gels by varying the duration of the electrical pulse and shifting the direction of the current frequently.





Example of a real PFGE; drug resistant *Staphylococcus* aureus. The molecular weight markers are digested lambda phage  $(\lambda)$  and are given in kb.

#### How PFGE patterns should be interpreted:

- > Same strain, if all bands match.
- > Closely related strains, if the patterns differ by one to three bands,
- > Possibly related strains, if the patterns differ by four to six bands,
- ➤ Unrelated strains if the patterns differ by more than six bands

  Tenover et al. (1995).

That represented the first challenge to standardize the interpretation of results obtained by a molecular typing technique.

