Identification of a Truncated Tn1721-like Transposon Located on a Small Plasmid of Escherichia coli Isolated from Varanus indicus

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Summary

SummaryThe 9.1 kb plasmid pDEWT1 was isolated from an Escherichia coli strain obtained from the faeces of a free-living lizard (Varanus indicus) in Indonesia. This plasmid mediated tetracycline resistance via a tet gene of hybridization class A. Molecular analysis of a 7755 bp segment of plasmid pDEWT1 including the tetR-tet(A) region and its flanking areas suggested that pDEWT1 harboured a truncated copy of the tet(A)-carrying transposon Tn1721 in which the part responsible for chemotaxis and transposition functions was lost. Analysis of the sequences at the integration site revealed the presence of the 5-bp direct repeat TACTT. The sequences upstream and downstream of the integration site showed striking homology to sequences of a non-coding region detectable on a small cryptic plasmid from Yersinia enterocolitica.

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