

The Pathogenicity of *Taylorella equigenitalis*

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Taylorella equigenitalis is the causative agent of contagious equine metritis (CEM), a sexually transmitted disease of horses.

Comparison of 16S ribosomal gene sequences showed that *Bordetella bronchiseptica*, *Alcaligenes xylosoxidans* and *Alcaligenes faecalis* are its closest relatives, which is surprising in view of the differences in the G + C contents of the genomes.

In 32 *T. equigenitalis* strains studied, the capacity to invade and replicate intracellularly varied considerably, indicating that strains differ in their virulences.

The N-terminal amino acid sequences of the immunodominant 39kDa outer membrane protein was determined. Homologies were found with porins of *Bordetella pertussis* (89%), *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (75% with P1A) and *Neisseria meningitidis* (75% with class 3).

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