

One Health and Food-Borne Disease: *Salmonella* Transmission between Humans, Animals, and Plants

CLAUDIA SILVA,¹ EDMUNDO CALVA,¹ and STANLEY MALOY²

¹Departamento de Microbiología Molecular, Instituto de Biotecnología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Cuernavaca, Morelos 62210, Mexico; ²Center for Microbial Sciences, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA 92182-1010

ABSTRACT There are >2,600 recognized serovars of *Salmonella enterica*. Many of these *Salmonella* serovars have a broad host range and can infect a wide variety of animals, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and insects. In addition, *Salmonella* can grow in plants and can survive in protozoa, soil, and water. Hence, broad-host-range *Salmonella* can be transmitted via feces from wild animals, farm animals, and pets or by consumption of a wide variety of common foods: poultry, beef, pork, eggs, milk, fruit, vegetables, spices, and nuts. Broad-host-range *Salmonella* pathogens typically cause gastroenteritis in humans. Some *Salmonella* serovars have a more restricted host range that is associated with changes in the virulence plasmid pSV, accumulation of pseudogenes, and chromosome rearrangements. These changes in host-restricted *Salmonella* alter pathogen-host interactions such that host-restricted *Salmonella* organisms commonly cause systemic infections and are transmitted between host populations by asymptomatic carriers. The secondary consequences of efforts to eliminate host-restricted *Salmonella* serovars demonstrate that basic ecological principles govern the environmental niches occupied by these pathogens, making it impossible to thwart *Salmonella* infections without a clear understanding of the human, animal, and environmental reservoirs of these pathogens. Thus, transmission of *S. enterica* provides a compelling example of the One Health paradigm because reducing human infections will require the reduction of *Salmonella* in animals and limitation of transmission from the environment.

INTRODUCTION

There are >2,600 recognized serovars of *Salmonella enterica*. Many of these *Salmonella* serovars have a broad host range and can infect a wide variety of animals, in-

cluding mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and insects. In addition, *Salmonella* can grow in plants and can survive in protozoa, soil, and water. Hence, reducing human infections will require the reduction of *Salmonella* in animals and limitation of transmission from the environment.

SALMONELLA IN ANIMALS AND HUMANS

The species *S. enterica* is subdivided into seven subspecies, designated by roman numerals. The majority of *Salmonella* human pathogens belong to subspecies I isolates, whereas the other subspecies are mainly associated with cold-blooded vertebrates (1, 2). There are >2,600 serovars of *S. enterica*. The serovars differ widely in their ability to infect different mammals and birds, and can be divided into three groups based upon their host range: broad-host-range or generalist, host-adapted, and host-restricted serovars (3–5). Host-restricted serovars are associated exclusively with one particular host species. For example, *S. enterica* serovars

Received: 30 May 2013, **Accepted:** 6 June 2013,
Published: 17 January 2014

Editors: Ronald M. Atlas, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY, and Stanley Maloy, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA

Citation: Silva C, Calva E, Maloy S. 2014. One Health and food-borne disease: *Salmonella* transmission between humans, animals, and plants. *Microbiol Spectrum* 2(1):OH-0020-2013. doi:10.1128/microbiolspec.OH-0020-2013.

Correspondence: Stanley Maloy, smaloy@mail.sdsu.edu

© 2014 American Society for Microbiology. All rights reserved.

Typhi, Paratyphi A, Paratyphi C, and Sendai cause disease only in humans; Abortusovis is restricted to goats and sheep; Gallinarum and Pullorum are restricted to poultry; Typhisus is restricted to swine; and Abortusequi is restricted to horses. Other serovars are adapted to a particular host but retain the ability to cause disease in alternative hosts. For example, *S. Choleraesuis* and *S. Dublin* are host-adapted serovars associated with severe systemic disease in cattle and pigs, respectively, but they infrequently cause disease in other mammalian hosts, including humans. The host-restricted and host-adapted serovars produce systemic infection in their natural hosts, but there is limited or no evidence of gastroenteritis. These serovars migrate rapidly from the intestine to the reticuloendothelial system, where they reside in intracellular niches (e.g., macrophages) and often persist in the host to produce a carrier state. The establishment of a chronic infection in the carrier permits shedding of a relatively low bacterial load for an extended period of time. In contrast, broad-host-range serovars, such as *S. Typhimurium* and *S. Enteritidis*, can infect a wide range of animals, from insects to reptiles, birds, and mammals. Although capable of causing systemic disease in certain animals, broad-host-range serovars usually induce a self-limiting gastroenteritis in infected hosts (6).

Only about 50 of the subspecies I serovars are isolated as animal and human pathogens (6). Most human salmonellosis cases are food borne, often derived indirectly from animal or human fecal contamination. However, infections are also acquired through direct or indirect animal contact in homes, veterinary clinics, zoological gardens, farm environments, or other public and private settings. Clinically sick animals may pose the greatest risk to humans because they are more likely to shed *Salmonella* organisms at higher concentrations than are apparently healthy animals. However, asymptomatic carriers can shed *Salmonella* organisms for long periods of time. A recent review (6) describes the variety of sources of *Salmonella* transmission from mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and invertebrates to humans; the distribution of the most common human *Salmonella* serovars among animals; and the distribution of these infections in different geographic regions.

Salmonella organisms occur naturally in the gastrointestinal tract of many reptiles as a part of their normal intestinal microbiota and are commonly shed in their feces (6). Although reptiles often carry *Salmonella* subspecies II, III, and IV, other serovars of subspecies I commonly associated with human salmonellosis, notably *S. Typhimurium* and *S. Enteritidis*, also occur in reptiles. The overwhelming majority of reptiles that

carry *Salmonella* are asymptomatic. Human salmonellosis attributable to reptile exposure was first documented in the 1940s, and a large number of case reports have since described zoonotic transmission of *Salmonella* from reptiles. A substantial number of human salmonellosis cases have been linked to contact with turtles, terrapins, snakes, and lizards (6).

IDENTIFICATION AND SURVEILLANCE

The wide variety of *Salmonella* serovars, coupled with potential confusion among infections with different food-borne pathogens, provides a challenge for characterizing the source of an outbreak. However, a number of genetic differences among serovars can be exploited for precise identification of different *Salmonella* strains. To improve the accurate identification and comparison of food-borne pathogens, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) developed the International Molecular Subtyping Network for Foodborne Disease Surveillance, dubbed PulseNet (<http://www.pulsenetinternational.org>). This site presents the six regional networks and different protocols for the molecular subtyping of *Salmonella*. The website, supported by the World Health Organization, contains phenotypic and epidemiological information from the Global SalmSurv *Salmonella* surveillance program (<http://www.who.int/salmsurv/en/>), including information on the major *Salmonella* serovars identified globally as well as antimicrobial resistance. The European Union performs *Salmonella* surveillance in all member countries. A description of *Salmonella*, epidemiological information, and related information about the international surveillance network for the enteric infections *Salmonella* and verocytotoxin-producing *Escherichia coli* O157 (EnterNet) can be accessed through the United Kingdom Health Protection Agency website (<http://www.hpa.org.uk>). Additionally, the *Eurosurveillance* journal publishes information on infectious disease, epidemiology, prevention, and control (<http://www.eurosurveillance.org/>).

The genomes of many *Salmonella* serovars have now been sequenced (a current list and links to related sites are available at <https://www.sanger.ac.uk/resources/downloads/bacteria/salmonella.html>). Pairwise genome sequence comparisons between each of the serovars indicate that they have >96% DNA sequence identity between shared genes (7). Each serovar has many insertions and deletions (indels) relative to the other serovars, accounting for 500 to 600 kb of unique DNA in each serovar (10 to 15% of their approximately 4.8-Mbp genomes). The unique regions are distributed over many regions of the

chromosome and range in size from <1 kb to >50 kb. The success of rapid full-genome sequencing in response to the *E. coli* O104:H4 outbreak in Europe in 2011 (8), coupled with the increased availability and reduced cost of whole-genome sequencing, makes it likely that this approach will become more widely used for the identification of food-borne pathogens in the near future.

Because few cases are sufficiently severe to demand professional medical care, providing information to the public about *Salmonella* infections is essential for accurate reporting of outbreaks. General information about *Salmonella* can be accessed at the website of the CDC (<http://www.cdc.gov/Salmonella/>). This website describes *Salmonella* in language accessible to the general public. In addition, this site provides links to descriptions of *Salmonella* outbreaks. The website [salmonella.org](http://www.salmonella.org/) (<http://www.salmonella.org/>) provides general information about *Salmonella* and links to genome sequencing projects and to researchers working on *Salmonella* around the world, to information on transmission from reptiles, and to strain collections available to the research community.

SALMONELLA HOST SPECIFICITY

The genetic differences between the host-restricted, host-adapted, and generalist serovars provide insights into the bacterial characteristics that determine host range. Broad-host-range pathogens must persist in a wide variety of host niches with a diversity of physiological requirements, and thus are under considerable selective constraints. Even small impacts on fitness may prevent broad-host-range bacteria from competing with other bacteria in one of these niches. In contrast, host-specific pathogens persist in a restricted environmental niche and have fewer selective constraints—a lifestyle that sacrifices fast growth in a wide variety of environments for slower growth and persistence in a more protected environment. The slower growth and more uniform metabolic requirements of host-specific *Salmonella* serovars eliminate the potential impact of genetic changes that invoke a fitness cost in fast-growth conditions with fluctuating metabolic demands (9). The loss of selective pressure for many of these functions allows host-restricted serovars to acquire many more loss-of-function mutations (pseudogenes) than broad-host-range serovars (10, 11). Some of these pseudogenes actually benefit survival in certain hosts by preventing expression of gene products that stimulate an immune response.

In addition to changes in the chromosome of *Salmonella*, mobile genetic elements can also play a key role in

determining host specificity (12). One noteworthy difference between host-restricted and generalist *Salmonella* serovars is the presence of the *Salmonella* virulence plasmid (pSV). A small fraction of the *S. enterica* subspecies I serovars contain pSV. This plasmid encodes the *spv* operon, which plays a role in the expression of the virulence of the serovars in their specific hosts (13–17). The nine *S. enterica* serovars in which a pSV has been found are Abortusovis, Abortusequis, Choleraesuis, Dublin, Gallinarum, Paratyphi C, Sendai, Enteritidis, and Typhimurium. With the exception of the broad-host-range serovars *S. Enteritidis* and *S. Typhimurium*, few broad-host-range serovars carry pSV. Moreover, the host-restricted *S. Typhi* lacks pSV. Despite many common properties shared by the pSVs of different serovars, each plasmid seems to be specific to its bacterial host, exemplified by a unique plasmid size in different serovars (18). Numerous virulence determinants involved in modulation of the host immune response to infection, such as *rck*, *rsk*, and *spf*, are carried on pSV. Most of the variation among serovars in the pSV is due to the presence or absence of the conjugal transfer operon (*tra*) and the *pef* or *fae* fimbrial operons (18, 19). The *spv* region is inserted into the chromosome in subspecies II, IIIa, IV, and VII (20).

Loss of the *spv* region abolishes the virulence phenotype of the serovars in their animal hosts, and often in the mouse model (14, 15, 21). On the other hand, the introduction of a pSV to a serovar that is naturally devoid of it does not increase the virulence properties of the strain (22–24), suggesting that other chromosomally encoded factors are responsible for the virulence phenotype. Not all the members of a serovar contain the pSV; often within the population some members carry the plasmid while others do not (23, 24). The prevalence of the pSV in *S. Typhimurium* isolates from pigs in Japan can be illustrative of this point: only 36% carried the pSV, but they were predominantly associated with systemically infected pigs (92%), in contrast to pigs with gastrointestinal symptoms (19%) or healthy pigs (17%) (25). Broad-host-range serovars display more genetic variability than host-adapted or host-restricted serovars, which may account for their abundance of genetic resources to produce diverse clinical outcomes (5).

EVOLUTION OF HOST RANGE OF VARIANTS

S. Typhimurium has been isolated from essentially all warm-blooded animals and reptiles and is the most frequently documented serovar implicated in transmission of salmonellosis from mammals to humans (6). This

serovar can infect some animal hosts without producing disease (asymptomatic carriers) while causing acute disease in others (5). Subtyping methods, such as phage typing, macrorestriction mapping via pulsed-field gel electrophoresis, and multilocus sequence typing, have been used to characterize the genetic variability within *S. Typhimurium* strains isolated from a wide range of hosts in different geographic regions, such as a recent study done by us in Mexico (12, 26, 27). These studies have revealed that although *S. Typhimurium* has been regarded as a broad-host-range serovar, some strains have a broad host range while other strains are closely associated with particular hosts.

The definitive phage type 104 (DT104) is an example of a broad-host-range *S. Typhimurium* strain. This clone emerged during the 1980s and rapidly spread around the world, infecting a wide variety of animals, including humans. DT104 acquired a genomic island carrying multidrug resistance determinants, making it a major public health threat (28).

On the other hand, certain *S. Typhimurium* strains have a narrow host range. *S. Typhimurium* DT40 and DT56v are commonly associated with passerine birds. These strains are rarely detected in other animals, but there have been reports of infection of livestock from wild birds and infection of cats that consumed infected birds (29). *Salmonella* can be isolated from birds that show symptoms of salmonellosis, but birds of the same species can also be asymptomatic carriers (29). In addition, Rabsch et al. (30) demonstrated that DT2 and DT99 (variant Copenhagen) were almost exclusively associated with pigeons for many decades and over a wide geographic range. These strains produce fatal systemic disease in pigeons, similar to other highly host-adapted or host-restricted *Salmonella* serovars, although they retain the ability to cause disease in BALB/c mice. Host adaptation is often associated with increased survival in macrophages of the preferred host (31). The pigeon-adapted *Salmonella* strains were tested for virulence in mammals and pigeons (30). The pigeon-adapted strains showed enhanced cytotoxicity in pigeon macrophages and led to the development of typhoid fever-like syndrome with a high mortality rate in pigeons, with higher bacterial counts in the internal organs.

These observations indicate that increased adaptation of a *Salmonella* serovar to a certain host is associated with increased virulence, systemic disease, and asymptomatic carriers that shed the pathogen over extended periods (3). Furthermore, the pigeon-adapted *S. Typhimurium* strain was found in the ovaries of infected pigeons, a characteristic of other known host-adapted

and host-restricted *S. enterica* serovars, including Pullorum, Gallinarum, Abortusovis, and Dublin (5). This potential for vertical transmission may facilitate the maintenance of a host-adapted *Salmonella* serovar in the limited available population.

In certain cases the outcome of infection may result from a natural balance in which one serovar competitively excludes other members of the same serogroup. The natural balance may be disrupted by human intervention (4). This scenario was documented by the investigation of the epidemiological consequences of eradication of the avian-adapted *S. Gallinarum* from poultry in the United States and Europe (32). Infections with the two host-restricted strains, *S. Gallinarum* and *S. Pullorum*, cause severe disease with high mortality and considerable economic losses on poultry farms. Adult animals often develop a carrier state, with trans-ovarian transmission to newly hatched chicks (33). Because *S. Gallinarum* and *S. Pullorum* are host restricted, they are not a risk to human health. Like *S. Gallinarum* and *S. Pullorum* infections, infections with *S. Enteritidis* are typically asymptomatic in adult poultry, but trans-ovarian transmission of *S. Enteritidis* results in high mortality of newly hatched chicks. In addition, because *S. Enteritidis* is a broad-host-range serovar, rodents and other vectors can readily facilitate transmission between poultry facilities. National efforts to eliminate *S. Gallinarum* and *S. Pullorum* from poultry farms greatly reduced these serovars in the United States and Europe, but apparently *S. Enteritidis* filled this vacant ecological niche, because the dramatic increase in *S. Enteritidis* in poultry coincided with the eradication of *S. Gallinarum* and *S. Pullorum* (Fig. 1) (32). This example nicely illustrates how a better understanding of host adaptation may provide new insights into the emergence of infectious disease (4).

NONMAMMALIAN VECTORS FOR SALMONELLA

Salmonella has been isolated from a large number of vertebrate species, and outbreaks can often be linked to infected animals. Once excreted from an animal host, *Salmonella* faces limited nutrient availability, osmotic stress, large variations in temperature and pH, and predation (34, 35). The survival of *Salmonella* in the secondary habitat ensures its passage to the next host. *Salmonella* has been detected in several locations within farms and slaughterhouses, and long-term contamination of farms appears to be a widespread phenomenon.

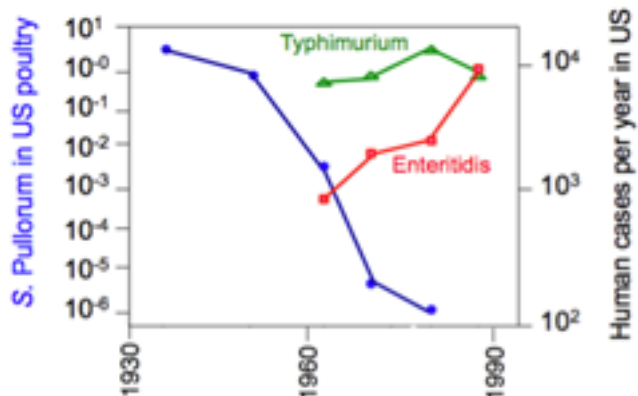


FIGURE 1 Changes in prevalence of *S. enterica* serovars Pullorum versus Enteritidis and Typhimurium in the United States. As the prevalence of Pullorum in U.S. poultry flocks decreased as a result of a U.S. Department of Agriculture program (blue line), the prevalence of Enteritidis in humans increased (red line). Transmission of Enteritidis to humans from chicken eggs increased coordinately with the increased prevalence in poultry. During the period when the incidence of Enteritidis infections in humans was increasing, the incidence of Typhimurium infections in humans (green line) was relatively unchanged. Figure redrawn from reference 65. See the original reference for precise numbers. [doi:10.1128/microbiolspec.OH-0020-2013.f1](https://doi.org/10.1128/microbiolspec.OH-0020-2013.f1)

Insects and worms have been proposed as disease vectors for *Salmonella* on farms and agricultural fields, in animal feed, and in households. Biting mites have also been shown to efficiently transit *Salmonella* to chickens, and houseflies have been implicated in the transmission of typhoid fever vectors in military camps. Moreover, insects may represent reservoir hosts that play pivotal roles in *Salmonella* persistence. Birds, mice, litter beetles, and flies are important vectors for the rapid dissemination of *Salmonella* in the environment (6, 35, 36). Flies that come in contact with contaminated material, such as manure, food, and water, are capable of transmitting bacteria (37, 38). Association of *Salmonella* with insect vectors may be determined by specific adhesion-receptor interactions. Initial attempts at recovering *S. Enteritidis* from the surface of the houseflies by using an aqueous rinse were largely unsuccessful, but rinsing the flies with 0.5% detergent demonstrated that the flies were contaminated with high levels of bacteria. These results imply that *S. Enteritidis* was tightly associated with houseflies (37).

Salmonella has been collected from soil samples from both agricultural and recreational areas that serve as bacterial reservoirs and may aid transmission between hosts (39). Broad-host-range strains effectively cycle

through ecosystems, and there are more environmental reservoirs where they can multiply than previously thought. Semenov et al. (40) designed long-chain experiments to follow bacteria through abiotic habitats (dung and soil), plant habitats (fodder and oats), and animal digestive tracts (snails, mice, and chicken), where the organisms underwent significant shifts in temperature, pH, oxygen, substrate availability, grazing by predators, and exposure to parasites like phages and amoebae. They concluded that the population density of the enteric pathogens in these different habitats is sufficiently high (ca. 10³/g) to cause disease in humans (40).

Salmonella is adapted to survive in host macrophages, so it is not surprising that it can also survive in protozoa in nature. *Salmonella* can survive in the vacuoles of protozoa, providing another niche for *Salmonella* in the environment (41–43). *S. Thompson* is expelled from *Tetrahymena* in vesicles containing a high density of bacteria, and the surrounding membrane may help protect bacteria from desiccation and disinfectants such as chlorine. Furthermore, it has been recently proposed that *Salmonella* organisms from rumen protozoa display a hypervirulent phenotype due to the hyperactivation of virulence gene expression, and that this environment provides a venue for conjugal transfer of antibiotic resistance plasmids (44, 45). Indeed, it has been postulated that protozoan predation may be the selective pressure maintaining O-antigen diversity among *Salmonella* organisms (46, 47).

SALMONELLA-PLANT INTERACTIONS AND THE FOOD CHAIN

Fresh fruit and vegetables are now recognized to be a major route of entry for pathogenic enterobacteria into the food chain. *Salmonella* and *E. coli* are among the most prevalent food-borne bacterial pathogens in the developed world and are able to enter the food chain at any point from farm to table (48). Changes in farming practices, food production, consumer habits, and improved surveillance are all possible factors in the increased prevalence of pathogenic enterobacteria in fresh produce. However, recent studies have demonstrated that *Salmonella* can interact specifically with plants, indicating that plants can serve as alternative hosts for the transmission of disease (49).

A wide range of fresh fruit and vegetable products have been implicated in *Salmonella* infection, most commonly lettuce, sprouted seeds, melons, and tomatoes (50). Plants may experience high concentrations of

Salmonella when infected animals defecate in farmland or as a result of fertilization of farmland with animal manure. Thus, *Salmonella* transmission from plants was initially thought to be simply due to surface contamination. However, it is now clear that enteric pathogens have acquired mechanisms to enter plants and reproduce inside of plants (51, 52), a discovery that explains the failure of sanitizers to efficiently eradicate food-borne pathogens in produce.

Similar strategies are required for bacteria to colonize both animal and plant hosts. The details of the initial adherence, invasion, and establishment differ depending on the specific interaction, but there are striking parallels between the processes (49, 53). A combination of bioinformatic approaches and molecular techniques has been used to study mechanisms of plant colonization by pathogenic enterobacteria. It was initially thought that the unique factors required for plant infections could be identified by genome comparisons between bacteria that are frequently or exclusively associated with plants and those that are only associated with human or animal hosts (49). However, many factors involved in infection of animals are also required for successful infection of plants, including type 3 secretion systems that modulate host cell responses, and suppression of the host immune response (53, 54).

Bacterial adherence to host tissue is a prerequisite of both animal and plant infection. Bacteria encode a large number of adherence factors with diverse receptor-binding capability. Among the better-known examples are adhesins of the chaperone-usher family, generally located on the ends of long hair-like structures termed fimbriae, and surface-associated afimbrial adhesins. These adhesins often recognize a range of glycosylation patterns that decorate surface proteins of eukaryotic cells. Among enterobacteria, different isolates commonly encode specific sets of adhesin gene clusters that confer tropism to a particular host tissue type. Other fimbriae-like structures contribute to functions in pathogenesis.

Bacterial adherence to biotic and abiotic surfaces is often due to a combination of factors rather than the action of a single adhesin. For example, Barak et al. (55) showed that the pilus curli (encoded by *agfB*), thin, coiled, fimbriae-like fibers that mediate cell-cell interactions in biofilms and binding to animal cell surfaces, play an important role in adhesion of *S. Enteritidis* and *S. Newport* to alfalfa sprouts. However, they also found that deletion of *agfB* did not completely prevent leaf attachment, indicating that other adhesins likely play a role as well. Likewise, the O-antigen capsule and cellulose synthesis play a role in adhesion of *S. Enteritidis* to

plants (56). Curli and cellulose also facilitate transfer of *S. Typhimurium* from contaminated water to parsley (57). Curli and cellulose form a cellular matrix that promotes formation of biofilms. *Salmonella* strains that form extensive biofilms were found to have stronger adhesion to romaine lettuce leaves and greater persistence than weak biofilm-producing strains (58). Not surprisingly, curli, cellulose, and capsule are regulated by a common regulatory gene, *agfD*, which may play a major role in environmental fitness of *Salmonella* organisms (59).

In comparison with bacterial attachment to plant surfaces, the internal movement and translocation of *Salmonella* in plants is less well understood. Many animal-pathogenic enterobacteria preferentially invade plant root tissue rather than foliage (49), but recent reports show that *Salmonella* can invade leaves and developing fruit. The ability of *Salmonella* to penetrate plant cells has been demonstrated in *Arabidopsis thaliana* by tracking fluorescently marked *S. Typhimurium* cells. Colonization of foliage was found to be less extensive than root colonization, and bacteria that were artificially internalized into the leaves did not appear to spread systemically from the point of infiltration. However, bacteria could be detected in newly formed leaves 1 month after introduction (60). The initial entry is not a passive process: *S. Typhimurium* invades iceberg lettuce leaves through the stoma during active photosynthesis but not in the dark (61). The results indicate that *Salmonella* undergoes active chemotaxis toward metabolites produced by photosynthesis.

Studies on the invasion of tomato plants have shown that *Salmonella* can colonize developing fruit. When tomato plants were inoculated by injecting stems or brushing flowers with *Salmonella*, the bacteria remained viable during fruit development, surviving within the ripened fruit (62, 63). Not surprisingly, some strains are more effective at infecting plants than others. For example, *S. Montevideo* appeared to be more adapted to survival within tomatoes and was recovered from 90% of the fruit screened, providing a potential explanation of the narrow range of *Salmonella* serovars associated with *Salmonella* outbreaks linked to tomatoes. *Salmonella* can move inside tomato plants and colonize fruits at high levels without inducing any symptoms, except for a slight reduction in plant growth (64). The results indicate that direct transmission of *Salmonella* can occur between plants (49).

The study of the microbial ecology of food-borne pathogens associated with produce may allow the development of evidence-based policies, procedures, and

TABLE 1 Some sources of *Salmonella* outbreaks

Animal products	Pets	Plant products
Poultry	Turtles	Alfalfa sprouts
Beef	Reptiles	Bean sprouts
Pork	Dogs	Melons
Fish	Cats	Marijuana
Milk	Birds	Lettuce
Cheese	Ducks	Onions
Chocolate	Hedgehogs	Tomatoes
Eggs	Pet food	Peppers
Ice cream	Pet treats	Cilantro
		Spinach
		Cucumber
		Cereal
		Rice
		Flour
		Nuts (almonds, peanut butter, pistachios, hazelnuts)
		Spices (pepper, celery seed, basil, sesame seeds)

technologies aimed at reducing the risk of contamination of fresh produce. For instance, better understanding of the competitive interactions of enteropathogens with the naturally occurring microbiota in the rhizosphere and phyllosphere suggests that there is potential for the naturally occurring microbiota to be used as biocontrol agents to prevent the establishment of enteropathogenic pathogens in plants (50–52).

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Salmonella can be transmitted by a wide variety of food products and environmental sources (Table 1). Thus, transmission of *S. enterica* provides a compelling example of the One Health paradigm, with reservoirs of pathogens in humans, animals, plants, and the environment. Furthermore, the secondary consequences of efforts to eliminate the poultry-restricted *Salmonella* serovars demonstrate that basic ecological principles govern the environmental niches occupied by pathogens, making it impossible to thwart *Salmonella* infections without a clear understanding of One Health.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors have no conflict of interest in the research described in this article.

REFERENCES

1. Le Minor L, Popoff MY. 1987. Designation of *Salmonella enterica* sp. nov., nom. rev., as the type and only species of the genus *Salmonella*. *Int J Syst Bacteriol* 37:465–468.
2. Silva C, Wiesner M. 2009. An introduction to systematics, natural history and population genetics of *Salmonella*, p 1–17. In Calva JJ, Calva E (ed.), *Molecular Biology and Molecular Epidemiology of Salmonella Infections*. Research Signpost, Trivandrum, India.

3. Bäumler AJ, Tsolis RM, Ficht TA, Adams LG. 1998. Evolution of host adaptation in *Salmonella enterica*. *Infect Immun* 66:4579–4587.
4. Kingsley RA, Bäumler AJ. 2000. Host adaptation and the emergence of infectious disease: the *Salmonella* paradigm. *Mol Microbiol* 36:1006–1014.
5. Uzzau S, Brown DJ, Wallis T, Rubino S, Leori G, Bernard S, Casadesús J, Platt DJ, Olsen JE. 2000. Host adapted serotypes of *Salmonella enterica*. *Epidemiol Infect* 125:229–255.
6. Hoelzer K, Moreno Switt AI, Wiedmann M. 2011. Animal contact as a source of human non-typhoidal salmonellosis. *Vet Res* 42:34. doi:10.1186/1297-9716-42-34.
7. Edwards RA, Olsen GJ, Maloy SR. 2002. Comparative genomics of closely related salmonellae. *Trends Microbiol* 10:94–99.
8. Karch H, Denamur E, Dobrindt U, Finlay BB, Hengge R, Johannes L, Ron EZ, Tønjum T, Sansonetti PJ, Vicente M. 2012. The enemy within us: lessons from the 2011 European *Escherichia coli* O104:H4 outbreak. *EMBO Mol Med* 4:841–848.
9. Winter SE, Lopez CA, Bäumler AJ. 2013. The dynamics of gut-associated microbial communities during inflammation. *EMBO Rep* 14:319–327.
10. Maloy S, Mora G. 2012. Unnecessary baggage, p 93–98. In Kolter R, Maloy S (ed), *Microbes and Evolution: The World That Darwin Never Saw*. ASM Press, Washington, DC.
11. Matthews TD, Maloy SR. 2011. Genome rearrangements in *Salmonella*, p 41–66. In Fratamico P, Liu Y, Kathari S (ed), *Genomes of Foodborne and Waterborne Pathogens*. ASM Press, Washington, DC.
12. Silva C, Wiesner M, Calva E. 2012. The importance of mobile genetic elements in the evolution of *Salmonella*: pathogenesis, antibiotic resistance and host adaptation, p 231–254. In Kumar Y (ed), *Salmonella: A Diversified Superbug*. InTech, Rijeka, Croatia.
13. Chu C, Feng Y, Chien AC, Hu S, Chu CH, Chiu CH. 2008. Evolution of genes on the *Salmonella* virulence plasmid phylogeny revealed from sequencing of the virulence plasmids of *S. enterica* serotype Dublin and comparative analysis. *Genomics* 92:339–343.
14. Guiney DG, Fierer J. 2011. The role of the *spv* genes in *Salmonella* pathogenesis. *Front Microbiol* 2:129. doi:10.3389/fmicb.2011.00129.
15. Gulig PA, Curtiss R III. 1987. Plasmid-associated virulence of *Salmonella typhimurium*. *Infect Immun* 55:2891–2901.
16. Gulig PA, Doyle TJ. 1993. The *Salmonella typhimurium* virulence plasmid increases the growth rate of salmonellae in mice. *Infect Immun* 61:504–511.
17. Rychlik I, Gregorova D, Hradecka H. 2006. Distribution and function of plasmids in *Salmonella enterica*. *Vet Microbiol* 112:1–10.
18. Chu C, Hong SF, Tsai C, Lin WS, Liu TP, Ou JT. 1999. Comparative physical and genetic maps of the virulence plasmids of *Salmonella enterica* serovars Typhimurium, Enteritidis, Choleraesuis, and Dublin. *Infect Immun* 67:2611–2614.
19. Feng Y, Liu J, Li YG, Cao FL, Johnston RN, Zhou J, Liu GR, Liu SL. 2012. Inheritance of the *Salmonella* virulence plasmids: mostly vertical and rarely horizontal. *Infect Genet Evol* 12:1058–1063.
20. Boyd EF, Hartl DL. 1998. *Salmonella* virulence plasmid. Modular acquisition of the *spv* virulence region by an F-plasmid in *Salmonella enterica* subspecies I and insertion into the chromosome of subspecies II, IIIa, IV and VII isolates. *Genetics* 149:1183–1190.
21. Jones GW, Rabert DK, Svinarich DM, Whitfield HJ. 1982. Association of adhesive, invasive, and virulent phenotypes of *Salmonella typhimurium* with autonomous 60-megadalton plasmids. *Infect Immun* 38:476–486.
22. Gulig PA, Danbara H, Guiney DG, Lax AJ, Norel F, Rhen M. 1993. Molecular analysis of *spv* virulence genes of the *Salmonella* virulence plasmids. *Mol Microbiol* 7:825–830.
23. Olsen JE, Brown DJ, Thomsen LE, Platt DJ, Chadfield MS. 2004. Differences in the carriage and the ability to utilize the serotype associated virulence plasmid in strains of *Salmonella enterica* serotype Typhimurium

- investigated by use of a self-transferable virulence plasmid, pOG669. *Microb Pathog* 36:337–347.
24. Ou JT, Baron LS. 1991. Strain differences in expression of virulence by the 90 kilobase pair virulence plasmid of *Salmonella* serovar Typhimurium. *Microb Pathog* 10:247–251.
 25. Namimatsu T, Asai T, Osumi T, Imai Y, Sato S. 2006. Prevalence of the virulence plasmid in *Salmonella* Typhimurium isolates from pigs. *J Vet Med Sci* 68:187–188.
 26. Wiesner M, Calva E, Fernández-Mora M, Cevallos MA, Campos F, Zaidi MB, Silva C. 2011. *Salmonella* Typhimurium ST213 is associated with two types of IncA/C plasmids carrying multiple resistance determinants. *BMC Microbiol* 11:9. doi:10.1186/1471-2180-11-9.
 27. Wiesner M, Zaidi MB, Calva E, Fernández-Mora M, Calva JJ, Silva C. 2009. Association of virulence plasmid and antibiotic resistance determinants with chromosomal multilocus genotypes in Mexican *Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhimurium strains. *BMC Microbiol* 9:131. doi:10.1186/1471-2180-9-131.
 28. Mulvey MR, Boyd DA, Olson AB, Doublet B, Cloeckert A. 2006. The genetics of *Salmonella* genomic island 1. *Microbes Infect* 8:1915–1922.
 29. Lawson B, Hughes LA, Peters T, de Pinna E, John SK, Macgregor SK, Cunningham AA. 2011. Pulsed-field gel electrophoresis supports the presence of host-adapted *Salmonella enterica* subsp. *enterica* serovar Typhimurium strains in the British garden bird population. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 77:8139–8144.
 30. Rabsch W, Andrews HL, Kingsley RA, Prager R, Tschäpe H, Adams LG, Bäumler AJ. 2002. *Salmonella enterica* serotype Typhimurium and its host-adapted variants. *Infect Immun* 70:2249–2255.
 31. Xu T, Maloy S, McGuire KL. 2009. Macrophages influence *Salmonella* host-specificity *in vivo*. *Microb Pathog* 47:212–222.
 32. Rabsch W, Hargis BM, Tsois RM, Kingsley RA, Hinz KH, Tschäpe H, Bäumler AJ. 2000. Competitive exclusion of *Salmonella enteritidis* by *Salmonella gallinarum* in poultry. *Emerg Infect Dis* 6:443–448.
 33. Anderson LA, Miller DA, Trampel DW. 2006. Epidemiological investigation, cleanup, and eradication of pullorum disease in adult chickens and ducks in two small-farm flocks. *Avian Dis* 50:142–147.
 34. Rozen Y, Belkin S. 2001. Survival of enteric bacteria in seawater. *FEMS Microbiol Rev* 25:513–529.
 35. Winfield MD, Groisman EA. 2003. Role of nonhost environments in the lifestyles of *Salmonella* and *Escherichia coli*. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 69:3687–3694.
 36. Liebana E, Garcia-Migura L, Clouting C, Clifton-Hadley FA, Breslin M, Davies RH. 2003. Molecular fingerprinting evidence of the contribution of wildlife vectors in the maintenance of *Salmonella* Enteritidis infection in layer farms. *J Appl Microbiol* 94:1024–1029.
 37. Holt PS, Geden CJ, Moore RW, Gast RK. 2007. Isolation of *Salmonella enterica* serovar Enteritidis from houseflies (*Musca domestica*) found in rooms containing *Salmonella* serovar Enteritidis-challenged hens. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 73:6030–6035.
 38. Mian LS, Maag H, Tacal JV. 2002. Isolation of *Salmonella* from muscoid flies at commercial animal establishments in San Bernardino County, California. *J Vector Ecol* 27:82–85.
 39. Thomason BM, Biddle JW, Cherry WB. 1975. Detection of salmonellae in the environment. *Appl Microbiol* 30:764–767.
 40. Semenov AM, Kuprianov AA, van Bruggen AH. 2010. Transfer of enteric pathogens to successive habitats as part of microbial cycles. *Microb Ecol* 60:239–249.
 41. Gaze WH, Burroughs N, Gallagher MP, Wellington EM. 2003. Interactions between *Salmonella typhimurium* and *Acanthamoeba polyphaga*, and observation of a new mode of intracellular growth within contractile vacuoles. *Microb Ecol* 46:358–369.
 42. Gourabathini P, Brandl MT, Redding KS, Gunderson JH, Berk SG. 2008. Interactions between food-borne pathogens and protozoa isolated from lettuce and spinach. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 74:2518–2525.
 43. Tezcan-Merdol D, Ljungström M, Winiacka-Krusnell J, Linder E, Engstrand L, Rhen M. 2004. Uptake and replication of *Salmonella enterica* in *Acanthamoeba rhyssodes*. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 70:3706–3714.
 44. Brewer MT, Xiong N, Dier JD, Anderson KL, Rasmussen MA, Franklin SK, Carlson SA. 2011. Comparisons of *Salmonella* conjugation and virulence gene hyperexpression mediated by rumen protozoa from domestic and exotic ruminants. *Vet Microbiol* 151:301–306.
 45. Rasmussen MA, Carlson SA, Franklin SK, McCuddin ZP, Wu MT, Sharma VK. 2005. Exposure to rumen protozoa leads to enhancement of pathogenicity of and invasion by multiple-antibiotic-resistant *Salmonella enterica* bearing SG11. *Infect Immun* 73:4668–4675.
 46. Wildschutte H, Lawrence JG. 2007. Differential *Salmonella* survival against communities of intestinal amoebae. *Microbiology* 153:1781–1789.
 47. Wildschutte H, Wolfe DM, Tamewitz A, Lawrence JG. 2004. Protozoan predation, diversifying selection, and the evolution of antigenic diversity in *Salmonella*. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 101:10644–10649.
 48. Fisher IS, Threlfall EJ. 2005. The Enter-net and Salm-gene databases of foodborne bacterial pathogens that cause human infections in Europe and beyond: an international collaboration in surveillance and the development of intervention strategies. *Epidemiol Infect* 133:1–7.
 49. Holden N, Pritchard L, Toth I. 2009. Colonization outwith the colon: plants as an alternative environmental reservoir for human pathogenic enterobacteria. *FEMS Microbiol Rev* 33:689–703.
 50. Heaton JC, Jones K. 2008. Microbial contamination of fruit and vegetables and the behaviour of enteropathogens in the phyllosphere: a review. *J Appl Microbiol* 104:613–626.
 51. Berger CN, Sodha SV, Shaw RK, Griffin PM, Pink D, Hand P, Frankel G. 2010. Fresh fruit and vegetables as vehicles for the transmission of human pathogens. *Environ Microbiol* 12:2385–2397.
 52. Critzer FJ, Doyle MP. 2010. Microbial ecology of foodborne pathogens associated with produce. *Curr Opin Biotechnol* 21:125–130.
 53. Schikora A, Garcia AV, Hirt H. 2012. Plants as alternative hosts for *Salmonella*. *Trends Plant Sci* 17:245–249.
 54. Schikora A, Virlogeux-Payant I, Bueso E, Garcia AV, Nilau T, Charrier A, Pelletier S, Menanteau P, Baccarini M, Velge P, Hirt H. 2011. Conservation of *Salmonella* infection mechanisms in plants and animals. *PLoS One* 6:e24112. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0024112.
 55. Barak JD, Gorski L, Naraghi-Arani P, Charkowski AO. 2005. *Salmonella enterica* virulence genes are required for bacterial attachment to plant tissue. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 71:5685–5691.
 56. Barak JD, Jahn CE, Gibson DL, Charkowski AO. 2007. The role of cellulose and O-antigen capsule in the colonization of plants by *Salmonella enterica*. *Mol Plant Microbe Interact* 20:1083–1091.
 57. Lapidot A, Yaron S. 2009. Transfer of *Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhimurium from contaminated irrigation water to parsley is dependent on curli and cellulose, the biofilm matrix components. *J Food Prot* 72: 618–623.
 58. Kroupitski Y, Pinto R, Brandl MT, Belausov E, and Sela S. 2009. Interactions of *Salmonella enterica* with lettuce leaves. *J Appl Microbiol* 106:1876–1885.
 59. Gibson DL, White AP, Snyder SD, Martin S, Heiss C, Azadi P, Surette M, Kay WW. 2006. *Salmonella* produces an O-antigen capsule regulated by AgfD and important for environmental persistence. *J Bacteriol* 188: 7722–7730.
 60. Schikora A, Carreri A, Charpentier E, Hirt H. 2008. The dark side of the salad: *Salmonella* Typhimurium overcomes the innate immune response of *Arabidopsis thaliana* and shows an endopathogenic lifestyle. *PLoS One* 3:e2279. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0002279.
 61. Kroupitski Y, Golberg D, Belausov E, Pinto R, Swartzberg D, Granot D, Sela S. 2009. Internalization of *Salmonella enterica* in leaves is induced by light and involves chemotaxis and penetration through open stomata. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 75:6076–6086.

62. Guo X, Chen J, Brackett RE, Beuchat LR. 2001. Survival of salmonellae on and in tomato plants from the time of inoculation at flowering and early stages of fruit development through fruit ripening. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 67:4760–4764.
63. Shi X, Namvar A, Kostrzynska M, Hora R, Warriner K. 2007. Persistence and growth of different *Salmonella* serovars on pre- and post-harvest tomatoes. *J Food Prot* 70:2725–2731.
64. Gu G, Hu J, Cevallos-Cevallos JM, Richardson SM, Bartz JA, van Bruggen AH. 2011. Internal colonization of *Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhimurium in tomato plants. *PLoS One* 6:e27340. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0027340.
65. Bäumlér AJ, Hargis BM, Tsois RM. 2000. Tracing the origins of *Salmonella* outbreaks. *Science* 287:50–52.