

**PREVALENCE AND ANTIBIOTICS SENSITIVITY OF  
THERMOTOLERANT *CAMPYLOBACTER* SPP. ISOLATED FROM  
HUMANS AND BIRDS IN THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA**

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**РАСПРОСТРАНЕННОСТЬ И ЧУВСТВИТЕЛЬНОСТЬ К  
АНТИБИОТИКАМ ТЕРМОТОЛЕРАНТНЫХ *SAMPYLOBACTER* SPP.,  
ВЫДЕЛЕННЫХ ОТ ЛЮДЕЙ И ПТИЦ В РЕСПУБЛИКЕ ГВИНЕЯ**

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## Резюме

**Введение.** Проблема диарейных заболеваний остается актуальной для современного здравоохранения всех стран. Кампилобактериоз является наиболее распространенным инфекционным заболеванием, передающимся через пищевые продукты, а мясо птицы - общепризнанный фактор передачи.

Цель исследования: оценка распространенности термотолерантных *Campylobacter* spp. в Гвинейской Республике у пациентов с диарейным синдромом и кур при различных типах содержания.

**Материалы и методы:** Изучено 724 пробы испражнений пациентов с диарейным синдромом и 283 пробы помета кур, содержащихся в личных хозяйствах и птицефермах. Для бактериологического метода использовали селективные питательные среды. Идентификацию штаммов *Campylobacter* spp. проводили традиционными рутинными тестами (морфология клеток, оксидазный и каталазный тесты, гидролиз гипсурата натрия и индоксилацетата) и методом MALDI-TOF масс-спектрометрией. Чувствительность штаммов к антибиотикам определяли диско-диффузионным методом. Результаты интерпретировали в соответствии с критериями EUCAST версий 2019-2022 гг.

**Результаты:** *Campylobacter* spp. был выявлен в 65 из 724 пробах испражнений пациентов с острой диареей, из них 83,08% были идентифицированы как *C. jejuni* и 16,92% — как *C. coli*. Из 237 штаммов *Campylobacter* spp., выделенных из помета кур были идентифицированы *C. jejuni* 54,0% и *C. coli* 46,0%. Кампилобактерии, выделенные от людей были устойчивы к тетрациклину 40,0%, к эритромицину 6,15%, к ципрофлоксацину 12,31%. Штаммы, выделенные от промышленной птицы, были устойчивы к тетрациклину 42,55%, к ципрофлоксацину 22,70% и эритромицину 11,35%. Штаммы, выделенные от домашних кур, характеризовались резистентностью к тетрациклину - 4,17%, к ципрофлоксацину - 1,04%, все штаммы были чувствительны к эритромицину. **Выводы.** В связи с широкой распространенностью *Campylobacter* spp., вызываемые ими инфекционные

заболевания остаются актуальной проблемой. Изучение устойчивости к антибиотикам *Campylobacter* spp. среди домашней птицы может позволить разработать новые подходы к подтверждению значимости их как фактора передачи и усовершенствовать национальную систему профилактики кампилобактериоза.

**Ключевые слова:** *Campylobacter*; кампилобактериоз; Африка; инфекции, передающиеся с пищевыми продуктами; птицефабрики; устойчивость к антибиотикам.

## Abstract

**Background:** The issue of diarrheal diseases remains relevant for modern health care in all countries. Campylobacteriosis is the most common infectious disease with foodborne transmission and poultry meat is a transmission factor.

**Materials and Methods:** 724 items of faeces sampled from patients with diarrheal syndrome and 283 samples of faeces of chickens raised on private farms and five poultry farms in the province were studied. For bacteriological method were used selective media. Traditional routine tests (cell morphology, cytochrome oxidase, catalase, hydrolysis of sodium hippurate and indoxyl acetate) and MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry was performed for identification. The susceptibility of strains to antibiotics was analysed using the disc-diffusion method. Results were interpreted according to the EUCAST criteria, versions 2019-2022.

**Results:** *Campylobacter* spp. was cultured in 65 out of 724 faecal samples from patients with acute diarrhoea, of them 83.08% were identified as *C. jejuni*, and 16.92% as *C. coli*. Of the 237 *Campylobacter* strains from chicken were identified as *C. jejuni* (54.0%), as *C. coli* (46.0%). *Campylobacter* spp. strains from humans were resistant to tetracycline (40.0%), to erythromycin (6.15%), to ciprofloxacin (12.31%). The strains from chickens kept on farms, were resistant to tetracycline in 42.55%, to ciprofloxacin – in 22.70% and to erythromycin – in 11.35%. The strains from chickens kept on private farms were resistant to tetracycline in 4.17%, to ciprofloxacin – in 1.04%, all strains were sensitive to erythromycin.

**Conclusions:** Thus, due to the widespread prevalence of *Campylobacter* spp., infectious diseases they cause remain a topical issue. Studying the resistance to antibiotics in *Campylobacter* spp. among poultry could allow to develop new approaches to confirming the significance of their foodborne nature and to improve the national disease prevention system.

**Keywords:** *Campylobacter* spp.; *Campylobacter* infection; Africa; foodborne infections; poultry farms; antibiotic resistance.

## 1 Introduction

2 The issue of diarrheal diseases remains relevant for modern health care in all  
 3 countries. This is due to the wide range of diverse pathogens that cause diarrheal  
 4 diseases, their wide distribution, as well as significant socio-economic impact.  
 5 According to the World Health Organization (WHO) Expert Committee, they  
 6 occupy the fourth place on the ‘importance scale’ of the Global Burden of Disease  
 7 and are included in the list of emergent foodborne infections affecting over 500  
 8 million people every year, of which 220 million are children under 5 years old [12].

9 *Campylobacter* is among the main causes of gastroenteritis worldwide and has  
 10 increased in both developed and developing countries over the last 10 years. It  
 11 accounts for 8.5% of the total number of diarrheal diseases reported [8, 11, 13].

12 The genus *Campylobacter* was first reported in 1886 by Theodor Escherich  
 13 who discovered these microorganisms in a deceased child during an outbreak of  
 14 ‘children’s cholera’ and described them as uncultivated spiral-shaped bacteria. At  
 15 the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, in humans learned of a widespread *Campylobacter*  
 16 distribution among animals and their significance in reproductive system  
 17 pathologies. In 1906, veterinarians McFadyean and Stockman found *Campylobacter*  
 18 in smears from the uterine mucosa of a pregnant sheep as ‘a large number of unusual  
 19 microorganisms’; in 1913, similar microorganisms were sampled from an aborted  
 20 cow foetus and thus named *Vibrio fetus*. In 1927, Smith and Orcutt named a group  
 21 of bacteria sampled from cattle faeces in diarrhoea *Vibrio jejuni*. Seventeen years  
 22 later, in 1944, Doyle sampled bacteria from the faeces of pigs with diarrhoea that  
 23 differed in biochemical properties from previously isolated *Vibrio jejuni* and  
 24 classified them as *Vibrio coli*. *Campylobacter (V. fetus)* were first sampled from  
 25 human blood in 1947 [8]. Initially, all the above bacteria were assigned to the genus  
 26 *Vibrio* and, despite having significant differences in biological properties from the  
 27 ‘true’ *Vibrio spp.*, they were classified as an independent genus *Campylobacter* only  
 28 in 1963. In 1969, Dekeyser first sampled *Campylobacter* from the faeces of patients  
 29 with diarrhoea by direct membrane filtration on a selective agar medium. The

30 development and increased use of selective media for the sampling of  
31 *Campylobacter* in the late 1970s and early 1980s led, on the one hand, to the  
32 recognition of the significance of said microorganisms as those causing acute  
33 intestinal conditions in humans, and, on the other hand, to the improvement of  
34 laboratory diagnostic methods and discovery of new species [5].

35 As of December 2022, the genus *Campylobacter* includes 43 species, and  
36 almost half of them may cause various human diseases, including gastroenteritis. In  
37 countries with developed laboratory diagnostics of campylobacteriosis,  
38 thermotolerant *Campylobacter* species *C. jejuni* and *C. coli* are considered the most  
39 significant causative agents of gastroenteritis. Other species of this *Campylobacter*  
40 group, *C. lary*, *C. concisus*, *C. ureolyticus*, and *C. upsaliensis*, may cause diarrhoea  
41 too, but less often [8, 17].

42 *Campylobacter* infection is characterised by its impact on the gastrointestinal  
43 tract. It may manifest as enteritis, enterocolitis, colitis, or gastroenterocolitis and  
44 result in serious gastrointestinal or extraintestinal complications [5, 27].  
45 Immunocompromised humans (patients with AIDS, cancer, etc.), as well as infants  
46 are most vulnerable to complications. An acute infection can have serious long-term  
47 consequence, including the peripheral neuropathies, Guillain-Barré syndrome  
48 (GBS) and Miller Fisher syndrome (MFS), and functional bowel diseases, such as  
49 irritable bowel syndrome (IBS). GBS occurs in one in 1,000 cases in people who  
50 have had campylobacteriosis. Older males get sick more often than females [3].

51 Campylobacteriosis is diagnosed based on the results of faeces examination  
52 using laboratory diagnostic methods, that is, bacteriology, molecular, and  
53 immunology tests aimed at identifying the pathogen or its antigens and genetic  
54 markers [2, 21]. In countries that established observation practices for foodborne  
55 infections, it was found that *C. jejuni* is the main cause of foodborne outbreaks and  
56 one of the most important zoonotic pathogens capable of causing human diseases [4,  
57 12, 20].

58 Epidemiological features of campylobacteriosis are studied in detail in most  
59 industrialised countries, as they record large outbreaks with foodborne transmission

60 type. In the European Union, including the European Economic Area (EU/EEA), 30  
 61 countries reported 129,960 confirmed cases of campylobacteriosis in 2021. The  
 62 overall recording rate was 44.5 per 100,000 population [16]. Despite the decrease in  
 63 the incidence of *Campylobacter* infection over the past 3 years in a range of countries  
 64 in North, Central, and South America, thermotolerant *Campylobacter* spp. are the  
 65 leading causative agents of bacterial diarrhoea in Europe, as well as in Australia and  
 66 New Zealand. The number of confirmed cases in the European Union in 2020  
 67 reached 121,000 cases, whereas the incidence was 40.4<sup>0</sup>/<sub>0000</sub> [1, 26].

68 Epidemiological data from a number of countries of Africa, Asia, and the  
 69 Middle East is incomplete; however, it shows that *Campylobacter* infection is  
 70 relevant for these regions as well [23]. The results of 10-year studies (1997–2007)  
 71 conducted using the molecular method based on RT-PCR in Blantyre (Malawi,  
 72 Africa) showed that *Campylobacter* are often causative agents of diarrheal diseases  
 73 in children; *C. jejuni* and *C. coli* were detected in every fifth child hospitalised with  
 74 diarrhoea and in 14% of the cases where examinations found no signs of an acute  
 75 intestinal infection, while *C. jejuni* accounted for up to 85% of all cases of  
 76 campylobacteriosis [18]. These results are confirmed by another study conducted in  
 77 Moramanga (Madagascar), in which the proportion of *Campylobacter* spp. was 8.9%  
 78 in faecal samples of children with diarrheal syndrome, and 9.4% in children with no  
 79 diarrhoea [22]. From 2005 to 2009, 5,443 strains of *Campylobacter* spp. were  
 80 sampled from the faeces of children with diarrhoea at the Red Cross Children’s  
 81 Hospital in Cape Town (South Africa), of which 40% were *C. jejuni*; the second  
 82 most common species were *C. concisus* (24.6%) [23]. In general, it can be concluded  
 83 that *C. jejuni* and other species of the genus *Campylobacter* are significant for  
 84 children in most regions of Africa.

85 Reducing disease risks and preventing campylobacteriosis in the population  
 86 are primarily associated with the idea of reservoirs/factors of transmission of  
 87 infectious agents [6]. The most important reservoir/factor of transmission of *C.*  
 88 *jejuni* and *C. coli* pathogens for humans is industrial poultry: chickens, turkeys,  
 89 ducks, geese, etc., among which the leading place is occupied by broiler chickens



90 raised on poultry farms [9]. Numerous epidemiological studies have shown that  
91 *Campylobacter* infection caused by chicken meat consumption is more often  
92 recorded in urban residents than in rural residents [26]. However, there is evidence  
93 that other types of *Campylobacter* are often sampled from chickens in various  
94 regions. This is due to the high level of *Campylobacter* spp. among broiler chickens.  
95 On poultry farms, *Campylobacter* are found in the environment, including soil,  
96 water sources, dust, building surfaces, and air [14]. International trade in broiler  
97 chickens, industrial poultry products and feed contributes to the overall burden of  
98 *Campylobacter* infection. In Switzerland, 71% of campylobacteriosis cases were  
99 caused by poultry products [25, 26]. Given that *C. jejuni* strains survive in chicken  
100 faeces up to six days after isolation, they can be a potential source of environmental  
101 pollution, and the use of poultry manure as fertiliser is a factor in human infection.  
102 According to the Food Standards Agency in the UK, 72.9% of chicken carcasses  
103 were contaminated with *Campylobacter* spp. between 2014 and 2015, with 18.9%  
104 of them characterised by significant contamination (>10,000 CFU/g) [16, 19].

105 Considering the above, the purpose of this study was to assess the prevalence  
106 of thermotolerant *Campylobacter* in the Republic of Guinea among patients of  
107 various ages with diarrheal syndrome and chickens with various types of livestock  
108 management.

## 109 2 Materials and Methods

110 The study was conducted in the period from 2019 to 2022 in the province of  
111 Kindia (Republic of Guinea), in a laboratory of Guinea-Russian Research Centre of  
112 Epidemiology and Prevention of Infectious Diseases (Kindia, Republic of Guinea).

113 724 items of faeces sampled from patients with diarrheal syndrome were  
114 studied, among them 73 from children aged 0 to 5, 127 from children aged 6 to 17,  
115 and 524 from humans aged 18 and older, as well as 283 samples of faeces of chickens  
116 raised on private farms and five poultry farms in the province. The samples were  
117 delivered to the laboratory in a Cary-Blair Transport Medium in a refrigerated  
118 container in 4–8 hours.

119 For bacteriological method, the following media (Oxoid, UK) were used: 1.  
120 *Campylobacter* Blood-Free Selective Agar Base and CCDA Selective Supplement;  
121 2. Selective medium carbon agar and a Selective Supplement (cefoperazone and  
122 teicoplanin); 3. Blood agar Muller-Hinton Agar, with 5% Defibrinated Horse Blood  
123 (E&O Laboratories limited) and culture growth supplement to increase  
124 *Campylobacter* aerotolerance. Inoculation on the blood agar was performed using  
125 cellulose acetate filters (Sartorius Stedim Biotech) with a pore diameter of 0.45  $\mu\text{m}$ .  
126 The cultures were incubated in a microaerobic atmosphere at 42°C for 48 hours.

127 Traditional routine tests based on the determination of key phenotypic features  
128 were used for primary identification: cell morphology and Gram staining, production  
129 of cytochrome oxidase and catalase, hydrolysis of sodium hippurate and indoxyl  
130 acetate. The second identification level was performed using MALDI-TOF mass  
131 spectrometry (Bruker Daltonik MALDI Biotyper).

132 The susceptibility of thermotolerant *Campylobacter* strains to antimicrobial  
133 agents was determined by disc-diffusion method using Muller-Hinton Agar (Oxoid),  
134 5% Defibrinated Horse Blood (E&O Laboratories limited) and 20 mg/l of  $\beta$ -NAD.  
135 Results were interpreted according EUCAST criteria, versions 2019-2022  
136 ([https://www.eucast.org/ast\\_of\\_bacteria/previous\\_versions\\_of\\_documents](https://www.eucast.org/ast_of_bacteria/previous_versions_of_documents)).

137 In parallel with the culture method, faeces samples from patients with  
138 diarrheal syndrome was examined by PCR method with fluorescence in situ  
139 hybridization using the Russian reagent kit AmpliSense® OKI screen-FL to identify  
140 and differentiate the DNA (RNA) of *Campylobacter* microorganisms (thermophilic  
141 *Campylobacter* spp.)

142 Statistical processing of results. The obtained data were processed using the  
143 computer program Excel (Microsoft Office). Fisher's exact test was used to assess  
144 the statistical significance of differences in indicators (frequency, proportion).  
145 Differences were considered statistically significant at a 95% confidence interval  
146 ( $p < 0.05$ ).

### 147 **3 Results**

148 Thermotolerant *Campylobacter* spp. was cultured in 65 out of 724 faecal  
 149 samples from patients with acute diarrhoea (8.98%). In children under 5 years old,  
 150 they were found three times more often than in adults (20.55% vs. 7.06%,  
 151 respectively),  $p \leq 0.05$  (Table 1). Molecular markers of thermotolerant  
 152 *Campylobacter* were detected in 72 samples (9.94%).

153 Thermotolerant *Campylobacter* were found in 237 out of 283 (83.75%)  
 154 samples of chicken intestinal contents, regardless of the livestock management type  
 155 (personal farming or poultry farms). In chickens raised free-range on personal  
 156 farming, *Campylobacter* spp. was found in 96 out of 132 samples studied (72.73%).  
 157 In poultry farm broilers, thermotolerant *Campylobacter* was detected in 141 out of  
 158 151 samples, which was 93.38%. The use of membrane filters and non-selective  
 159 media made it possible to identify three strains of closely related microorganisms  
 160 (*Arcobacter cryaerophilus*) in the samples studied, which will not be discussed in  
 161 this paper since they are not pathogenic to humans.

162 Of the 237 *Campylobacter* strains, 128 were identified as *C. jejuni* and 109 as  
 163 *C. coli*, representing 54.0% and 46.0%, respectively. Identification using classical  
 164 tests of six strains of *C. jejuni* showed questionable results after the hippurate  
 165 hydrolysis test. The use of MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry and PCR with species-  
 166 specific primers allowed for the correct culture identification.

167 To assess the prevalence of resistance strains of *Campylobacter* spp., were  
 168 conducted a screening of sampled cultures for clinically significant drugs. Were  
 169 studied 302 strains of thermotolerant *Campylobacter* spp. sampled from humans (65  
 170 strains), as well as from chicken intestinal contents (237 strains) of chickens kept in  
 171 different livestock management types: 96 strains from personal farming and 141  
 172 strains from five poultry farms (Table 3). 212 strains (70.20%) of *Campylobacter*  
 173 spp. were susceptible to all antibiotics whereas 90 (29.80%) were resistant to one or  
 174 several test agents.

175 When it comes to the general population of strains, *Campylobacter* spp.  
 176 strains sampled from humans were resistant to tetracycline (40.0%),  $p \leq 0.05$ ,  
 177 significantly more often. The proportion of strains resistant to erythromycin and

178 ciprofloxacin was 6.15% and 12.31%, respectively. At the same time, there were no  
179 significant differences in the levels of resistance to these drugs ( $p \geq 0.05$ ).

180 Among the strains sampled from the intestinal contents of chickens kept on  
181 poultry farms, strains resistant to tetracycline were significantly more common as  
182 they accounted for (42.55%),  $p \leq 0.05$ . As for fluoroquinolones which had  
183 previously been widely used in veterinary medicine (enrofloxacin), 22.70% of  
184 strains were resistant; 11.35% were resistant to erythromycin. No significant  
185 differences were identified.

186 The proportion of strains sampled from the faeces of chickens kept on private  
187 farms resistant to tetracycline was 4.17%, whereas the proportion of strains resistant  
188 to ciprofloxacin amounted to 1.04%. At the same time, all strains remained  
189 susceptible to erythromycin.

190 The analysis of combined resistance showed that 18.46% of strains sampled  
191 from humans were characterized by resistance to two antibiotics: 8 to tetracycline  
192 and ciprofloxacin, 4 to erythromycin and tetracycline. Strains from livestock kept on  
193 poultry farms with phenotypes of combined resistance were sampled almost twice  
194 as often (1.84).

#### 195 **4 Discussion**

196 Bacteria of the genus *Campylobacter* are among the leading causative agents  
197 of acute intestinal infections of bacterial etiology in residents of developed countries,  
198 exceeding in some regions the frequency of registration of salmonellosis and  
199 escherichiosis. In a third of cases, they are the cause of “travelers' diarrhea” among  
200 residents of economically developed countries visiting regions with a high degree of  
201 circulation of *Campylobacter* spp. among the population, animals and environmental  
202 objects [15]. According to the latest estimates of the World Health Organization,  
203 campylobacteriosis is one of the most common infectious diseases with foodborne  
204 transmission. Campylobacteriosis is registered in all age groups, most often among  
205 children aged from one year to 3-5 years; a relative increase in cases of disease is

206 observed in older children and young people (compared to other age categories) [4,  
207 12, 18, 23].

208 Our studies showed that the campylobacteriosis accounted for 8.98% in the  
209 etiological structure of diarrheal diseases in individuals residing in the Republic of  
210 Guinea in 2019–2022. Analysis of the age structure confirmed that thermotolerant  
211 *Campylobacter* are common pathogens among the child population: *C. jejuni* and *C.*  
212 *coli* were detected in one in five children under 5 ages. *C. jejuni* (83.08%) were  
213 significantly predominant in the *Campylobacter* infection structure compared to *C.*  
214 *coli* (16.92%),  $p \leq 0.05$ .

215 The incidence of campylobacter colienteritis, as well as the frequency of  
216 detection of thermotolerant campylobacters in chickens in different countries varies  
217 very widely. Thus, in the countries of the European Union, where monitoring has  
218 been carried out for many years, the incidence is at the level of 61.4 66.5 0/0000,  
219 varying from  $< 5.80/0000$  in Bulgaria, Latvia, Portugal to 230.0 0/0000 in the Czech  
220 Republic. Poultry meat is a transmission factor in campylobacteriosis. The  
221 frequency of detecting *Campylobacter* spp. in chickens in different countries varies  
222 in wide ranges [3, 16, 19, 25]. As our studies have shown, the level of  
223 *Campylobacter* spp. among chickens was high (82.57%) and ranged from 70.58%  
224 in chickens kept free-range on personal farming to 93.37% in broilers kept on poultry  
225 farms. There were no significant differences in the species structure: *C. jejuni* and  
226 *C. coli* were distinguished with almost the same frequency of 54.0% and 46.0% ( $p$   
227  $\geq 0.05$ ). If we talk about the frequency of detection of Campylobacter in chickens,  
228 our data are consistent with the results of other authors [9, 13, 14], however,  
229 sometimes comparison is difficult due to differences in methodological approaches  
230 to research. In our work, we assessed the distribution of thermotolerant  
231 campylobacters in the chicken population, while most modern studies deal with the  
232 frequency and intensity of contamination of chicken meat, i.e. product prepared for  
233 shipment to the consumer [19].

234 In clinical practice, for the treatment of moderate and severe forms of  
235 campylobacteriosis, the prescription of broad-spectrum antibiotics is regulated,

236 among which the drugs of choice are macrolides, and mainly azithromycin. Along  
237 with antibiotics of this group, aminoglycosides, quinolones, tetracyclines,  
238 chloramphenicol, nitrofurans and carbapenems are recognized as alternative and  
239 effective therapeutic drugs. Fluoroquinolones, previously widely used for the  
240 treatment of campylobacteriosis, contributed to the development of resistance to this  
241 group of antibiotics in 50-84% of circulating strains of *Campylobacter* spp., which  
242 made them unsuitable for therapeutic purposes. In recent years, the clinical  
243 ineffectiveness of ongoing antibacterial therapy has been accompanied by the  
244 emergence of a large number of resistant strains. A feature of the formation of  
245 resistance in *Campylobacter* is not only the rapid onset of the effect of insensitivity  
246 of strains to the action of antibiotics, but also the multiple nature of this phenomenon.  
247 In countries where surveillance of campylobacteriosis pathogens has been carried  
248 out in recent years, it has been noted that the population of *Campylobacter* spp. is  
249 dominated by strains characterized by multidrug resistance [11, 24, 26]. In 2017,  
250 WHO published a list of 12 “priority” antimicrobial resistant pathogens (AMPs) that  
251 pose the greatest threat to human health. *Campylobacter* spp. due to the need for the  
252 creation of new AMPs, those resistant to fluoroquinolones are classified as a group  
253 of microorganisms with a high level of priority ([https://www.who.int/news/item/27-  
254 02-2017-who-publishes-list-of-bacteria-for-which-new-antibiotics-are-urgently-  
255 needed](https://www.who.int/news/item/27-02-2017-who-publishes-list-of-bacteria-for-which-new-antibiotics-are-urgently-needed)).

256 Thermophilic *Campylobacter* spp. are among the most difficult  
257 microorganisms to cultivate. In the laboratory diagnosis of campylobacteriosis, the  
258 most difficult task is to isolate a pure culture of the pathogen from stool samples due  
259 to their massive concomitant microbial contamination. In recent years, the use of  
260 molecular research methods has been considered not as an alternative, but as a  
261 mandatory addition to regulated diagnostic regimens for acute intestinal infections,  
262 allowing for the rapid and effective identification of pathogens of acute intestinal  
263 infections, including thermophilic *Campylobacter* spp. At the same time, it does not  
264 imply species identification and determination of sensitivity to AMPs [2, 7, 10].

265 **5 Conclusions**

266 Thus, due to the widespread prevalence of thermotolerant *Campylobacter*  
267 spp., infectious diseases caused by them remain a topical issue. Successful use of  
268 molecular diagnostic methods along with traditional culture inoculation methods  
269 makes it possible to effectively assess the prevalence of *Campylobacter* in poultry  
270 and to enact effective control strategies to prevent campylobacteriosis in individuals  
271 residing in the Republic of Guinea. Studying the distribution and resistance to  
272 antibiotics in the population of *C. jejuni* and *C. coli* among poultry could make it  
273 possible to develop new approaches to confirming the significance of their  
274 foodborne nature and to improve the national disease prevention system to reduce  
275 the risk of contamination with *Campylobacter* pathogens through industrial poultry  
276 products as well as infection burden levels in the population.

277 **Author Contributions:** For research articles with several authors, a short  
278 paragraph specifying their individual contributions must be provided. The following  
279 statements should be used Conceptualization, L.K. and R.B.; methodology, M.M.;  
280 software, R.B. and M.M.; validation, Z.M., M.M. and L.K.; formal analysis, R.B.;  
281 investigation, M.M.; resources, R.B. and L.K.; data curation, M.M. and Z.M.;  
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ТАБЛИЦЫ

**Table 1.** Frequency of sampling *Campylobacter* spp. in patients of various ages.

Age	Total samples	Frequency of findings n (%)	95% CI
0-5	73	15 (20.55%)	12.87-31.18
6-17	127	13 (10.23%)	6.08-16.73
18 and older	524	37 (7.06%)	5.17-9.58
Total	724	65 (8.98%)	7.11-11.28

**Table 2.** Frequency of findings for *C. jejuni* and *C. coli* sampled from humans and intestinal contents of chickens kept on personal farming and poultry farms.

Type of <i>Campylobacter</i>	Humans		Chickens personal farming		Chickens poultry farms	
	n (%)	95% CI	n (%)	95% CI	n (%)	95% CI
<i>C. jejuni</i>	54 (7.46%)	5.76-9.61	46 (34.85%)	27.25-43.30	82 (54.31%)	46.35-62.04
<i>C. coli</i>	11 (1.52%)	0.85-2.70	50 (37.88%)	30.06-46.39	59 (39.07%)	31.65-47.03
Not found	659 (90.61%)	88.72-92.89	36 (27.27%)	20.40-35.43	10 (6.62%)	3.63-11.76
Total	724 (100%)	99.47-100	132 (100%)	67.79-82.27	151 (100%)	58.37-73.29



**Table 3.** Antimicrobial resistance of *Campylobacter* spp. strains sampled in Kindia, Republic of Guinea, 2019-2022.

Antibiotic	Humans	Chickens	Chickens	Total
	(n=65) n (%)	personal farming (n=96) n (%)	poultry farms (n=141) n (%)	(n=302) n (%)
Tetracycline	26 (40.00%)	4 (4.17%)	60 (42.55%)	90 (29.80%)
Erythromycin	4 (6.15%)	0 (0%)	16 (11.35%)	20 (6.62%)
Ciprofloxacin	8 (12.31%)	1 (1.04%)	32 (22.70%)	41 (13.58%)

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**Блок 3. Метаданные статьи**

PREVALENCE AND SENSITIVITY TO ANTIBIOTICS OF  
THERMOTOLERANT *CAMPYLOBACTER* SPP. ISOLATED FROM HUMANS  
AND BIRDS IN THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA

РАСПРОСТРАНЕННОСТЬ И ЧУВСТВИТЕЛЬНОСТЬ К АНТИБИОТИКАМ  
ТЕРМОТОЛЕРАНТНЫХ *CAMPYLOBACTER* SPP., ВЫДЕЛЕННЫХ ОТ  
ЛЮДЕЙ И ПТИЦ В РЕСПУБЛИКЕ ГВИНЕЯ

**Сокращенное название статьи для верхнего колонтитула:**

*CAMPYLOBACTER* IN THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA  
КАМПИЛОБАКТЕР В РЕСПУБЛИКЕ ГВИНЕЯ

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