

Biochemical identification and molecular characterization of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* isolated from street foods and drinks in Yogyakarta, Indonesia using 16S rRNA gene

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Abstract. Budiarmo TY, Amaranntini C, Pakpahan S. 2021. Biochemical identification and molecular characterization of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* isolated from street foods and drinks in Yogyakarta, Indonesia using 16S rRNA gene. *Biodiversitas* 22: 5452-5458. Yogyakarta is best known as a student city in Indonesia. However, the fact that students spend almost full day in the school gave rise to the sale of a great variety of foods and drinks in its surrounding streets. Unfortunately, most street vendors do not pay attention to food hygiene. This study aims to identify the biochemical and molecular isolates of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* isolated from street foods and drinks in Yogyakarta using 16S rRNA gene. Data were collected from 120 samples of street foods and drinks sold at schools and several public places. The samples were enumerated using CCA medium to isolate suspected *Klebsiella* spp. colonies, then physiologically screened and identified using the API-20E kit. Positive isolates were isolated and amplified using the 16S rRNA gene marker for sequencing, which was then compared with the GenBank database to establish molecular identity. The results of biochemical identification obtained 11 isolates confirmed as *K. pneumoniae* and 1 isolate as *K. oxytoca*. The phylogenetic analysis showed that only 10 isolates were determined as *K. pneumoniae* with the reference sequences of *K. pneumoniae* from infected patients' respiratory and urinary tract. Furthermore, 2 isolates identified as *Citrobacter* sp. and *Micrococcus* sp., which are contaminated with *Klebsiella* spp. were highly found in street foods and drinks. Therefore, hygiene and sanitation need to be implemented when processing and serving these foods.

Keywords: drinks, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, street foods, Yogyakarta, 16S rRNA

INTRODUCTION

Klebsiella pneumoniae is one of the prominent pathogens found in hospitals-acquired samples. The bacteria are notoriously responsible for foodborne diseases as septicemia, pneumonia, urinary tract infections (UTIs), liver abscess, bloodstream infection, and diarrhea (Zhang et al. 2018; Bengoechea and Pessoa 2019). Besides humans, *K. pneumoniae* is also pathogenic for several animals. In Egypt, it was reported to be responsible for 35% of the mortality in chicks and broilers (Hamza et al. 2016). The results of swabs from the nasal passages of 120 local Balinese cattle living in highlands and lowlands showed the presence of this bacterial in percentages of seven isolates (35%) and thirteen isolates (65%) respectively while in-calf cattle there were nine isolates (45%), heifers six isolates (30%), and adult cattle five isolates (25%) (Ramaditya et al. 2018). *Klebsiella pneumoniae* was also found in the digestive tract, where it is present as microflora. This bacteria is a gram-negative, rod-shaped, anaerobic, facultative, and non-motile bacterium that may be present in several habitats as in the soil, surface water, wastewater, plants, and drinking water (Onuoha et al. 2016; Maisonneuve et al. 2017).

Street foods are easily infested by *K. pneumoniae*, and it causes the consumers to suffer from certain health problems. Guo et al. (2016) reported that 99 strains (9.9%)

of this bacterial were present in 998 edible samples tested, and the frequency of contamination in cooked food was 7.5%. Furthermore, Kim et al. (2015), and Zhang et al. (2018) are also discovered its presence in retail and ready-to-eat food, vegetables, raw meat, and aquatic products.

Yogyakarta city offers a variety of street foods in high demand by the public, especially students. Due to the five-day schooling activities, majorities spend most of their time in these institutes and have no choice but to buy food during break time. Based on observations carried out in this field, it was reported that street vendors (PKL) in several public places usually do not pay attention to hygiene and their environment. Many food items are contaminated, which has led to the cause of health problems, especially in developing countries (Alimi 2016).

Research on *Klebsiella* sp. contamination in street foods and drinks in Yogyakarta and elsewhere in Indonesia has not yet been reported. The results of coliform identification on 30 Thai Tea traders and 30 types of Thai Tea drinks with different brands in Yogyakarta showed that the contamination rate exceeded the MPN/100 ml standard (Suryani et al. 2021). This study aims to identify the biochemical and molecular isolates of *K. pneumoniae* isolated from street foods and drinks in Yogyakarta, Indonesia using 16S rRNA gene.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Collection of samples

A total of 120 samples of street foods and drinks were obtained from schools and several public places commonly visited by people of Yogyakarta, Indonesia and surrounding areas during 2019-2020. The street foods and drinks collected were including *bakso tusuk* (10 samples), *siomay* (10 samples), *cilok* (10 samples), skewered eggs (10 samples), milk packaging (20 samples), grass jelly ice (10 samples), traditional milk products (10 samples), bottled drinking water (20 samples), bottled drinking tea (10 samples), and processed potato products (10 samples). The samples were transported in sterile containers to the Duta Wacana Christian University Microbiology Laboratory for isolation and identification, based on biochemical and molecular characterization.

Enumeration and isolation of isolates of *Klebsiella* spp.

A total of 25 g/mL of each sample was inoculated in 225 ml of peptone buffer water (BPW, Merck, Darmstadt Germany), and then incubated at 37°C overnight (Guo et al. 2016). Furthermore, the cell culture of 1 mL was diluted in 9 mL of peptone water until it became 10⁻⁵. This culture was homogenized and 0.1 mL inoculated in Chromocult Coliform Agar (CCA, Merck Germany) media. CCA media contains Salmon-GAL and X-Glucuronide substrates which induce bacteria to synthesize β -galactosidase and β -glucuronidase enzymes. The *Klebsiella* group which is capable of synthesizing β -glucuronidase enzyme utilized Salmon-GAL substrate for growth and development into a salmon-red colony. This colony was then separated until only one was left because of some other members of the *Enterobacteriaceae* family (*Enterobacter* spp. and *Citrobacter* spp.), which have the same characteristics as *Klebsiella* species (Maheux et al. 2017; Teramura et al. 2017).

Biochemical assay using API 20E kit

The suspected colonies of *K. pneumoniae* were purified to obtain a single colony. Furthermore, every single colony was inoculated in a BHI medium and stored as a collection of bacteria. Subsequently, all isolates were characterized at the genus level. All of *Klebsiella* spp. isolates were distinguished to the other genera belonging to *Enterobacteriaceae* family, especially *Enterobacter* spp. and *Citrobacter* spp., by a series of biochemical tests, such as indole, methyl red, motility, Voges-Proskauer, citrate, urease, carbohydrates fermentation, and H₂S formation tests. First, all of the tube tests were incubated at 37°C for 24-48 hours (Brenner and Farmer 2015; Cappuccino and Welsh 2017). Furthermore, to confirm their identity, the suspected isolates were subjected to a biochemical reaction using API 20E kit. The test results were then analyzed using the API 20 E software system (Biomereoux) so that the species name and %ID were obtained which showed the profile indexes, namely the magnitude of the similarity

of the biochemical characters of the tested isolates (Al-Agha et al. 2017).

Selection and genetic identification of suspected *Klebsiella pneumoniae* using 16S rRNA

DNA of suspected *K. pneumoniae* was isolated from each single-cell isolate followed the biochemical assay using Geneaid following the manufacturer's protocol. The amplification of the 16S rRNA for the sequencing analysis was carried out by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) with GoTaq Green Master Mix (Promega, USA). The universal primer for the 16S rRNA gene, namely 27F (5'-AGA GTT TGA TCM TGG CTC AG-3') and 1492R (5'-CGG TTA CCT TGT TAC GAC TT-3') were used to amplify and analyze the sequence of the 16S rRNA gene (Ibrahim 2016; Barbosa et al. 2019). PCR reaction was carried out in a 50 μ l PCR reaction containing 2.5 U Taq DNA polymerase, 10 pmol each of the forward and reverse primers, 1X Taq buffer, 0.2 mM dNTP mix, 1.5 mM MgCl₂, DNA template, and sterile distilled water (1st Base, Singapore). PCR amplification was performed in a Thermal Cycler (peqSTAR) under conditions such as pre-denaturation at 94°C for 4 minutes, followed by 30 cycles of denaturation at 94°C for 1 minute; annealing at 51.5°C for 1 minute 30 second, and extension at 72°C for 2 minutes, then followed by a final extension step at 72°C for 10 minutes. The PCR products were visualized in 1.2% agarose gel supplemented with Green Safe Premium with 100 bp DNA Ladder were used as a molecular sizes standard (Ibrahim 2016). The gel was visualized by UV transilluminator (Alphamager MINI, Taiwan) and the image was captured by the digital camera (computer H6ZO812, Japan).

DNA sequencing

The amplification products then were proceeded to sequencing analysis after product purification. The sequencing analysis was performed using BigDye Terminator v3.1 and the sequencing products were separated by capillary electrophoresis using an ABI PRISM 3730xl Genetic Analyzer developed by Applied Biosystems, USA.

Data analysis

The sequence of each isolate was then compared to the sequences in the GenBank database using a basic local alignment search tool (BLAST) (blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov). Furthermore, the 16S rRNA gene sequences were aligned to several reference sequences from GenBank using the Clustal W integrated with MEGA 7 (Kumar et al. 2016). The targeted sequence of 16S rRNA gene (~1500 bp) from our isolates was then analyzed to determine the genetic distance followed with phylogenetic tree construction using the neighbor-joining method, and the Kimura 2-parameter model tested with 1,000 bootstrap replicates and shown at the nodes. The scale bar represents a 5% nucleotide sequence divergence (Kumar et al. 2016).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Biochemical identification and characterization of the isolates candidate of *Klebsiella* spp.

Based on the isolation and selection processes, 7 out of the 120 samples of different kinds of street foods and drinks were contaminated with *Klebsiella* spp. (Table 1). In accordance with biochemical characterization using API 20 E, 11 out of 12 suspected isolates, were identified as *K. pneumoniae* (isolates 1 to 11), while the other one is *K. oxytoca* (isolate 12). The API 20E kit reagent has high validity for biochemical confirmation in bacteria especially the *Enterobacteriaceae* family. The evaluation of the tests conducted by Devenish and Barnum (1980) on 235 isolates from 240 strains of *Enterobacteriaceae* family showed the validity of 97.5%. Maina et al. (2014) also carried out research to determine the accuracy of the API 20E test on 1425 out of 1658 bacterial isolates with 87.6% conformity or validity.

The confirmation analysis of all isolates identified as *K. pneumoniae* showed a %ID or Analytical Profile Index within the range of 85.7% to 99%. These results indicate that its biochemical characters are similar to the biomereoux software database. Meanwhile, 5 of the 12 isolates were derived from milk samples, either processed industrially or traditionally. It was further discovered that dairy products were highly contaminated with *Klebsiella* spp. compared to other food sources. *Klebsiella pneumoniae* is known to inhabit the digestive tract (Bagley 1985) temporarily, therefore, it tends to be expelled in cow feces, contaminating the dairy product during the milking process. In addition, *Klebsiella* sp. is often found in clinical and sub-clinical mastitis in cows and buffaloes (Langoni et al. 2015). Several unprocessed dairy products, such as packed milk, ice cream, and cheese, sold in the market were discovered to be contaminated with *Klebsiella* sp. (Saini et al. 2016; Salazar et al. 2018). *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *K. oxytoca* are microbial contaminants reportedly found in ready-to-eat foods in Osaka, Japan (Harada et al. 2018), and Windhoek, Namibia (Shiningeni et al. 2018). In Bantul, Indonesia, there has also been a food poisoning outbreak caused by *Bacillus cereus* and *K. pneumoniae* contamination in a retrospective study which was found in chicken satay or stool samples (Son et al. 2019).

Genetic identification and diversity of bacteria based on 16S rRNA sequences

All 12 isolates show a similar single band at an approximate 1500 bp size using agarose gel electrophoresis. Thus, the 12 isolates were classified as *Klebsiella* spp. according to amplification of the 16S rRNA gene (Figure 1). However, the sequencing results were obtained from Sanger sequencing were checked and aligned using nucleotide BLAST to ascertain the sequence similarity against the NCBI database.

Based on the results obtained, the genera with a similar identity was *Klebsiella* sp. for genetic analyses, which involved 25 nucleotide sequences were conducted using the Kimura 2-parameter model (Kumar et al. 2016). Codon positions included were 1st+2nd+3rd+Noncoding. Furthermore, all positions containing gaps and missing data were eliminated. The sequences with an average length ~1350 bp were obtained. Based on estimates of evolutionary divergence between sequences, it was proven that isolates 10 and 12 had the farthest genetic distance from *K. pneumoniae* when compared to others. Therefore, they might be belonging to different species (Table 2).

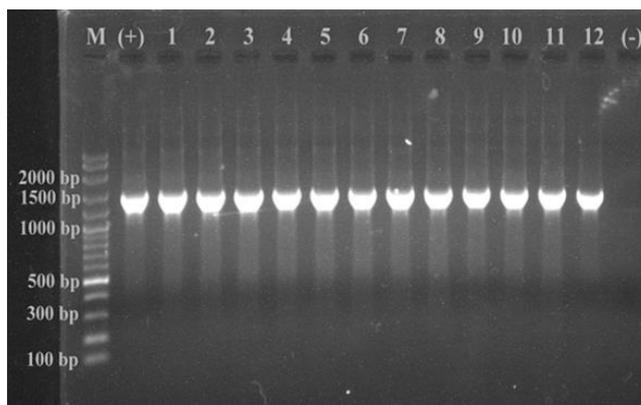


Figure 1. Quantification of PCR products of 16S rRNA gene on 1.2% agarose gel. M: DNA marker, (+): positive control (*K. pneumoniae* ATCC 25922), number 1-12: PCR product of the isolates of predicted *Klebsiella* spp, (-): negative control (empty template)

Table 1. Street food and drinks contaminated by *Klebsiella* spp. based on biochemical tested using API 20-E Kit

Food samples	Number of samples tested	Number of samples contamination	Code of isolates of suspected <i>Klebsiella</i> spp.	Number of isolates identified as <i>Klebsiella</i> spp. using the API 20E kit with the % ID
Traditional milk products	10	3	Isolate 1	<i>K. pneumoniae</i> (85.4)
			Isolate 2	<i>K. pneumoniae</i> (97.1)
			Isolate 3	<i>K. pneumoniae</i> (86.1)
			Isolate 4	<i>K. pneumoniae</i> (85.4)
Cilok	10	2	Isolate 5	<i>K. pneumoniae</i> (95.2)
			Isolate 6	<i>K. pneumoniae</i> (99)
Skewered eggs	10	1	Isolate 7	<i>K. pneumoniae</i> (97.3)
Bakso tusuk	10	2	Isolate 8	<i>K. pneumoniae</i> (97.3)
Grass jelly ice	10	2	Isolate 9	<i>K. pneumoniae</i> (97.3)
Bottled drinking water	10	2	Isolate 10	<i>K. pneumoniae</i> (97.3)
			Isolate 11	<i>K. pneumoniae</i> (97.3)
Milk packaging	20	2	Isolate 12	<i>K. oxytoca</i> (97.8)

Table 2. Genetic distances between isolates of predicted *Klebsiella* spp. (R1 and R2 were reference sequences stand for *Klebsiella pneumoniae* strain ATCC 13883 (NR 119278.1) and *K. oxytoca* strain ATCC13182T (Y17655.1))

	R1	R2	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8	S9	S10	S11	S12
R1	0.000													
R2	0.022	0.000												
S1 (Isolate_1)	0.000	0.022	0.000											
S2 (Isolate_2)	0.000	0.022	0.000	0.000										
S3 (Isolate_3)	0.001	0.021	0.001	0.001	0.000									
S4 (Isolate_4)	0.001	0.021	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.000								
S5 (Isolate_5)	0.000	0.022	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.001	0.000							
S6 (Isolate_6)	0.000	0.022	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.000						
S7 (Isolate_7)	0.001	0.022	0.001	0.001	0.002	0.002	0.001	0.001	0.000					
S8 (Isolate_8)	0.001	0.021	0.001	0.001	0.003	0.003	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.000				
S9 (Isolate_9)	0.002	0.020	0.002	0.002	0.001	0.001	0.002	0.002	0.003	0.002	0.000			
S10 (Isolate_10)	0.016	0.011	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.015	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.014	0.000		
S11 (Isolate_11)	0.001	0.022	0.001	0.001	0.002	0.002	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.001	0.003	0.016	0.000	
S12 (Isolate_12)	0.282	0.280	0.282	0.282	0.284	0.284	0.282	0.282	0.283	0.282	0.283	0.283	0.283	0.000

Table 3. The nucleotide variable sites between isolate samples predicted as *Klebsiella* sp. and *K. pneumoniae* strain ATCC 13883 (NR 119278.1)

	128	352	379	402	404	419	420	954	955	964	965	1081	1082
NR 119278.1 <i>K. pneumoniae</i> strain ATCC 13883	Y	G	C	A	G	A	T	T	C	G	A	T	A
CP075890.1 <i>K. pneumoniae</i> strain GR390 (blood)	C	.	.	T	A	G	G	.	.	.	.	C	C
CP074198.1 <i>K. pneumoniae</i> strain Kp13869 (urine)	C	.	.	T	A	G	G	.	.	.	.	C	C
FR997879.1 <i>K. pneumoniae</i> isolate RH201207 (clinical isolates)	C	.	.	T	A	G	G	.	.	.	.	C	C
CP070579.1 <i>K. pneumoniae</i> strain FK 6768 (feces)	C	.	.	.	A	G	.	.	.	.	.	C	C
CP062792.1 <i>K. pneumoniae</i> strain 33Kpn12 (percutaneous abscess drainage)	T	.	.	.	A	G	.	.	.	.	.	.	C
CP035540.1 <i>K. pneumoniae</i> subsp. <i>pneumoniae</i> strain CCRI-22199 (anal)	T	.	.	T	A	G	G	.	.	.	.	.	.
NR_037084.1 <i>K. pneumoniae</i> subsp. <i>rhinoscleromatis</i> strain R-70 (nose)	C	.	.	.	A	G	.	A	G	C	T	.	.
<i>Klebsiella</i> sp. (Isolate 1)	C	.	.	.	A	G	K	.	.	.	.	Y	C
<i>Klebsiella</i> sp. (Isolate 2)	C	.	.	.	.	R	.	.	.	.	.	.	C
<i>Klebsiella</i> sp. (Isolate 3)	C	A	T	.	A	G	.	G	.	.	Y	.	M
<i>Klebsiella</i> sp. (Isolate 4)	C	A	T	.	A	G	.	G	.	.	Y	Y	C
<i>Klebsiella</i> sp. (Isolate 5)	T	.	.	.	A	R	.	.	.	.	.	.	C
<i>Klebsiella</i> sp. (Isolate 6)	C	.	.	.	A	G	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Klebsiella</i> sp. (Isolate 7)	.	.	.	T	A	G	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Klebsiella</i> sp. (Isolate 8)	T	.	.	G	A	G	.	W	S	C	W	.	.
<i>Klebsiella</i> sp. (Isolate 9)	C	A	T	.	A	G	.	A	G	C	T	.	C
<i>Klebsiella</i> sp. (Isolate 11)	T	.	.	T	A	G	G	.	.	.	.	.	.

The sequences of 16S rRNA from all isolates, except isolate 10 and 12 were aligned and compared to the sequence of *K. pneumoniae* strain ATCC 13883 (NR 119278.1) and several strains obtained from various clinical isolates such as blood, feces, urine, sputum deposited in GenBank database. There were 13 nucleotide polymorphic sites among *K. pneumoniae* group. Isolate 3, isolate 4, and isolate 9 possessed two specific nucleotide polymorphisms that differ with all isolates in nucleotide positions 352 and 379 (Table 3). Since the sequences of isolate 10 and isolate 12 have a rather big value of genetic distance (Table 2), nucleotide blast and found that isolate 10 had high similarity with *Citrobacter* sp. were performed, while isolate 12 was highly similar with *Micrococcus* sp.

The phylogenetic relationship among all bacterial isolates of *K. pneumoniae*, *Micrococcus* sp., and *Citrobacter* sp. based on 16S rRNA gene is shown in Figure 2. In accordance with the bootstrap analysis, the tree was separated into 3 clades, namely *K. pneumoniae* (isolates 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9 and 11), *Citrobacter* sp. (isolate 10), and *Micrococcus* sp. (isolate 12). All those belonging to the *K. pneumoniae* clade, including the sequences obtained from clinical isolates such as urine, sputum, pus, blood, feces, etc are clustered together. The 16S rRNA gene sequence is an effective method for bacterial identification (Ghosh and Bandyopadhyay 2019; Prabhurajeshwar and Chandrakanth 2019; Alsanie 2020). Slight differences were detected in the result of the biochemical test using API 20E for the classification of the

isolates. Based on this, it was observed that isolates 1 to 11 were *K. pneumoniae*, while 12 were *K. oxytoca*. Conversely, in the 16S rRNA gene sequence of isolates 1 to 9, including isolate 11 were *K. pneumoniae*, while isolates 10 and 12 are *Citrobacter* sp. and *Micrococcus* sp., respectively.

Alsanie (2020) reported that from a total of 134 clinical samples, 23 isolates of *K. pneumoniae* were identified using a microbiological method and confirmed with 1365 bp of 16S rRNA gene sequences. The BLAST results showed that partial 16S rRNA sequences are similar to *K. pneumoniae* strains, with relatively 98% and 97% matrix of MN-314311, and MK713647, respectively. This is a global indicator of evolution, besides all *K. pneumoniae* strains, be it from food or human infection, is highly homologous to this sequence. However, they are different from virulent genes (Hassan and Belal 2016; Caneiras et al. 2019;

Alsanie 2020). Furthermore, the phylogenetic tree of 16S rRNA sequence of these isolates showed distinct separations between these species. There are 3 clades, and the first is *K. pneumoniae*, where isolates 1 to 9 and 10 were clustered together with other sequences from the database. Moreover, all were obtained from clinical isolates such as blood, sputum, urine, percutaneous abscess drainage, abdominal pus, and nose. Therefore, the realized isolates have potential pathogenicity that is risky to human health. Even though isolate 10 was closer to *Citrobacter* sp. and *K. oxytoca*, and rarely causes similar infections as *K. pneumoniae*, it is still regarded as a pathogenic bacterium that leads to health problems. *Citrobacter* spp. causes several invasive diseases, including urinary tract infections (UTI), respiratory tract, skin, and soft tissue (Antonara and Ardura 2018).

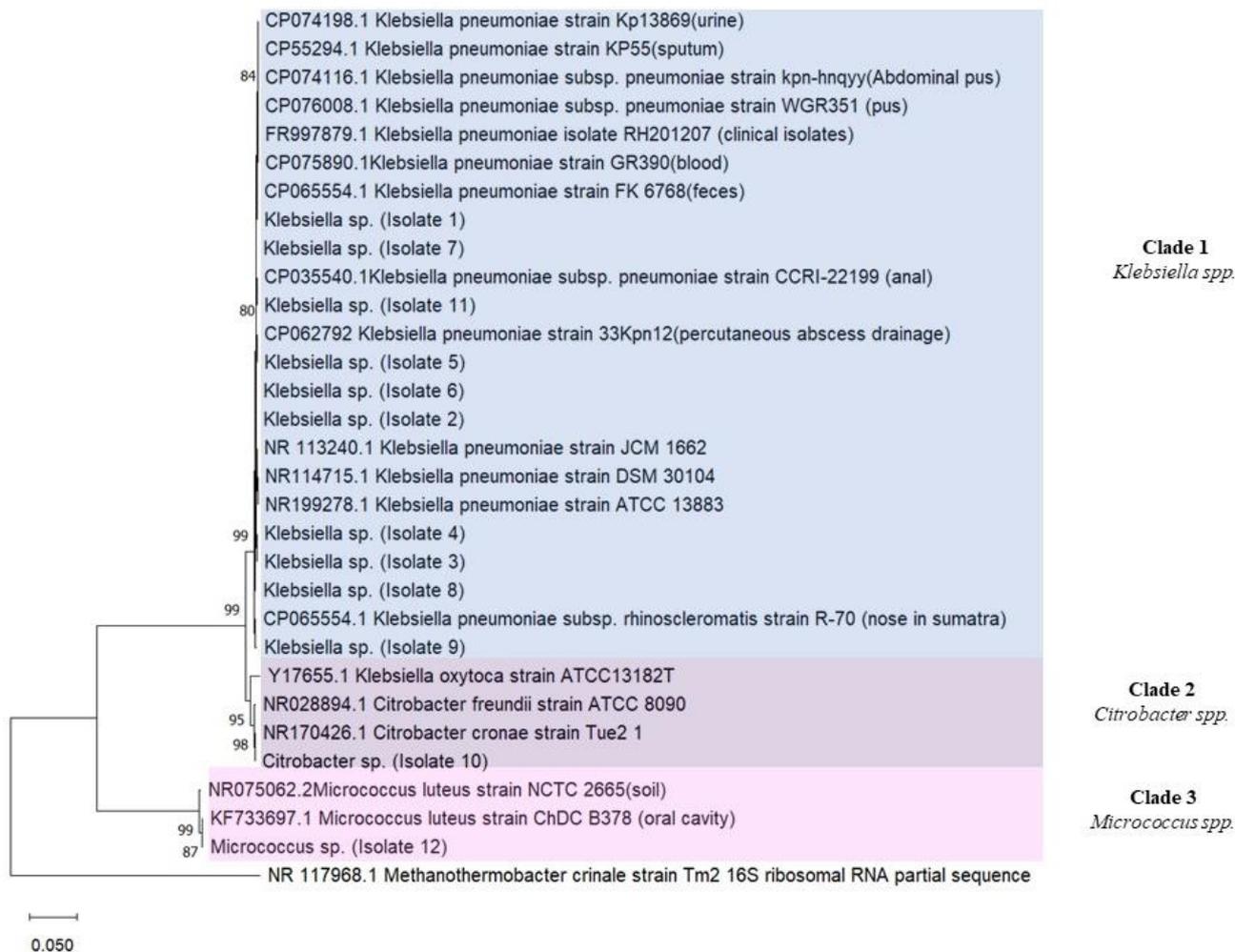


Figure 2. The phylogenetic tree of bacterial isolates from street food samples based on 16S rRNA nucleotide sequences (included 1st+2nd+3rd+Noncoding codon position; ~1,400bp). The percentage of replicate trees in which the associated taxa clustered together in the bootstrap test (1000 replicates) are shown next to the branches. The tree is drawn to scale, with branch lengths in the same units as those of the evolutionary distances used to infer the phylogenetic tree

Meanwhile, *K. oxytoca* is normally detected in contaminated milk products derived from infected cows and buffaloes (Osman et al. 2014). The detection of possible pathogenic bacteria implies poor personal hygiene and sanitation. Among our isolates, isolate 12 had high similarity with *Micrococcus* sp. based on the blast alignment using the 16S rRNA sequence. Thus, the isolate 12 clustered together with *M. luteus* from soil and oral cavity. In nature, the species belong to *Micrococcus* sp. were found as commensals on skin and oropharynx of mammals, an inhabitant of soil and marine sediment, and found as contaminants in several foods like chicken and fish meat (Kloos et al. 1974; Pękala et al. 2018). The contamination of street food samples by *Micrococcus* might happen during poor hygiene (direct contact with the seller's skin and or from the soil).

Foodborne diseases are widely reported, however the study on *K. pneumoniae* is limited, especially in edible items and drinks. A preliminary study carried out by Guo et al. (2016) stated that 998 food samples obtained from Shijiazhuang city (China) were identified using BD Phoenix™-100 Automated Microbiology System. This included 49 fresh seafood, 188 chickens, 297 frozen foods, and 464 cooked food. In this study, 99 (9.9%) samples tested positive for *K. pneumoniae*, and the contamination rate is 9.1%. Zhang et al. (2018) studied 1,200 retail foods in 24 Chinese cities, including 312 ready-to-eat foods, 336 raw types of meats, 192 edible mushrooms, 240 aquatic products, and 120 vegetables, and discovered the presence of 61 isolates *K. pneumoniae* which is equivalent to a contamination rate of 5.08 %

Based on the 16S rRNA sequence analysis detected an insignificant difference between the bacterial found in the respiratory tract and urine and those in food and drinks. Bacteria are susceptible to mutations caused by their environment. However, this is part of their natural evolution, which allows them to continually adjust their genetic code (Richardson 2017). Due to the poor cost, street foods are popular in developing countries because they are preferred by low and middle-class people, irrespective of their health implications. *K. pneumoniae* and *K. oxytoca* are frequently detected in the farm environments, cow skin and milk, teet-end swabs, and clinical mastitis (Rowbotham and Ruegg 2016; Fuenzalida and Ruegg 2019). Furthermore, these species are important pathogens associated with both human and animal health. *K. pneumoniae* and *K. oxytoca* are known to cause pneumonia, liver abscesses, and urinary tract infections (Bengoechea and Pessoa 2019; Fuenzalida and Ruegg 2019).

In conclusion, it can be drawn that 120 samples of 10 species contained 7 types of street foods and drinks sold by street vendors in Yogyakarta detected 11 isolates as *K. pneumoniae* and 1 isolate as *K. oxytoca* based on biochemical tested using API 20E. However, molecular identification using the 16S rRNA gene sequence proved that 10 isolates were closely related to *K. pneumoniae*, one isolate was clustered with *Citrobacter* sp., and the other isolate belonged to *M. luteus*.

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