

Prevalence and Antibiotic Resistance of *Staphylococcus aureus* Isolated from Beef Carcasses at Abattoirs in North West Province

Ramatla Tsepo¹, Lubanza Ngoma^{1,2}, Mulunda Mwanza^{1,2} and Rendani Ndou^{1,2*}

¹*Department of Animal Health, School of Agricultural Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, Faculty of Agriculture, Science and Technology, Mafikeng Campus, North West University, Private Bag X2046, Mmabatho, South Africa, 2735*

²*Food Security and Safety Niche Area, Faculty of Agriculture, Science and Technology, Mafikeng Campus, North West University, Private Bag X2046, Mmabatho, South Africa, 2735*

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ABSTRACT *Staphylococcus aureus* is notorious for causing human diseases, and is primarily associated with the consumption of contaminated meat and meat products. The aim of this paper was to determine the prevalence and the antibiotic resistant profiles of *Staphylococcus aureus* on beef carcasses isolated from different abattoirs in North West Province. A total of 600 swab samples were collected from beef carcasses, and cultured on Mannitol salt agar (MSA). The isolates were confirmed by morphological identification and biochemical tests. A total of 159 (26.5%) samples were contaminated with *S. aureus*. All the *S. aureus* isolates showed high susceptibility to Chloramphenicol (30µg), Gentamicin (10µg) and Tetracycline (10µg). However, all isolates were highly resistant to Penicillin (10µg), Ampicillin (30 µg) and Oxytetracycline (10µg). The study confirms the presence of *S. aureus* in beef carcasses, which might be a potential threat to the consumer's health.