Characterization of diverse acquired beta-lactamases in multiple drug resistant Aeromonas hydrophila Kun-Lin Ho¹, Chih-Ming Chen², Hwa-Jen Wu³ and Lii-Tzu Wu¹

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Four strains of *Aeromonas hydrophila* were isolated from patients with bacteremia from a middle Taiwan hospital. These strains were resistant to ampicillin, gentamicin, amikacin and cefotaxime, while most of them were highly susceptible to ceftazidime (MIC $\leq 0.5 \ \mu g/ml$) and meropenem (MIC $\leq 0.5 \ \mu g/ml$). These multiple drug resistance genes were shown to be transferred by the conjugative plasmid. PCR and sequence of four beta-lactamases shared 80-85% homology with the chromosomal AmpC beta-lactamase from *Serratia marcescens*. In this study, the presence of *Aeromonas hydrophila* strains with plasmid-encoded AmpC β -lactamases was first demonstrated in a regional hospital.

