

Letter to the Editor

Listeria monocytogenes CAMP Reaction

We would like to clarify a discrepancy on page 170 of the article by Schuchat et al. (2). Table 1 indicates that *Listeria monocytogenes* gives a positive or negative CAMP (hemolysis enhancement) reaction with *Rhodococcus equi*. In the discussion of the CAMP reaction, we stated that *L. monocytogenes* gives a negative CAMP reaction with *R. equi*.

The data reported in Table 1 are adapted from a chapter authored by R. E. Weaver in a laboratory manual available from the Centers for Disease Control (6). The positive or negative entry for the CAMP reaction of *L. monocytogenes* with *R. equi* reflects the fact that different investigators report different reactions for this test. Positive reactions are usually seen for *L. monocytogenes* in the Special Bacteriology Reference Laboratory (R. E. Weaver), using *R. equi* ATCC 3939 and TSA II 5% sheep blood agar plates (Becton Dickinson, Cockeysville, Md.). Skala et al. (4) and Vazquez-Boland et al. (5) have also made similar observations. The negative entry in Table 1 for this reaction reflects the observations of Rocourt et al. (1) and the description in *Bergey's Manual of Systematic Bacteriology* (3).

The reasons for the conflicting results in the CAMP tests have not been determined. Nevertheless, laboratorians wishing to use the CAMP test to differentiate among the three hemolytic *Listeria* species should use appropriate reference strains of the three species to control the test. We apologize for our failure to clarify this in the text.

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