

Supplementary Table 1: Description of genes, Genbank accession numbers, primer sequences and size of the obtained products of the virulence related-genes targeted for diagnosis of enteropathogenic *Escherichia coli* (EPEC) in the study.

Description of the target genes (GenBank accession N°)	Type of PCR	Primer sequence (5'→3')	Size (bp)
Diagnostic genes			
<i>eaeA</i> - intimin adherence protein	MAL-ED Multiplex	CCCGAATTCGGCACAAGCATAAGC CCCGGATCCGTCTCGCCAGTATTTCG	881
<i>bfpA</i> - bundle-forming pilus structural gene (Type 4 pilin)		GGAAGTCAAATTCATGGGGGTAT GGAATCAGACGCAGACTGGTAGT	300
Virulence genes			
<i>espB</i> - type III secreted proteins (Z21555.1)	Multiplex 1	ATGGCAGCAAAAAGAGCCTAA ATGGTCACCACATTGCAAGA	179
<i>espD</i> - type III secreted proteins (AF022236.1)		TGCCGGGTAAAAATAGCTG TGCAAGCTCTGGCTATCCTT	304
<i>tir</i> - translocated intimin receptor (AF013122.1)		CTGCAGCGACCTCATCATAA GATGCGAAGGGAAATGCTAT	535
<i>nleB</i> - non-LEE-encoded type 3 secretion system dependent effector (FM180568.1)		ATATCGCCCTGTAGCGGATG GAAAGGGTATCAAGCGGCAT	252
<i>map</i> - LEE-encoded effector Map (FM180568.1)		AGTCCAACGGCAATGGTAGG AAAGCGCGATACAACAGCCT	357

<i>espJ</i> - non-LEE encoded protein effector (inhibition of phagocytosis) (FM180568.1)		TAACCACCACTCCCACACCA CCAGAAACAGTCAGGCTGGA	514
<i>espL</i> - non-LEE encoded protein effector (Pseudogene) (FM180568.1)	Multiplex 2	TCAGGCCCTTCAAAATGGAC ACCTAAGCGAGTTCAGCGGA	661
<i>espC</i> - enterotoxin activity (induction of epithelial cell detachment) (U69128.1)		TGATTCCGGGGCTTATTTTG CTCATTCTGGTATGCCGGT	118
<i>espZ</i> - T3SS effector translocation regulator (AF022236.1)	Multiplex 3	CACTGGCAGCCACAATCAAT GCAATGTGTGTTGACGACCC	169
<i>espH</i> - LEE-encoded effector EspH (Modulating actin dynamics) (FM180568.1)		GCCATGCGTCATGGAATAAG TATGGAGGCGTTACGAAGGC	274
<i>ler</i> - LEE-encoded regulator (AF200363.1)		TGCGAGAGCAGGAAGTTCAA TGAAGAAGGGCAGACCTGGT	168
<i>espG</i> - LEE-encoded effector <i>EspG</i> (Microtubule disruption) (AF453442.1)		GGGCTACACCATTCAGCTC AGAAGCAGCAACGGCCATAT	280
<i>nleE</i> - non-LEE encoded protein effector (PMN transepithelial and migration) (FM180568.1)	Multiplex 4	CAGGGCGTGTCCCCTATAAA TGTGAGCTTCCGGACATTTG	371
<i>nleF</i> - non-LEE encoded protein effector (inhibited the TNF α pathway) (FM180568.1)		CCAACAAGTGGTTCTTCAGCA AAATGCCTCGTGAAGGATG	485
<i>cesT</i> - Tir chaperone protein) (AB246811.1)	Multiplex 5	TGTGGAAAATTCCCGACAGA TCAGGAGCACAATCGCTGTT	119

<i>espP</i> - serine protease autotransporter (Cleavage of spectrin, pepsin, and factor V) (FM180568.1)	AGCCACAGATGGAGCTGGTT GAACGGAGAAACGGTTCTGC	222
<i>nleD</i> - no-LEE encoded protein effector (inhibition of JNK- dependent apoptosis) (FM180568.1)	TTCGTTTCCAGGGGACTGAT AAATGGGGAGCGTTTGAAAG	348
<i>nleC</i> - non-LEE encoded protein effector (down-regulation of NF- Kb (FM180568.1)	CATTTTCGTGATGCCGTAAGC ATGCAGAGCCAGAACGTGAA	434

NOTE. The multiplex PCR conditions were one cycle for 15 min at 95 °C; 40 cycles of 95 °C for 30s, 58 °C for 30s and 72 °C for 30s and a extension step for 10 min at 72°C.