

ABSTRACT

Rectal swabs or faecal samples from 992 domestic animals and 97 human patients in the Nairobi region were cultured for thermophilic *Campylobacter* species and *Yersinia enterocolitica*. The highest isolation rate of campylobacters was obtained from diarrhoeic pigs (55.1%), followed by healthy chicken (51.5%), diarrhoeic dogs (47.2%), healthy pigs (44.0%), healthy ducks (29.4%), healthy goats (6.3%), healthy cattle (5.8%), diarrhoeic humans (3.1%), and healthy sheep (2.0%). Only one strain of *Y. enterocolitica* was obtained. This isolate, which conformed to Nilehn's biotype 1, was recovered from one (0.7%) of the 150 healthy pigs examined. Out of 317 thermophilic campylobacters isolated, 163 (51.4%) were classified as *C. jejuni*, whereas 127 (40.1%) belonged to *C. coli*. The remaining 27 strains fell into three categories which did not conform to any defined species. Of the total number of isolates, 74.1% were resistant to metronidazole, 90.9% were resistant to triphenyltetrazolium chloride (TTC), and 50.2% reduced selenite. The results indicate that domestic animals may play a significant role in the epidemiology of human campylobacteriosis in the Nairobi region by serving as reservoirs. *Y. enterocolitica* seems to be rare among man and animals in this area.