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Survival of ESKAPE pathogen *Acinetobacter baumannii* in water media of different temperature and pH



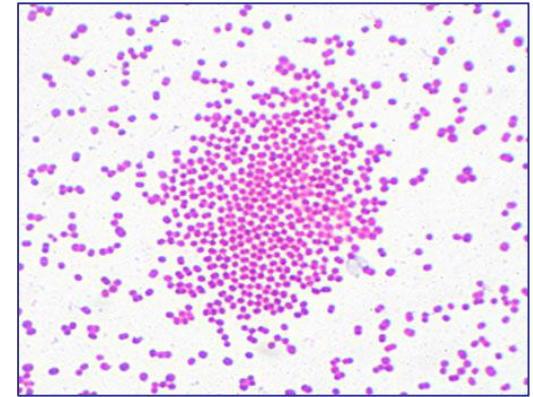
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Acinetobacter baumannii

- Gram negative non-sporogenic coccobacillus
- Emerging human opportunistic pathogen
- Infections in hospital environment



Review

Clinical relevance of the ESKAPE pathogens

Jack N Pendleton, Sean P Gorman & Brendan F Gilmore
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Abstract

In recent years, the Infectious Diseases Society of America has identified five antibiotic-resistant bacteria (*Enterococcus faecium*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Enterobacter* spp.) – acronym of ‘escaping’ the biocidal action of antibiotics and mutual transmission and resistance. This review aims to consolidate the ESKAPE pathogens and provide a contemporary summary of the microbiological considerations necessary to face the modern hospital environment.

Keywords: *Acinetobacter*, antibiotics, antimicrobial resistance, acquired infection, *Klebsiella*, MRSA, multidrug resistance.

The WHO priority list

PRIORITY: CRITICAL	PRIORITY 2: HIGH	PRIORITY 3: MEDIUM
<ul style="list-style-type: none">♦ Acinetobacter baumannii carbapenem-resistant♦ Pseudomonas aeruginosa carbapenem-resistant♦ Enterobacteriaceae carbapenem-resistant, ESBL-producing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">♦ Enterococcus faecium vancomycin-resistant♦ Staphylococcus aureus methicillin-resistant vancomycin-intermediate and resistant♦ Helicobacter pylori clarithromycin-resistant♦ Campylobacter spp. fluoroquinolone-resistant♦ Salmonellae fluoroquinolone-resistant♦ Neisseria gonorrhoeae cephalosporin-resistant fluoroquinolone-resistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none">♦ Streptococcus pneumoniae penicillin-non-susceptible♦ Haemophilus influenzae ampicillin-resistant♦ Shigella spp. fluoroquinolone-resistant

Source: WHO

***Acinetobacter baumannii* in the environment**

- **Hospital and municipal wastewater**
- **Wastewater treatment plants**
- **Natural waters (Seine, Sava)**
- **Soil contaminated with human solid waste**



Aim

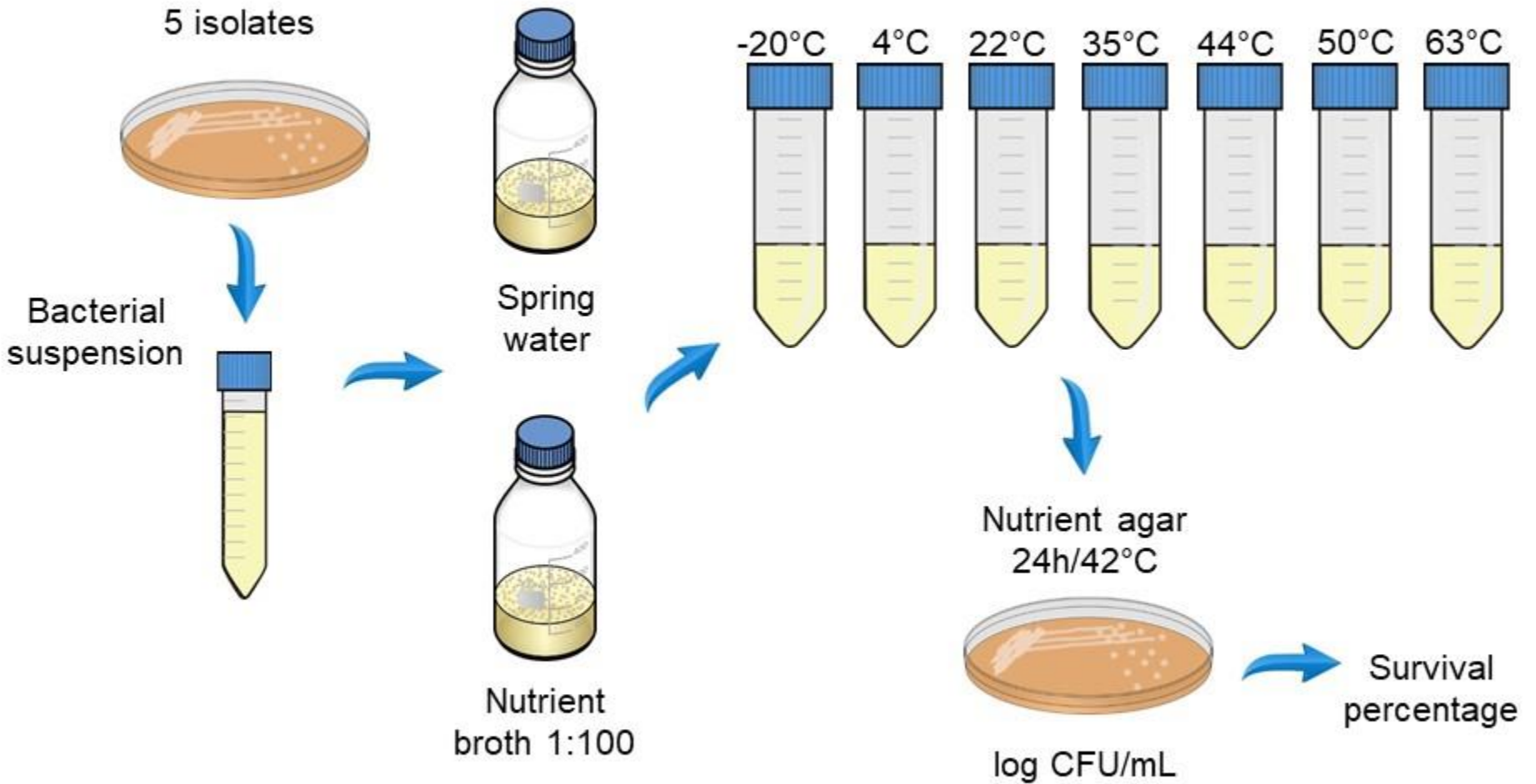
- **Examine the survival of *A. baumannii* in different temperature and pH conditions in order to predict the behavior of this pathogen inside and outside hospital setting**

Material and methods

- 4 environmental and 1 clinical isolate selected according to their antibiotic resistance profile during 7 weeks

Isolate	Clonal origin	Acquired carbapenemase	Antibiotic susceptibility profile
OB4138	IC2	OXA-23	XDR
IN39	IC2	OXA-23	MDR
EF7	IC2	OXA-23	PDR
EF8	IC2	OXA-23	XDR
EF11	unclustered	no	S

Temperature



pH

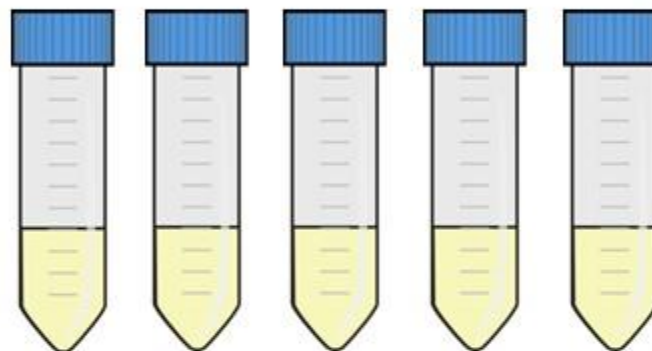
Natural spring water



pH 2 5 7 10 12



Nutrient broth 1:100



pH 2 5 7 10 12

Bacterial suspension

22°C



Nutrient agar
24h/42°C

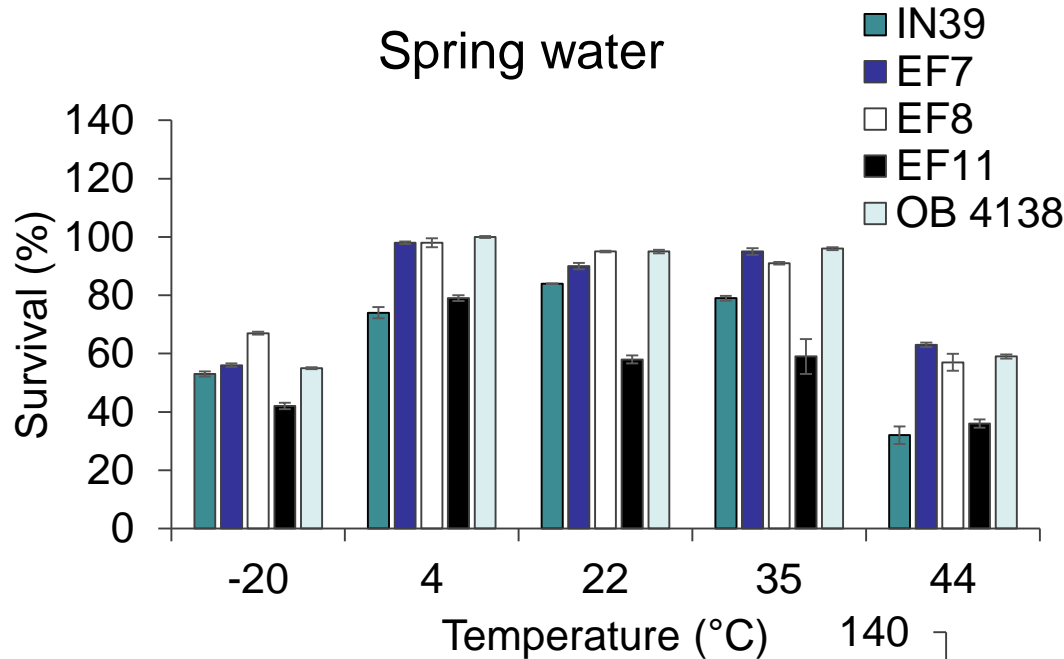


log CFU/mL

Survival percentage

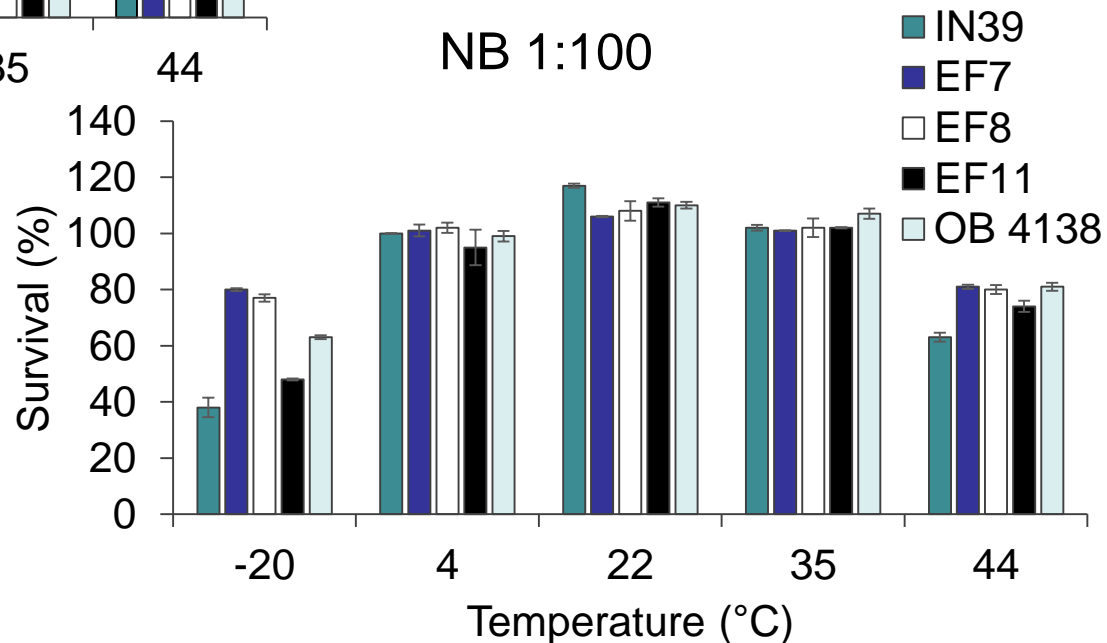


Results - temperature



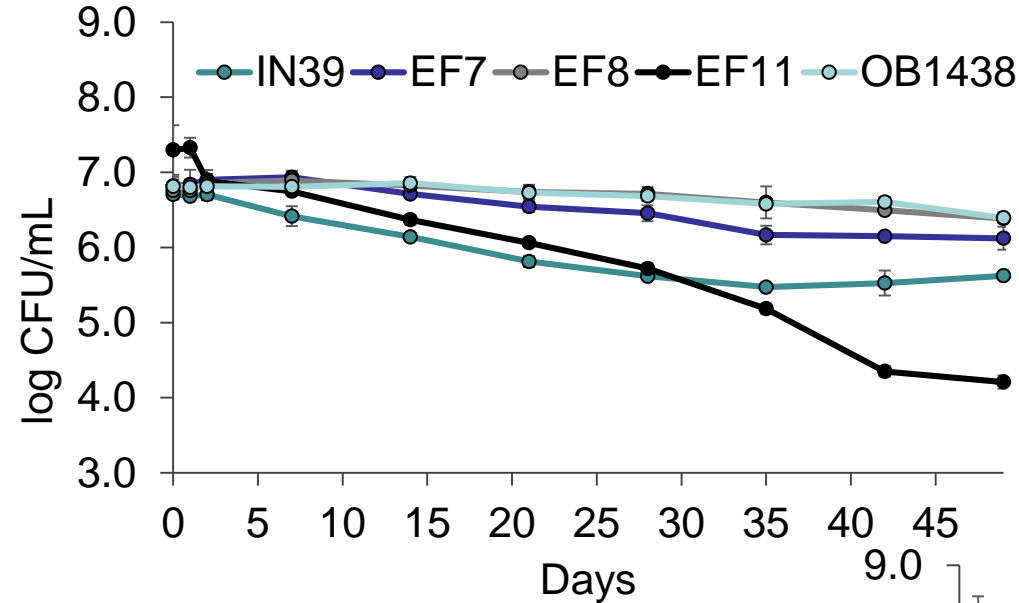
- 50°C survival 2 days in SW, 5 days in NB

- 63°C survival 1 hour in SW, 2 hours in NB (pasteurization procedure 63°C/30min)



Results pH

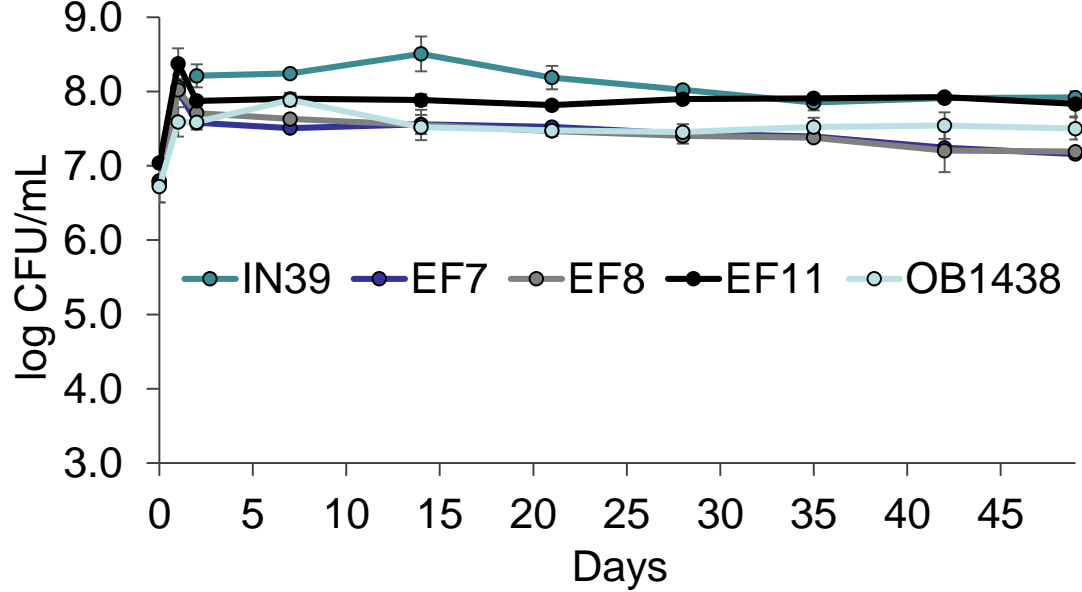
Spring water 22 °C pH 7



- pH 5 and 10 no multiplication and no drop

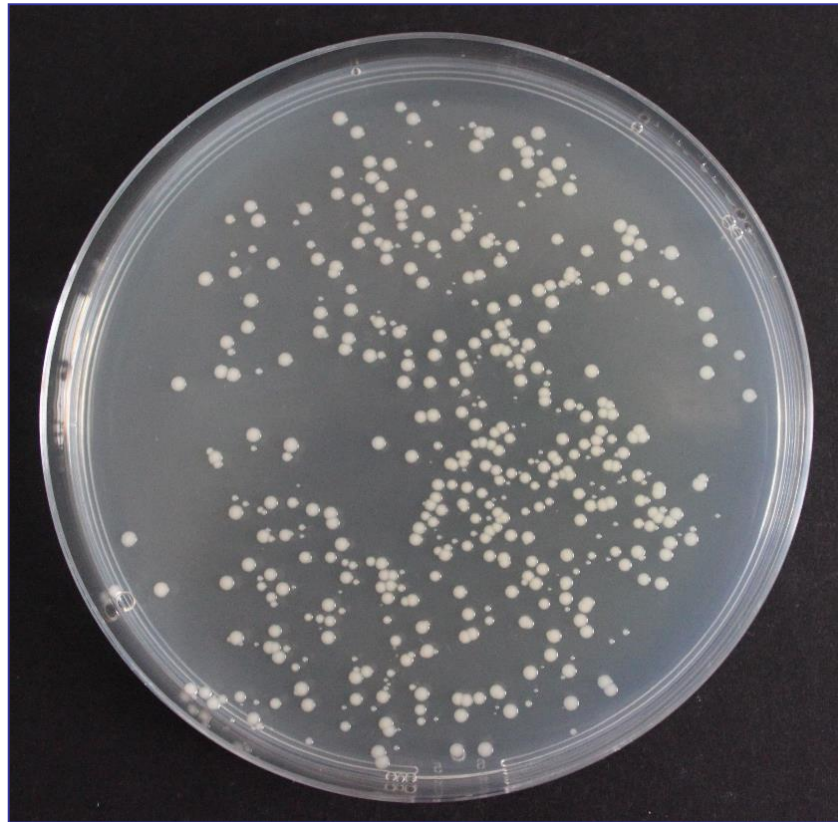
- pH 2 survival up to 3 hours
- pH 12 up to 5 hours in SW, 24 hours in NB

NB 1:100 22 °C pH 7



Acinetobacter baumannii

- *A. baumannii* forms smaller translucent colonies together with larger opaque variants



Conclusion

- ***A. baumannii* prefers nutrient-rich environment**
- **Optimal conditions for the survival of *A. baumannii* are room temperature and neutral pH**
- ***A. baumannii* survives a wide range of temperature and pH values that are unfavorable to most other mesophilic non-sporogenic bacteria**
- **Multi-drug resistant *A. baumannii* isolates could survive better in harsh environmental conditions**

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<https://www.pmf.unizg.hr/naturaci>

