

Genetic Characteristics of CTX-M-Type Extended-Spectrum- β -Lactamase (ESBL)-Producing *Enterobacteriaceae* Involved in Mastitis Cases on Japanese Dairy Farms, 2007 to 2011

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Sixty-five CTX-M-2/15/14 extended-spectrum- β -lactamase-producing *Enterobacteriaceae* were isolated from 258,888 mastitic milk samples from Japanese dairy farms between 2007 and 2011. CTX-M-2-producing *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and CTX-M-15-producing *Escherichia coli* were the predominant strains isolated. There was no predominant clonal type, and clonal diversity was found even in strains isolated from a single farm.

Since 2000, *Escherichia coli* and other *Enterobacteriaceae* species producing CTX-M-type extended-spectrum β -lactamases (ESBLs) (CTX-M) have been commonly isolated from community-acquired extraintestinal infections in humans and their companion animals (1, 2, 3, 4), from food-producing animals (3, 5, 6, 7, 8), and from retail meats, including chicken, beef, and pork (3), worldwide. The CTX-M-type genes are assumed to have been transferred separately to plasmids, including complex class 1 integrons and transposons (9), from chromosomes of different *Kluyvera* species (i.e., *Kluyvera ascorbata*, *K. georgiana*, and *K. cryocrescens*) that live in water, soil, and human and animal intestinal tracts; therefore, CTX-M has been divided into five clusters (CTX-M-1, CTX-M-2, CTX-M-8, CTX-M-9, and CTX-M-25) from base sequence homology (1, 9). CTX-M confers resistance against penicillins, oxyimino-cephalosporins, and monobactams (1, 4). Recently, the CTX-M-15-producing *E. coli* ST131 (O25:H4) clone has emerged as a multidrug-resistant pandemic strain affecting humans worldwide (4).

Bovine mastitis is the most common disease affecting dairy cattle (10). Both *E. coli* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* often cause life-threatening clinical mastitis (5, 11). The incidence of bovine mastitis has been reported to be higher in Japan (30 to 35 cases per 100 cow-years at risk) (12) than in North America, Europe, and New Zealand (10 to 30 cases per 100 cow-years) (10). Only a few classes of antimicrobials are approved for the treatment of mastitis in Japan; however, large amounts of antimicrobials are used for mastitis treatment, creating selective pressure for drug-resistant organisms (13). In our previous report, we showed that Japanese dairy cattle might be a source of CTX-M-15/2/14- and CMY-2-producing *Enterobacteriaceae* (7). However, few studies have reported the prevalence of *Enterobacteriaceae* producing CTX-M in bovine mastitis (5). The aims of this study were to determine the genetic characteristics, antimicrobial susceptibility, and genetic relatedness of ESBL- and plasmid-mediated AmpC β -lactamase-producing *Enterobacteriaceae* isolated from bovine mastitis cases.

Screening of ESBLs. Bacterial cultures were carried out using standard procedures on a total of milk samples from 258,888

quarters obtained from 176,808 cows affected by (mainly clinical) mastitis on 1,000 dairy farms in the Nemuro Subprefecture of Hokkaido Prefecture, Japan, between February 2007 and April 2011 (14). *Streptococcus* spp. (mainly *Streptococcus uberis*) and *Enterococcus* spp., coagulase-negative staphylococci, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *E. coli*, and *Klebsiella* spp. were the organisms most commonly isolated from culture-positive samples.

Of the isolates, 28,900 were identified as Gram-negative bacilli and were submitted for susceptibility testing by disc diffusion according to the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) guidelines (15); 419 isolates were identified as being ceftazolin resistant and oxidase negative. These strains were then submitted for CLSI combination disc ESBL confirmatory tests (15) and a chromogenic oxyimino-cephalosporins hydrolysis test (Cica- β -test I; Kanto Chemical, Tokyo, Japan) to detect ESBLs, plasmidic AmpC β -lactamases, and metallo- β -lactamases. Isolates with a positive ESBL confirmatory test and/or Cica- β -test were screened for metallo- β -lactamases using the sodium mercaptoacetic acid (SMA) double-disc synergy test (SMA test) using two Kirby-Bauer discs containing ceftazidime and one disc containing SMA (Eiken Chemical, Tokyo, Japan). The ESBL test-positive *Enterobacteriaceae* isolates were identified using the ID 32 E API system (Sysmex bioMérieux, Tokyo, Japan).

CTX-M genes and antimicrobial susceptibility. The ESBL- and/or Cica- β -test-positive and the SMA-test-negative isolates ($n = 65$) were analyzed by multiplex PCR for the presence of

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TABLE 1 Origins of CTX-M-2- and CTX-M-14 ESBL-producing *Enterobacteriaceae* isolates other than CTX-M-2-producing *K. pneumoniae* and *E. coli*

Isolate	Isolation date, farm, and cow	Bacterial species	CTX-M genotype	TEM or SHV genotype
MCKo1	July 2008, F, 20	<i>K. oxytoca</i>	CTX-M-2	OKP-A
MCKo2	Sept. 2008, H, 22	<i>K. oxytoca</i>	CTX-M-2	TEM-1
MCKo3	May 2009, O, 30	<i>K. oxytoca</i>	CTX-M-2	TEM-1
MCEa1	Sep. 2009, H, 36	<i>E. aerogenes</i>	CTX-M-2	Negative
MCKo4	Jan. 2010, M, 42	<i>K. oxytoca</i>	CTX-M-2	Negative
MCCK1	Apr. 2010, U, 47	<i>C. koseri</i>	CTX-M-2	Negative
MCCK2	Apr. 2010, V, 48	<i>C. koseri</i>	CTX-M-2	Negative
MCKo5	Aug. 2010, F, 50	<i>K. oxytoca</i>	CTX-M-2	SHV-1
MCKo6	Sept. 2010, F, 53	<i>K. oxytoca</i>	CTX-M-2	Negative
MCK45	Nov. 2010, Y, 57	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	CTX-M-14	Negative
MCK46	Nov. 2010, Y, 57	<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	CTX-M-14	Negative

*bla*_{CTX-M} genes (16) and plasmid-mediated AmpC β-lactamase genes (i.e., CMY, ACC, FOX, MOX, DHA, CIT, and EBC groups) (17). The CTX-M types of the CTX-M-positive isolates were identified by bidirectional sequencing using group-specific PCR prim-

ers for *bla*_{CTX-M-1} group (18), *bla*_{CTX-M-2} group and *bla*_{CTX-M-9} group (19). AmpC-positive isolates were analyzed using type-specific PCR primers (e.g., *bla*_{CMY-1} and *bla*_{CMY-2} genes), and *bla*_{TEM} and *bla*_{SHV} genes were analyzed and bidirectionally sequenced using

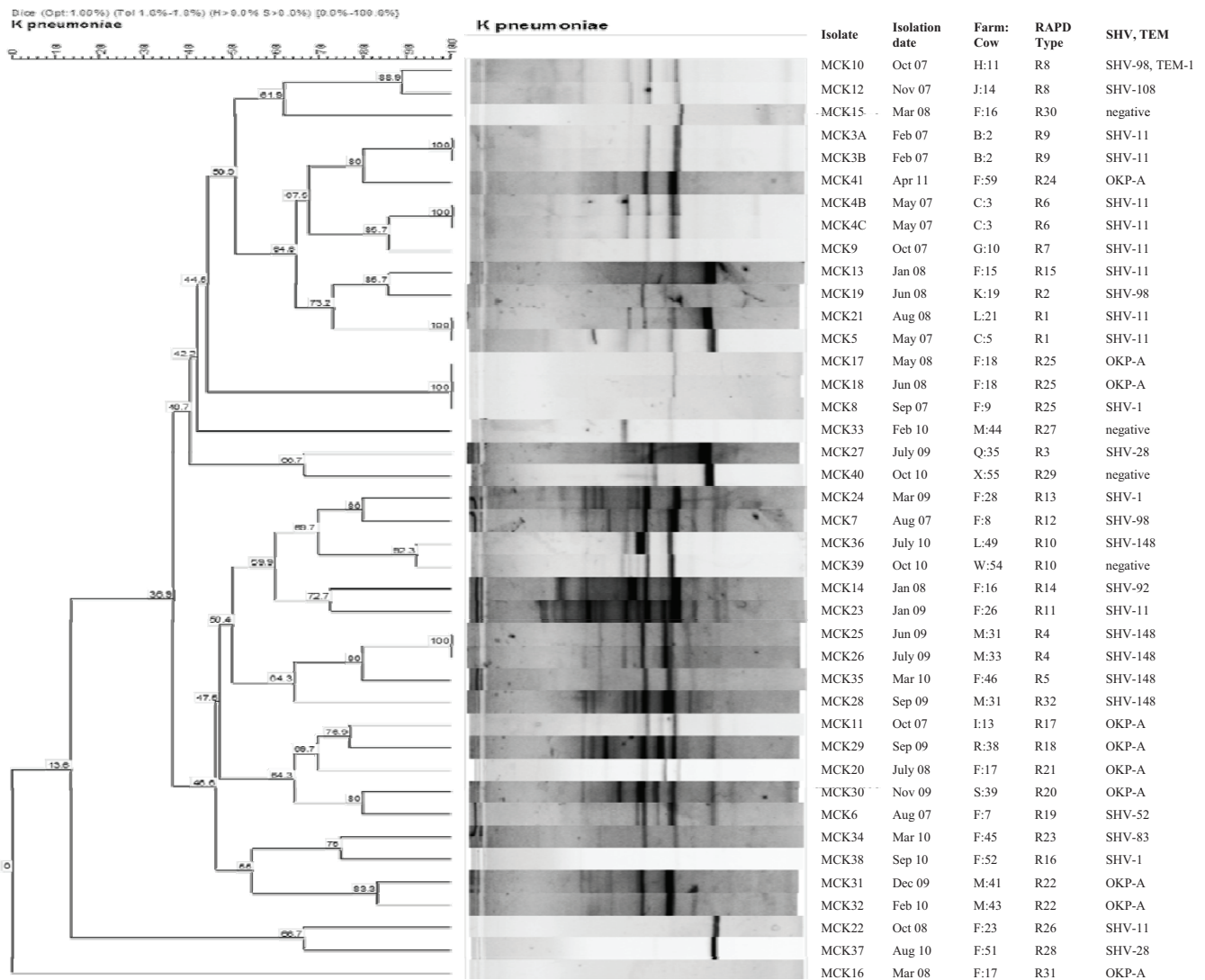


FIG 1 RAPD-PCR of 41 *K. pneumoniae* isolates producing CTX-M-2. Cluster analysis was performed by the unweighted pair group method using arithmetic averages with a 1.0% band position tolerance window and 1.0% optimization. DNA relatedness was calculated based on the Dice coefficient. Thirty-two band patterns were typed using similarity cutoff values of approximately $\geq 85\%$.

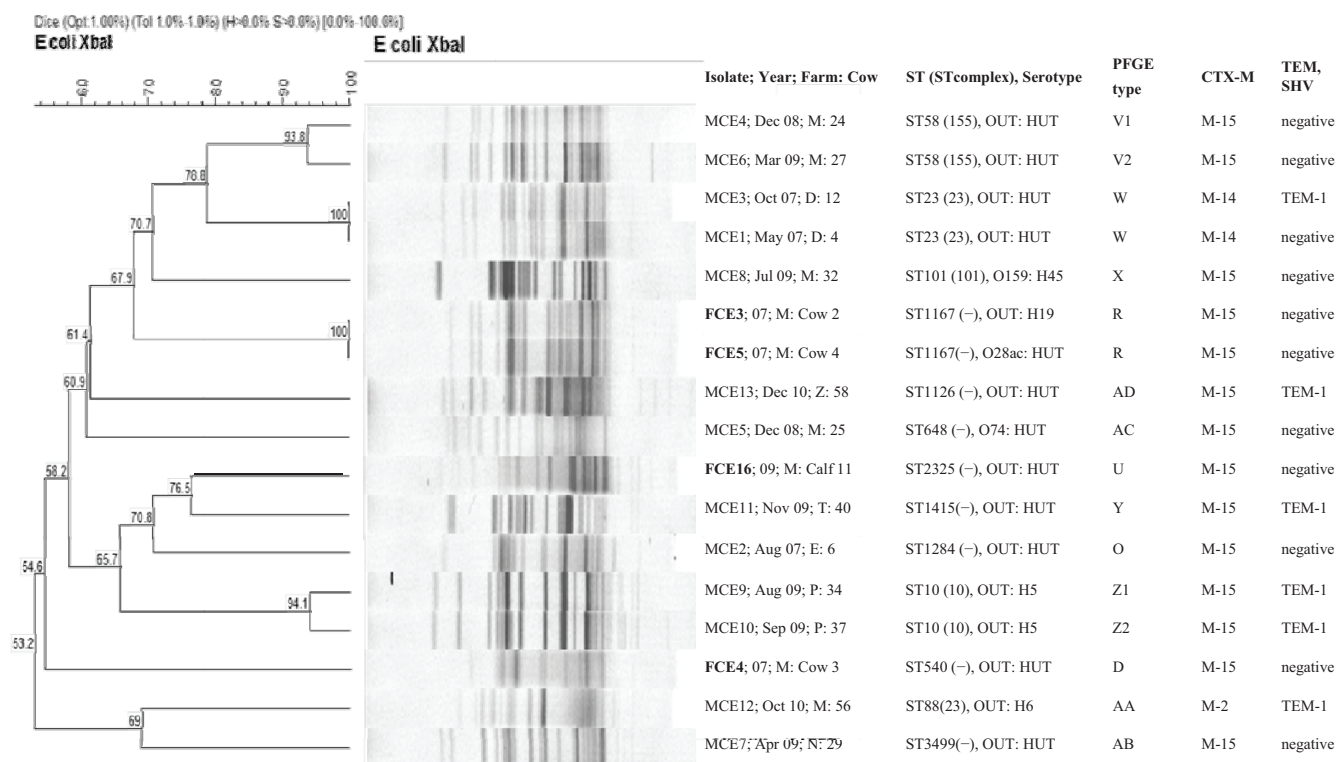


FIG 2 PFGE patterns and cluster analysis of 13 CTX-M-producing *E. coli* isolates (MCE1 to 13) from mastitis cases, obtained using XbaI. Cluster analysis was performed by the unweighted pair group method using arithmetic averages with a 1.0% band position tolerance window and 1.0% optimization. DNA relatedness was calculated based on the Dice coefficient. Twelve band patterns were typed using similarity cutoff values of $\geq 90\%$. The *Salmonella* strain Braenderup CCUG50923 was used as a marker for assessing PFGE banding patterns. FCE3, -4, -5, and -16 were isolated from feces from cattle on farm M in our previous study (7).

previously described primers (19) (see Table S1 in the supplemental material). Comparison of nucleotide sequences and identification of each CTX-M, TEM, and SHV type were carried out using BLAST (<http://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi>).

For these 65 isolates, the MICs of 23 antimicrobials were determined by the CLSI broth microdilution method (15, 20) using a custom-designed microtiter panel (Opt Panel MP; Kyokuto Pharmaceutical, Tokyo, Japan). The 23 drugs were ampicillin, cefazolin, cefuroxime, ceftazidime, ceftazidime/clavulanic acid, cefotaxime, cefotaxime/clavulanic acid, ceftriaxone, cefpodoxime, ceftiofur, cefquinome, cefepime, cefmetazole, moxalactam, imipenem, meropenem, aztreonam, gentamicin, amikacin, oxytetracycline, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (SXT), enrofloxacin, and ciprofloxacin. Additional susceptibility tests for ceftiofur, kanamycin, chloramphenicol, and levofloxacin were performed by the CLSI disc diffusion method (15, 20). The breakpoints for veterinary pathogens were used for 12 antimicrobial agents (15), and the breakpoints for human *Enterobacteriaceae* isolates were used for the other 12 antimicrobial agents (20). *E. coli* ATCC 25922 and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* ATCC 27853 were used as quality control strains.

Sixty-five of the 419 cefazolin-resistant isolates were identified as CTX-M-producing strains. Fifty-one isolates (78.5%), which included 41 *K. pneumoniae*, 6 *Klebsiella oxytoca*, 2 *Citrobacter koseri*, 1 *E. coli*, and 1 *Enterobacter aerogenes* isolate, harbored $bla_{CTX-M-2}$; 10 *E. coli* isolates (15.4%) harbored $bla_{CTX-M-15}$; and 4 isolates (6.2%); 2 *K. pneumoniae* and 2 *E. coli* isolates harbored $bla_{CTX-M-14}$. No isolates contained the plasmidic AmpC gene (Table 1; Fig. 1 and 2).

Thirty-seven (90.2%) of 41 CTX-M-2-producing *K. pneu-*

moniae isolates also harbored genes encoding SHV-1/11/28/52/83/92/98/108/148, OKP-A, or TEM-1. Four (66.6%) of 6 CTX-M-2-producing *K. oxytoca* isolates also harbored bla_{TEM-1} , bla_{SHV-1} , or bla_{OKP-A} . Four (40.0%) of 10 CTX-M-15-producing *E. coli* isolates also harbored bla_{TEM-1} , but no *E. coli* isolates harbored bla_{SHV} (Table 1; Fig. 1 and 2). The gene sequences of the CTX-M-2/1/9, TEM, and SHV groups were 99 to 100% homologous with those of the CTX-M-2/15/14, TEM-1, and SHV subtypes which are available on GenBank.

The 65 CTX-M-producing *Enterobacteriaceae* were isolated from 61 quarters of 58 mastitis cases on 25 dairy farms in the Nemuro Subprefecture. Each of the 25 farms fed between 180 and 500 Holstein cattle with total mixed ration in free-stall barns or with grass-silage and concentrates fed separately in tie-stall barns; almost all used sawdust bedding. Their rolling yearly herd averages for milk production were 7,800 to 9,500 kg. The 58 affected cows had either subclinical or local to systemic clinical mastitis. Despite antimicrobial treatment, six cows were culled; and the remaining cows' clinical signs resolved 3 to 10 weeks after onset.

The isolation rate of strains producing CTX-M-2/15/14 in bovine mastitis was 0.22% of the 28,900 Gram-negative bacillus isolates from the milk samples from 258,888 quarters of 176,808 cows. The CTX-M-2/15-producing *K. pneumoniae* and *E. coli* strains were the most common ESBL producers causing bovine mastitis in this study. In France, CTX-M-1/14-producing *E. coli* and *K. pneumoniae* strains had an isolation rate of 0.4% (6 of 1,427 *E. coli* and *K. pneumoniae* isolates) from bovine mastitis cases (5). There were no significant ($P > 0.05$) differences between the iso-

TABLE 2 Antimicrobial susceptibilities of isolates producing CTX-M-type ESBL from mastitic cows

Antimicrobial agent ^e	Group 1					Group 2		Group 3			
	MIC range (μg/ml)	MIC ₅₀ (μg/ml)	MIC ₉₀ (μg/ml)	Breakpoint (μg/ml; mm) ^b	No. of isolates (%)			MIC range (μg/ml)	No. of resistant isolates (B) ^h	MIC range (μg/ml)	No. of resistant isolates (C) ^h
					Susceptible	Intermediate	Resistant (A) ^h				
Ampicillin ^e	>512	>512	>512	≥32	0	0	49 (100)	>512	10 (100)	>512	6 (100)
Cefazolin ^e	>256	>256	>256	≥32	0	0	49 (100)	>256	10 (100)	>256	6 (100)
Cefuroxime ^e	>256	>256	>256	≥32 ^c	0	0	49 (100)	>256	10 (100)	>256	6 (100)
Cefazidime	≤2 to 64	≤2	≤2	≥16 ^c	45 (91.8)	3 (6.1)	1 (2.0) ^{**B}	16–64	10 (100) ^{**A,C}	≤2	0 ^{**B}
CAZ/CLA	≤0.25 to >8	≤0.25	0.5	≥4 ^c	— ^g	4 (8.2) ^g	45 (91.8)	0.5 to >8	10 (100)	≤0.25 to 0.5	6 (100)
Cefotaxime	≤16 to >256	≤1	≤1	≥16	1 (2.0)	0	48 (98.0)	512 to >512	10 (100)	128 to >512	6 (100)
CTX/CLA	≤1 to >8	≤1	≤1	≥16	0	0	49 (100)	≤1 to 8	10 (100)	≤1	6 (100)
Cefepodoxime	≤8 to >64	>64	>64	≥4 ^c	0	0	49 (100)	>64	10 (100)	>64	6 (100)
Ceftriaxone	64 to >512	512	>512	≥8	0	0	49 (100)	>512	10 (100)	512 to >512	6 (100)
Ceftiofur ^e	64 to >512	>512	>512	≥8	0	0	49 (100)	>512	10 (100)	>512	6 (100)
Cefquinome ^e	16 to >128	128	>128	— ^d	43 (87.8)	3 (6.1)	3 (6.1) ^{**B,C}	>128	10 (100) ^{**A}	>128	4 (66.6) ^{**A}
Cefepime	≤8 to 64	≤8	≤8	≥32 ^c	47 (95.9)	0	2 (4.1)	≤64	0	≤8 to >64	1 (16.6)
Cefmetazole	≤4 to >32	≤4	≤4	≥64 ^c	48 (98.0)	0	1 (2.0)	≤4 to 32	0	≤4 to >32	0
Moxalactam	≤8 to >32	≤8	≤8	≥64 ^c	49 (100)	0	0	≤8	0	≤8	0
Imipenem	≤1	≤1	≤1	≥16	48 (98.0)	0	0	≤1	0	≤1	0
Meropenem	≤2 to 4	≤2	≤2	≥4 ^c	48 (98.0)	0	1 (2)	≤2	0	≤2	0
Aztreonam	≤8 to >64	≤8	16	≥16 ^c	— ^g	43 (87.8) ^g	6 (12.2) ^{**B}	64 to >64	10 (100) ^{**A,C}	≤8 to 32	3 (50) ^{**A,B}
Gentamicin ^e	≤2 to >16	≤2	≤2	≥16	46 (93.9)	— ^d	3 (6.1)	≤2 to >16	1 (10.0)	≤2	0
Amikacin	≤4 to >16	≤4	≤4	≥64	48 (98.0)	1 (2.0) ^g	—	≤4 to 8	0	≤4	0
OTEI ^e	≤4 to >16	≤4	>16	≥16	24 (49.0)	11 (22.4)	14 (28.6) ^{**B}	≤4 to >16	7 (70.0) ^{**A}	≥16	6 (100)
SXT ^e	≤0.5/9.5 to >4/76	≤0.5/9.5	4/76	≥4/76	42 (85.7)	— ^d	7 (14.3) ^{**B,C}	4/76 to >4/76	7 (70.0) ^{**A}	≤0.5/9.5 to >4/76	3 (50) ^{**A}
Enrofloxacin ^e	≤0.25 to 2	≤0.25	2	≥2	45 (91.8)	2 (4.1)	2 (4.1)	≤0.25 to >2	1 (10.0)	≤0.25 to 0.5	0
Ciprofloxacin	≤0.5 to 2	≤0.5	≤0.5	≥4 ^c	46 (93.9)	3 (6.1)	0 ^{**B}	≤0.5 to >2	1 (10.0) ^{**A}	≤0.5 to 1	0
Cefoxitin ^f	—	—	—	≤14 mm ^c	48 (98.0)	1 (2.0)	0 ^{**B,C}	S to R	1 (10.0) ^{**A}	S to R	1 (16.6) ^{**A}
Kanamycin ^{e,f}	—	—	—	≤13 mm	38 (77.6)	1 (2.0)	10 (20.4) ^{**B,C}	S to R	5 (50.0) ^{**A}	S to R	4 (66.6) ^{**A}
CHL ^f	—	—	—	≤13 mm	41 (83.7)	0	8 (16.3)	S to R	4 (40.0)	S to R	3 (50)
Levofloxacin ^f	—	—	—	≤13 mm ^c	49 (100)	0	0 ^{**B}	S to R	1 (10.0) ^{**A}	S	0

^a Assessed by the broth microdilution or disk diffusion method for 41 *K. pneumoniae* and 6 *K. oxytoca* isolates producing CTX-M-2 and 2 *K. pneumoniae* isolates producing CTX-M-14 (group 1), 10 *E. coli* isolates producing CTX-M-15 (group 2), and other *Enterobacteriaceae* isolates producing CTX-M-2 or CTX-M-14 (group 3; CTX-M-2: *E. coli*, n = 1; *C. koseri*, n = 2; *E. aerogenes*, n = 1; *E. coli*, CTX-M-14, n = 2). Abbreviations: CAZ/CLA, ceftazidime/clavulanic acid; CTX, cefotaxime; OTEI, oxytetracycline; SXT, trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazol; CHL, chloramphenicol.

^b Breakpoint for resistance in accordance with CLSI document M31-A3 (2008) (15) for veterinary pathogens.

^c Breakpoint for resistance in accordance with CLSI document M100-S21 (2011) (20) for isolates from human infections with *Enterobacteriaceae*.

^d Breakpoint for resistance or intermediate is not defined in CLSI documents M31-A3 (2008) (15) and M100-S21 (2011) (20).

^e Antimicrobial agent approved for cattle in Japan; the other 17 antimicrobials in this table are unapproved for cattle.

^f Susceptibilities were tested by disc diffusion method according to CLSI documents M31-A3 (2008) (15) and M100-S21 (2011) (20).

^g Isolates in the susceptible, intermediate, and resistant categories could not be differentiated.

^h Significant differences were determined by the χ^2 test for comparison with the group indicated by the capital letter (A, B, or C); *, $P < 0.05$; **, $P < 0.01$.

lation rates found in our study and the French study (5) by the chi-square test using StatFlex version 6.0 (Artech Co., Ltd., Osaka, Japan). Among human and animal isolates in Western European countries and Japan, the most common CTX-M types were the CTX-M-1 cluster (CTX-M-1/15/55) and CTX-M-9 cluster (CTX-M-9/14/27) (2, 3, 4, 5, 6). Except for the dominance of CTX-M-2, our results are similar to these previous reports. The *bla*_{TEM-1}, *bla*_{SHV-1}, and *bla*_{SHV-11} genes detected in the present study encode non-ESBL enzymes (21); however, it is not clear whether the SHV-28/52/83/92/98/108/148 and OKP-A are ESBLs, because the kinetic parameters of their purified enzymes were not determined.

Isolates producing CTX-M exhibited high resistance to oxyimino-cephalosporins; however, they exhibited high rates of susceptibility to cefmetazole, moxalactam, imipenem, meropenem, gentamicin, and amikacin. The isolates producing CTX-M-2 and CTX-M-14 showed high rates of susceptibility to ceftazidime and fluoroquinolones. In contrast, the CTX-M-15-producing *E. coli* strains showed significantly higher rates of resistance to ceftazidime, aztreonam, cefepime, SXT, oxytetracycline, ciprofloxacin, levofloxacin, cefoxitin, and kanamycin than CTX-M-2/14-producing *Klebsiella* spp. and/or other CTX-M-2/14-producing *Enterobacteriaceae* ($P < 0.05$) by the chi-square tests (Table 2). Our results are consistent with a previous study (1), and the CTX-M types other than CTX-M-15, CTX-M-16, and CTX-M-27 efficiently hydrolyze cefotaxime and ceftriaxone but not ceftazidime (1).

Molecular subtyping profiles. Random amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD)-PCR analysis of the 41 CTX-M-2-producing *K. pneumoniae* isolates was performed using the oligonucleotide RAPD7 as previously described (22). Pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) of a total of 13 CTX-M-producing *E. coli* isolates was conducted according to the PulseNet standardized laboratory protocol (23) using XbaI (Roche Applied Science, Mannheim, Germany) and the CHEF-DR III electrophoresis systems (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA). Dendrograms of RAPD patterns and PFGE patterns were analyzed using BioNumerics software, version 5.1 (Applied Maths, Austin, TX). Four CTX-M-15-producing *E. coli* strains isolated from bovine feces on farm M in our previous study (7) were used for comparison with the *E. coli* isolates from mastitis cases.

Multilocus sequence typing (MLST) of the 13 CTX-M-producing *E. coli* isolates was conducted according to standard protocols using the *E. coli* database on the MLST website. (<http://mlst.ucc.ie/mlst/dbs/Ecoli>). The 13 *E. coli* isolates were serotyped according to O and H antigens using the pathogenic *E. coli* Seiken set 1 and set 2 antisera, respectively (Denka Seiken, Tokyo, Japan).

The 41 CTX-M-2-producing *K. pneumoniae* isolates from 15 farms revealed 32 RAPD types. More than half of the strains were isolated from 2 farms (F and M). The 18 isolates from farm F revealed 16 RAPD types. There was not a predominant RAPD type among the 41 isolates. However, two or three isolates each of *K. pneumoniae* (MCK17/18/8, MCK25/26, and MCK31/32), which were isolated from 2 different cows on same farm (F or M), showed closely related RAPD types (R25, R4, and R22, respectively) (Fig. 1).

The 13 *E. coli* isolates from 7 farms belonged to 10 STs and showed 12 PFGE types. Two isolates each of *E. coli* (MCE1/3, MCE4/6, and MCE9/10), which were isolated from 2 different cows on same farm (D, M, or P), had the same ST and closely related PFGE types (ST23/W, ST58/V1 and V2, and ST10/Z1 and

Z2, respectively). There were not any closely related strains between the 5 mastitis and the 4 fecal *E. coli* CTX-M-15-producing isolates from farm M (Fig. 2). Most of the *E. coli* isolates had untypeable O and H antigens (OUT, HUT). Neither *E. coli* clone ST131 (O25:H4) nor enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* O157, O26, or O111 or other serotypes commonly isolated from human infections (8) were detected from the 13 isolates.

The genetic diversity in the 18 *K. pneumoniae* isolates obtained from bovine mastitis cases on farm F suggests that these were opportunistic infections originating from a wide variety of environmental sources (11). However, the presence of some strains of *K. pneumoniae* and *E. coli* showing closely related genotypes, which were isolated from the different cows on the same farm, suggests a contagious infection or an infection from an environmental point source (11). Similar to our results, *E. coli* clones ST10/23/58 producing CTX-M-14/1 have also been isolated from bovine mastitis in France (5). Consistent with this French study, we detected no *E. coli* clone ST131 (O25:H4) producing CTX-M-15/27. Thus, these results suggest that cattle, unlike humans, canines and felines, have little significance as a source of this clone (2, 4). In contrast, recently, two enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* strains (with serotypes O111:H8 and O26:H11) belonging to the B1 phylogenetic group and carrying *bla*_{CTX-M-15/9} were isolated from diarrheic cattle in France (8).

In conclusion, the genes encoding CTX-M2/15/14 are present at a low frequency in *Enterobacteriaceae* isolates causing bovine mastitis on Japanese dairy farms. The ESBL producers were dominated by CTX-M-2-producing *K. pneumoniae* and CTX-M-15-producing *E. coli* strains which showed multidrug resistance to ceftazidime, aztreonam, and cefepime. There was not a predominant clonal type, and even the 18 *K. pneumoniae* strains isolated from a single farm showed clonal diversity by molecular subtyping.

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