VEROCYTOTOXICITY ASSAY OF *ESCHERICHIA COLI O157: H7* OBTAINED FROM DAIRY RELATED SOURCES

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SUMMARY

*Verotoxin* producing *Escherichia coli* and especially *E. coli O157: H7* in humans can cause food borne infection with mild or bloody diarrhoea with haemolytic uraemic syndrome as a possible complication. Hence, an attempt has been made to investigate the verotoxicity of the six *Escherichia coli O157: H7* isolates obtained from dairy related sources and ice cream and the results indicated that all the six isolates elaborated verotoxins in vero cells (African green monkey kidney cells) by their typical cytopathic effect on cell monolayers. The quantification of crude toxin in the cell lysate, also inferred that the toxin was present in the levels of lethal doses of CD50 titre of 16 to 1024.

Key words: *E. coli* O157:H7-dairy, ice cream, verotoxicity