





European Environment Agency



ONE HEALTH INTERAGENCY REPORT ON AZOLE RESISTANCE IN *ASPERGILLUS* SPP.



AMR One Health Network (OHN)

3 & 4 APRIL 2025

Classified as ECDC NORMAL

BACKGROUND





Azoles are broad-spectrum antifungals:







https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-mlGuNbN_ss

TERMS OF REFERENCE





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• Azole resistance in *A. fumigatus* high in Europe:

	Invasive aspergillosis	Chronic pulmonary aspergillosis	Allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis
Prevalence (ARAF/Af)	0.7 – 63.6%	5.9 – 59.2 %	0.7 – 63.6 %
Mortality	36-100%	less documented	

- Substantial evidence supports a link between azole fungicide exposure in the environment and cross resistance selection to medical azoles in Aspergillus species
- Evidence supports hypothesis that transmission of ARAf occurs from the environment to humans
- Azole usage outside the human domain is likely or very likely to contribute to the selection of ARAf isolates that could cause severe disease such as IA, but the extent of this contribution needs to be better understood

USE OF AZOLE FUNGICIDES





• Overall 2010-2021

- Total 120,000 tonnes
- PPPs 119,000 tonnes
- Only indicative, please note data limitations



USE OF AZOLE FUNGICIDES





Plant Protection Products

- PPP normalised by arable land and permanent crops
- Not possible for other regulatory frameworks



Sum of Quantity/(Arable land + Permanent crops) [kg/1000 ha] by Select country

nu y			
Netherlands			
Germany			
Czechia			
Ireland			
Belgium			
Slovak Republic			
France			
Hungary			
Romania			
Luxembourg			
Poland	-		
Latvia			
Denmark			
Lithuania			
Austria			
Slovenia			
Bulgaria			
Estonia			
Norway			
Croatia			
Sweden			
Portugal			
Finland			
Greece			
OK	1K	2K	ЗK
Sum	of Quantity/(Arable land	d + Permanent cro	ons) [kg/1000 ha]

ENVIRONMENTAL HOTSPOTS







Environmental hotspots identified:

<u>PPPs</u>

stockpiling of agricultural waste and their possible use as soil amendment or fertiliser for several agricultural crops

<u>BPs</u>

freshly cut wood

Norisk	No authorisation
Low risk potential	Authorisation AND residues not exceeding PNEC_AF100 OR non-relevant by default
Moderate risk potential	Authorisation AND residues exceeding PNEC AF100, but not exceeding PNEC AF10
High risk potential	Authorisation AND residues exceeding PNEC_AF10
Non-negligible risk poteotal	Authorisation and no data on residues





Agriculture

- thoughtful use of azole fungicides
- promoting best practices for waste management and soil fertilization as well as further research

Biocides use

- optimise concentrations of azole fungicides when treating wood
- ensure proper wood waste management

Human medicine

- enhanced disease diagnostics
- surveillance
- increased awareness of this topic

Research and development

• Encouraging the development of new antifungals with novel mechanisms of action

Approval process

 assess potential for cross-resistance with antifungals used in human medicine before approving new fungicides





Proposal for a preliminary framework for risk assessment during approval procedure



Proposal of a tiered risk assessment approach:

- Tier 1: Basic MIC testing to evaluate resistance risk.
- Tier 2: Examination of susceptibility between wild-type and resistant strains.
- Tier 3: Correlation of PNECres data with exposure data to evaluate higher-risk scenarios.

Emphasis on the need for continued refinement and validation of methods to enhance reliability







Areas	Possible actions to address gaps		
Use of azole fungicides	Establishment of a mandatory reporting system at national level with the appropriate level of detail related to the substance/product used and its specific application (e.g. crop of application) Overcoming confidentiality issues that limit dissemination and analysis of the data collected and double reporting		
Epidemiology of ARAf	Standardised prevalence studies, strengthen genomic testing, screening of different environments		
Spread of ARAf	Investigations on pathways for spread including cross-border		
Hazard-related data	Investigations of resistance mechanisms, effect of other substances, combined exposure, other Aspergillus species		
Residues in the environment	Investigate fate and persistence in environment, levels in crops/wood waste, waters/soil, human exposure		
Environmental hotspots	Investigate growth conditions in specific substrates, waste management practices, field studies		
Risk assessment methodology	To provide technical specifications for specific studies to be submitted within approval procedures, refine preliminary framework for risk assessment		

JOINT COMMUNICATIONS



EN Eng

Application







Home / Publications

PLS: Azole resistance in *Aspergillus* spp.

Published date: 30 January 2025

Disclaimer

- This plain language summary (PLS) is a simplified communication of the report on the Impact of the use of azole fungicides, other than as human medicines, on the development of azole-resistant Aspergillus spp. The full report can be found <u>here</u> ☑.
- The purpose of the PLS is to enhance transparency and inform interested parties on the work of EU agencies on the topic using simplified language to present a summary of the main findings.

Publication

https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/9200

Plain Language Summary (PLS) https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.2903/j.efsa.2025.p230103

Annex A: <u>https://zenodo.org/records/14221845</u> Annex E: <u>https://zenodo.org/records/14223436</u> Annex F: <u>https://zenodo.org/records/14223460</u>



Mitigating the risk: measures for combating agole resist.

Driving forces of azole resistance



Scientific Opinion Occurrence of Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacterales in the food chain in the EU/EFTA



CPE IN THE FOOD CHAIN IN THE EU/EFTA. PART 1: 2025 (TOR1/3)

Self-task Mandate BIOHAZ, SO adopted 12 March 2025



Methods in use: Detection, cgharacterization



Biological Hazards





Observers:



European Commission



DATA AND METHODOLOGY



Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacterales (CPE) in the Food chain. Survey for EU Member states, EFTA and EU candidate countries: preparatory phase.

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

EFSA is working on a Scientific Opinion within the self-task mandate of the BIOHAZ Panel on the status of the "Occurrence and spread of Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacterales in the food chain in the EU/EFTA".



Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacterales (CPE) in the Food chain. Survey for EU Member States, EFTA and EU candidate countries: methodology for isolation/detection and characterisation.

Fields marked with * are mandatory.



Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacterales (CPE) in the Food chain. Survey for EU Member States, EFTA and EU candidate countries: contingency plans and control measures.

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

EUSR-AMR data

Approved: 24 January 2025

DOI: 10.2903/j.efsa.2025.9237

SCIENTIFIC REPORT



APPROVED: 31 January 2019 doi: 10.2903/j.efsa.2019.5598

The European Union summary report on antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic and indicator bacteria from humans, animals and food in 2017

ecdo





The European Union summary report on antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic and indicator bacteria from humans, animals and food in 2022–2023

Lit. searches 2011-Febr. 2025



GENES, BACTERIA, CLONES, PLASMIDS



22 gene variants from 9 carbapenemase families. The most common VIM-1, **OXA-48 and OXA-181**, followed by NDM-5, and **IMI-1**.

- Aquaculture, sea/freshwater food Bovine meat Bovines and/or their environment Broilers and/or their environment D - Chicken meat Ready-to-eat insects Pigs and/or their environment Pig meat Turkeys and/or their environment Foods of non-animal origin E. coli Klebsiella sp. Salmonella enterica
 - * : Contains isolates from the EU monitoring
- Enterobacter sp. Other ○ Unknown

AT: Austria, BE: Belgium, CH: Switzerland, CZ: Czechia, DE: Germany, EL: Greece, ES: Spain, HU: Hungary, IT: Italy, NL: The Netherlands, NO: Norway, PT: Portugal, RO: Romania

Icons taken from https://www.flaticon.com

E. coli: 66 different STs: ST23-Complex, ST101-Complex ST10-Complex, ST542; Enterobacter spp. (10 STs), Klebsiella spp. (4 STs) and Salmonella enterica (2 STs).

Frequent plasmids: IncHI2, IncC, IncX3, **IncI**, **IncL**



TEMPORAL DISTRIBUTION AND SOURCES



Most reports from terrestrial animals, mainly from pigs, followed by bovines and poultry.

Compared to meat, more frequently detected in food derived from aquatic animals and food of non-animal origin (including imported products) exhibiting greater diversity in bacterial species and carbapenemase genes

Increase in number of reports, mainly from pigs, with a surge in

2021: **OXA-18: Italy**

2023: **OXA-48:** Spain

OXA-181, OXA-48, OXA-244 & blaNDM-5: Portugal 18

* : Contains isolates from the EU AMR monitoring (2013/652/EU and (EU) 2020/1729)

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GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION



Reported in 14 EU/EFTA countries (11 of them though the official EU monitoring)

Pig production a source across multiple countries (e.g. Germany, Italy, Czechia, Spain & Portugal)

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TRANSMISSION DYNAMICS IN THE FOOD CHAIN



HGT: Horizontal gene transfer

TRANSMISSION FOOD CHAIN AND HUMANS: CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE, FINDING OF SAME STRAINS/GENES IN BOTH THE FOOD CHAIN & IN HUMANS



DETECTION AND CHARACTERIZATION METHODS



- No single culture-based method allows detection of all CPE in a sample, no cultureindependent method has been thoroughly evaluated.
- Methods used by the official labs for the EU monitoring consist of a (non-selective) preenrichment culture, followed by isolation on selective media. This represents a **compromise between sensitivity, specificity and costs**. These methods only target *E. coli*, and miss other clinically relevant Enterobacterales.
- Protocols to **improve the sensitivity** by using **selective enrichment and/or PCR and metagenomic approaches** to detect carbapenemase genes in enrichment cultures, followed by culture of PCR-positive enrichments, are used in some EU/EFTA countries, but have only been validated for specific situations
- At least 24 EU/EFTA countries, the official laboratories have **capacity for WGS**.



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CONTINGENCY PLANS, CONTROL MEASURES

Contingency plans and/or control measures (n=10)



- Measures to prevent/mitigate/control the occurrence of CPEs in food production systems
- Detailed epidemiological investigations
- Inter-sectorial communication/actions between relevant department, agencies or other stakeholders
- Coordinated measures among EU/EFTA or EU/EFTA-Non-EU countries in multi- country CPE detection

10/30 EU/EFTA countries have specific contingency plans for CPE control:

- Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden & Spain already reported CPE
- Denmark, Finland,
 Lithuania & Malta have not yet reported any CPE

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DK: Denmark, DE: Germany, ES: Spain, FI: Finland, IT: Italy, LT: Lithuania, MT: Malta, NL: The Netherlands, NO: Norway, SE: Sweden

CONTINGENCY PLANS, CONTROL MEASURES





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CPE- RECOMMENDATIONS TO FILL IDENTIFIED GAPS

MONITOR additional sources:

- seafood (aquaculture),
- foods of non-animal origin,
- Imports into EU
- others

Perform further studies to clarify transmission:

- trace-back-forward investigations,
- drivers for spread, risk factor analysis



MONITORING additional bacteria:

Klebsiella spp., Enterobacter spp., Salmonella spp., others

Detection methods:

- Increase sensitivity
- perform/harmonize characterization of MGE



Different types of studies/research that could be conducted were proposed:

Molecular epidemiology, temporal and spatial correlation, experimental validations, advanced computational modelling, metagenomics/microbiome analysis

WHAT COMES NEXT

ToR2: New data generation, partnership MSs

To collaborate with countries and with the EURL-AR with the purpose of generating new data through a specific project (EFSA outsourcing, 2024 to 2026).

FPA "data generation on CPs in food-producing animals" Contract: 3 years (end 2024- 2027), Budget 1.5 mill Co-funding (20%).

Contractor (coordinator + MSs): EURL-AR/NRLs-AR Network labs, Art. 36 https://www.eurl-ar.eu/participants.aspx

ECDC Networks, to collaborate in ToR2d

WP0: coordination WP1: protocols, WP2: epidemiological studies WP3 in depth (WGS) analysis WP4: genomics comparison analyses.



End of 2027: Update State of the art

Review all new data/evidence generated by the Member States and the EURL-AR,

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AN UPDATE ON THE 2023 AMR EU SUMMARY REPORT







2023- EUSR on AMR



https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2025.9237 Publication date: 5th of March AMR **monitoring** is performed on a **biennial basis** and the **sampling** in a **rotating basis**

- Even years: 👽 😴 👽
- Odd years: 🐂 🐖
 - Food-producing animals most frequently consumed in the EU
 - Healthy animals, domestically produced



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Salmonella spp. Animals



 From low (laying hens) to high resistance to AMP, SUL and TET

`₩ > 🗳 & 🎻 > 💘 > 🏷

- From moderate (pigs and calves) to high (laying hens) and very high (broilers & turkeys) resistance to flouroquinolones (CIP)
- Very low/low resistance to third generation cephalosporins (CTX) in animals
- From very low (pigs, turkeys and laying hens) to low (broilers and calves) combined resistance to CIP/CTX
- Very low resistance to AMK in pigs and poultry populations and not detected in calves



Campylobacter spp. Animals



- The level of overall resistance to TET ranged from high to extremely high in foodproducing animals in C. jejuni and C. coli
- High to extremely high resistance levels to CIP in C. jejuni and C. coli in food-producing animals
- Resistance to ERY at low levels in C. jejuni in animals, while higher levels of resistance detected in C. coli
- Combined resistance to CIP/ERY:
 - Very low to low in *C. jejuni* from poultry, pigs and calves
 - Low in C. coli from broilers, moderate in C. coli isolated from pigs and fattening turkeys and high in calves







Humans 2023
 Broilers 2022 (N=1565, 24 MSs + XI)
 Fattening turkeys 2022 (N=1381, 11 MSs)
 Fattening pigs 2023 (N=4050, 26 MSs + XI)
 Calves 2023 (N=465, 11 MSs)

Indicator E. coli Animals



 High levels of resistance to commonly used antimicrobials (AMP, SMX, TET)

100

- Important resistance to fluoroquinolones
 (CIP) in broilers and turkeys
- Low resistance to cefotaxime (CTX)
- Combined resistance to third-generation cephalosporins and fluoroquinolones (CIP/CTX) was generally uncommon in all animal categories.
- Very low levels of resistance to AMK
- Resistance to high priority critically important antimicrobials (HPCIA) was uncommon for colistin and azithromycin



Occurrence of resistance in indicator commensal E. coll from food-producing animals, 2022-2023



Resistance in *Salmonella* spp. from humans, EU/EEA, 2023 - major difference by serovar (1)



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- Only countries with >10 isolates were included
 - Classified as ECDC NORMAL

- Multi-drug resistance
 (≥3 classes) in about 20%
 of isolates
- ESBL and/or AmpC detected in <1% of isolates
- Decreasing trends in resistance to ampicillin and tetracycline, particularly in S. Typhimurium (in 16/24 and 15/24 countries, respectively)

Resistance in Salmonella spp. from humans, EU/EEA, 2023 - major difference by serovar (2)

Multi-drug resistance:

S. Kentucky

S. Kentucky

13/24 countries

(often with ESBL)

Combined resistance to

5.0% of S. Infantis and

17.2% of S. Kentucky





- Only countries with >10 isolates were included

Resistance in *Campylobacter jejuni* and *C. coli* from humans, EU/EEA, 2023



- Resistance to antibiotics generally higher in *C. coli* than in *C. jejuni*
- Multi-drug resistance in 0.6% of *C. jejuni* and 8.6% *C. Coli* (mostly ciprofloxacin, erythromycin and tettracycline resistance)
- Resistance to both critically-important antimicrobials for treatment, i.e. ciprofloxacin and erythromycin: low in *C. jejuni* (0.6%), but overall 6.8% in *C. coli*
- Erythromycin resistance decreasing in 10/23 and 9/17 countries for *C. jejuni* and *C. coli*, respectively, between 2014 and 2023



KEY OUTCOME INDICATORS AND TRENDS





KEY OUTCOME INDICATOR COMPLETE SUSCEPTIBILITY IN INDICATOR E. COLI



Marked variations among reporting countries

Lower KOI CS were generally observed in countries in eastern and southern Europe and the highest in countries in the northern Europe



Statistically significant increasing trends (from 2014-2023) registered in 48% of the reporting countries (14 of 29)



KEY OUTCOME INDICATOR PREVALENCE OF ESBL- AND/OR AMPC-PRODUCING *E. COLI*



Marked variations among reporting countries

Higher KOI ESBL were generally observed in countries in eastern and southern Europe and the highest in countries in the northern Europe



Statistically significant decreasing trends (from 2015-2023) have been observed in 70% of the reporting countries (21 of 30)



Temporal trends animals - Indicator E.coli

• Trends of Resistance to AMP, CIP, CTX and TET

TET: Decreasing trends mainly in pigs and broilers AMP: Decreasing trends mainly in broilers and turkeys CIP: Decreasing trends in broilers and turkeys CTX: Decreasing trends in broilers

- Statistically significant
 - Decreasing trends in resistance to AMP, CIP, CTX and TET
 - Increasing trends in CS

... **reveal progress** towards <u>lower levels of resistance</u> in several countries and in the EU group

 The improvement in the situation was most pronounced in poultry



DETECTING EMERGING SIGNALS: THE EXAMPLE OF CARBAPENEM RESISTANCE





Carbapenemase-producing Salmonella spp. from humans



- Rare 2017-2023, 19 cases in 2017-2023 from domestic infections (or unknown travel status)
- In 2023, 6 cases identified in 6 different countries.
- Carbapenemase genes: bla_{OXA-48} most common (14/19), but also $bla_{OXA-181}$, bla_{NDM-1} , bla_{VIM} and bla_{KPC}
- Serotypes: S. Kentucky (5), S. Haifa (3), S. Typhimurium (2), monophasic S. Typhimurium (2), one each of S. Abony, S. Agona, S. Cerro, S. Corvallis, S. Enteritidis, S. Give, S. Kottbus, S. Rissen and S. enterica subsp. salamae
- Cases often elderly people with underlying illness
- Hypotheses:
 - Food?
 - Inter-species transfer in healthcare settings?

Carbapenems, a last-resort group of antibiotics

*Salmonella spp.: C*arbapenem-R was found in <u>humans (</u>4 isolates (*bla*_{OXA-48}) in 2022 and 6 isolates in 2023 (*bla*_{OXA-48} and *bla*_{NDM-1}) but **not** in food-producing animals

E. coli: Carbapenem-R was detected in foodproducing animals at very low levels

BUT

Presence of carbapenemase-producing bacteria in humans and in food-producing animals in

- Several countries
- Several animal species
- Several genes

... <u>highlights the need for continued</u> monitoring and further investigation

TABLE 23 Summary table on carbapenemase-encoding genes reported in *Escherichia coli* sampled in the routine monitoring, the specific monitoring of ESBL-/AmpC-/CP-produ-cers and the specific monitoring of CP-producers in 2022–2023.

Year	Matrix	Gene	Number of isolates	Countries detecting the isolates (n)			
Routine mo	Routine monitoring of indicator commensal <i>E. coli</i>						
2022	Fattening turkeys	bla _{OXA-181}	1	IT (1)			
Specific mo	Specific monitoring of ESBL-/AmpC-/CP-producing E. coli						
2022	Broilers	bla _{viM-1}	3	AT (2), IT (1)			
2023	Cattle under 1 year of age	bla _{viM-1}	1	DE (1)			
		bla _{NDM-5}	1	IT (1)			
	Fattening pigs	bla _{OXA-181}	3	ES (1), IT (1), PT (1)			
		bla _{OXA-181} + bla _{NDM-5}	1	PT (1)			
Specific mo	nitoring of CP-producing E. col	i					
2022	Fattening turkeys	bla _{OXA-181}	1	IT (1)			
2023	Fattening pigs	bla _{OXA-181}	24	ES (4), IT (19), PT (1)			
		bla _{NDM-5}	5	CZ (5)			
		bla _{OXA-48}	21	ES (19), PT (1), RO (1)			
		bla _{OXA-181} +bla _{NDM-5}	4	PT (4)			
		bla _{OXA-244}	1	PT (1)			
	Cattle under 1 year of age	bla _{OXA-181}	4	IT (4)			
		bla _{OXA-48}	1	ES (1)			
	Meat from pigs	bla _{NDM-5}	1	ES (1)			



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RECENT IMPROVEMENTS IN METHODOLOGY AND DATA-MINING TOOLS





THE EFSA AMR GENE DETECTION SERVICE

Data Overview 0 $\hat{\Box}$

AMR gene detection service

Following the protocol provided by EURL-AR, this service extracts AMR genes in a standardized format from raw sequencing reads using ResFinder 4. CARBA genes are detected the system automatically maps the results against the EFSA PARAM catalogue and provides the codes

To offer to MS the opportunity to use EFSA computing resources for extracting AMR genes from WGS data

To give access to User-Friendly interface for accessing and managing the data in a secured and private environment, no sharing of data

Automate mapping against the PARAM catalogue and different downloads options for the results



Monitor Monitor submission status

Data Overview Submit, analyse and view your data

Download results in DCF compatible

Pipeline results format

D ROS

Analytical pipeline Execute analytical pipeline

The service is available for

Salmonella enterica Escherichia coli Campylobacter jejuni 🔎 Campylobacter coli

For access, please send email to mirko.rossi@efsa.europa.eu



WGS: ESBL and/or AMPC- producing E.coli from animals



(A) Percentage of isolates with ESBL-encoding genes by animal population, 2022-2023

Genotypic data reported 2022 → Provided by 7 MSs 2023 → Provided by 9 MSs + 1non-MSs

(C) Percentage of isolates with AmpC-encoding genes and AmpC chromosomal point mutations by animal population, 2022-2023





ONLINE VISUALISATION TOOLS: DASHBOARDS & STORY MAPS

• 2022 visualisation tools

STORY MAPS



DASHBOARDS







• 2023 Visualisation tools

New: story map on AMR in Salmonella spp.





Versa

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