

Importance of *Alphitobius diaperinus* (Panzer) as a Reservoir for Pathogenic Bacteria in Algerian Broiler Houses

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Abstract

During 2008, a study has been conducted on the potential of *Alphitobius diaperinus* as a reservoir of many poultry pathogenic bacteria, in twenty broiler houses in the North-East of Algeria. Many groups of bacteria have been enumerated; *Salmonella* and thermophilic campylobacters contaminations have been searched. Both adults and larvae carried and harbored multiple species and numbers of poultry pathogenic bacteria. 5% of adults' surfaces were *Salmonella arizonae* - positive and no thermophilic campylobacters were identified. Interiors of both adults and larvae were more contaminated with gram-negative bacteria, coliforms and streptococci than their surfaces. As this insect is an important source of poultry pathogenic bacteria in our region, serious measures must be implemented to control it.

Key words: *Alphitobius diaperinus*, pathogenic bacteria, broiler houses, Algeria.