

Terrestrial Gastropod transmission of *E. coli* O157:H7 in leafy green produce



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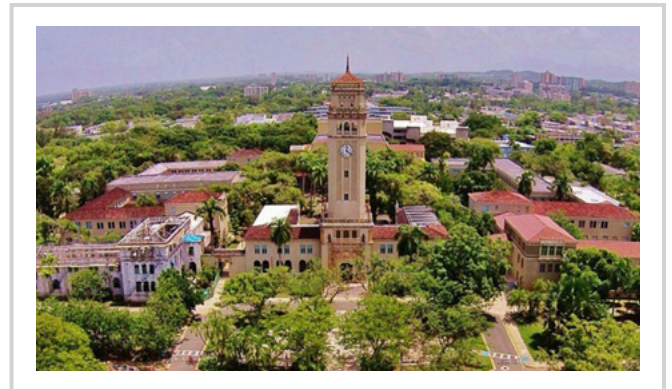
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Abstract

Reviewing the existing literature on animal fecal-oral contamination in crude leafy produce and preliminary data on the possible role of the Gastropods' mucus as a vector and reservoir of *E. coli* O157:H7. The importance of sanitation and clean produce as well as water is that it becomes a fundamental aspect in prevention against enteric pathogens, such as *E. coli* O157:H7, which can cause premature death and hemolytic uremic syndrome upon the populace. Therefore, the search for dispersion vectors of *E. coli* within leafy greens is crucial and since they are mostly eaten uncooked people are more prone to get infected. As studies have indicated, snails and slugs are reported predators of crude leafy produce and have been attributed to contain *E. coli* in the slime of particular species. Thus, it could be possible to determine a possible association between increased leafy green produce outbreaks and the dispersion and inoculation of *E. coli* in terrestrial Gastropods in the United States and other countries as well.

Biography

Angélica Rosado-Quinones¹ is a microbiologist, and a PhD research scholar in the department of Microbiology at Universidad de Puerto Rico. She worked as a microbiologist and teaching faculty at Universidad de Puerto Rico. She is a reviewer and editorial board member in various reputed international journals.



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