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BRIEF COMMUNICATION

ISOLATION OF *SALMONELLA INFANTIS* AND
SALMONELLA ANATUM FROM A GREY STARLING
(*STURNUS CINERACEUS* TEMMINCK)
IN THE CITY OF SAPPORO

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There have been only a few reports of Salmonella isolation from free-flying wild birds in Japan. *Salmonella pullorum*¹⁾ was isolated from 4 of 695 sparrows caught on a chicken-farming area, and *Salmonella infantis*^{2,3)} from 2 sparrows of a total of 60 sparrows and Japanese buntings caught on the premises of abattoirs. Different serotypes of Salmonella have been obtained from starlings in a few countries other than Japan with various frequencies^{4,7~11)}.

In November of 1973, a grey starling (*Sturnus cineraceus* TEMMINCK) was caught accidentally on a university campus in the city of Sapporo. The bird (sex distinction was not recorded) could not fly well. No marked pathological conditions were observed. Viscera and intestine of the bird were cultivated on brilliant green agar plates, and enrichment cultures of ceca and pooled viscera were made in selenite brilliant green broth. The broth cultures were incubated at 43°C overnight. A loopful of the broth cultures was placed on the agar plate.

S. infantis was detected from the ceca by the direct and enrichment culture, and *Salmonella anatum* from the liver by the direct cultivation. These isolates were found to be sensitive to chloramphenicol, streptomycin, oxytetracycline, furazolidone and sulfaisoxazole when tested by the single disc method (Showa). The bird's serum agglutinated a somatic antigen (alcoholized) of the isolated *S. infantis* at 1:200 dilution and that of *S. anatum* at 1:25.

It remains unsolved where the examined starling was infected with Salmonella. An ecological study⁶⁾ indicates that, in Japan, grey starlings usually inhabit village areas, but they can live occasionally in the city. YAMAGUCHI and HAMADA, and KISHI et al. described that the waters of rivers in Sapporo were heavily contaminated with Salmonella. It may be possible that Salmonella infection of the bird reflected Salmonella contamination of the city environment.

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