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Title: Prevalence, antimicrobial resistance and virulence genes in *Escherichia coli* isolated from retail meats in Tamaulipas, México.

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Prevalence, antimicrobial resistance and virulence genes in *Escherichia coli* isolated from retail meats in Tamaulipas, México.

Running Title: *E. coli* characterization in meat from Mexico

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Highlights

- High percentage of the strains harbored virulence factors (*hly*A, *stx*1 and *stx*2)
- Multidrug resistance was detected in 92.4% of strains
- Those strains may play an important role in disseminating drug resistance
- With all the above, those strains may represent a public health risk.