

AUTOMATED, RAPID MICROBIAL DETECTION SYSTEM FOR REMOTE TESTING OF *E.COLI*, COLIFORMS, AND ENTEROCOCCI BACTERIA

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Presented by: Douglas Wilton, P. Eng., President
www.tecta-pds.com



- Formed in 2003 based on water monitoring technology developed at a major Canadian University - Queen's University
- Direct response to Walkerton, Ontario *E. coli* contamination drinking water disaster
- Acquired by Veolia Water in 2009 and re-branded as ENDETEC
- Management led buyout in 2016
- Sales in over 25 countries

- Our Mandate: To revolutionize the microbiological monitoring of water
- The Problem: Inadequate microbiological testing – ancient methods lead to water quality and human health problems
- We can and should do better.
- The Solution: Lab equivalent, Fully automated, Rapid, EPA approved, microbial detection system

Why a revolution?

E. coli
Detected!

Boil water advisory issued for Picture Butte

Alberta Health Services says water should be boiled for at least a minute before consumed

CBC News | Posted: Feb 20, 2014 12:50 PM MT | Last Updated: Feb 20, 2014 12:50 PM MT

Facebook 0

People in Picture Butte are being told to boil their water.

Sta

Twitter

1.3 million Montrealers face boil water advisory

Residents should expect advisory to last a minimum of 24 hours

CBC News | Posted: May 22, 2013 10:46 AM ET | Last Updated: May 23, 2013 9:06 AM ET

98 cases
coli outb

0 0

Monday 22 October 2012 20:21

1 of 2

Doylestown - Water restrictions remained in place at Linden Elementary School in Doylestown Wednesday, a day after it was revealed that fecal coliform showed up in a water test at the school.

News > World news > E coli

Coroner calls for stricter controls after E coli death

to Opelika, Alabama Water Park

ark are investigating

an E. coli O157:H7 outbreak linked to a water park in

0 11

There are a further 175 probable cases

Tap water warning in Copenhagen after E.coli found TA-PDS

Aug 21, 2011

Why a revolution?

E. coli
Detected!

PART TWO REPORT OF THE WALKERTON INQUIRY

Police probe E. coli crisis

'Preventable'
tragedy
claims fifth
victim

WALKERTON — Police
have launched a criminal investigation into the E. coli crisis.



Walkerton Report – Causes:

- Lack of technology
- Centralized testing
- Storage and transport of samples
- Long overall test time
- Manual test method
- opportunity for human error / human negligence
- Regulatory shortcomings
- **INADEQUATE TESTING**



| | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 7 Dead | 2,300 People Sick | 46% Population |
|------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|

ad due to E. coli contamination of Walkerton water supply



The Solution

E. coli
Detected!

• Walkerton Report – Solution / Government checklist:

- ✓ • Automated test
- ✓ • Testing done on-site, on-line
- ✓ • No storage or shipping
- ✓ • Overall test turn-around at most one day
- ✓ • No visual estimation or judgment
- ✓ • Replace human sample manipulation/ intervention/decision making with Intelligent System using objective, pre-set criteria

TECTA™ B16
Rapid, Automated
Microbial Detection
System



Limitations of current methods

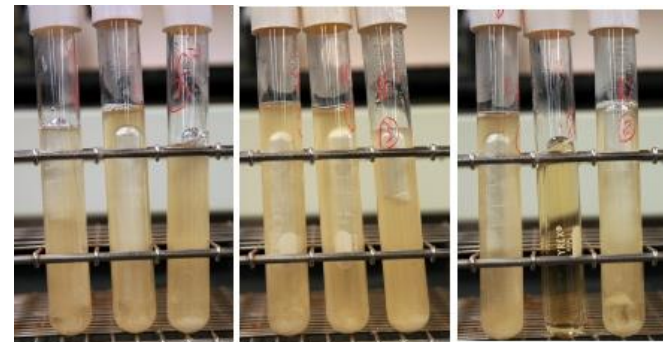
- Based on ancient technology
- Require a microbiology lab
- Take too long
- Visual interpretation required
- Prone to errors
- There are no better options
- Everyone accepts this as “state of the art”

Conventional methods

E. coli
Detected!

- Test Tube Methods

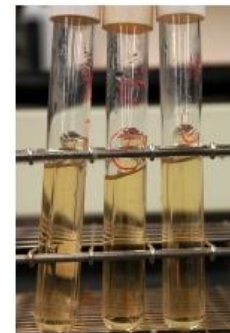
- Lactose fermenting bacteria
- Presence of gas bubbles in positive tubes
- P/A, or quantitative using multi-tubes & MPN
- Originally developed: 1914
- Still in use, though being replaced in most jurisdictions



10^{-2}

10^{-3}

10^{-4}



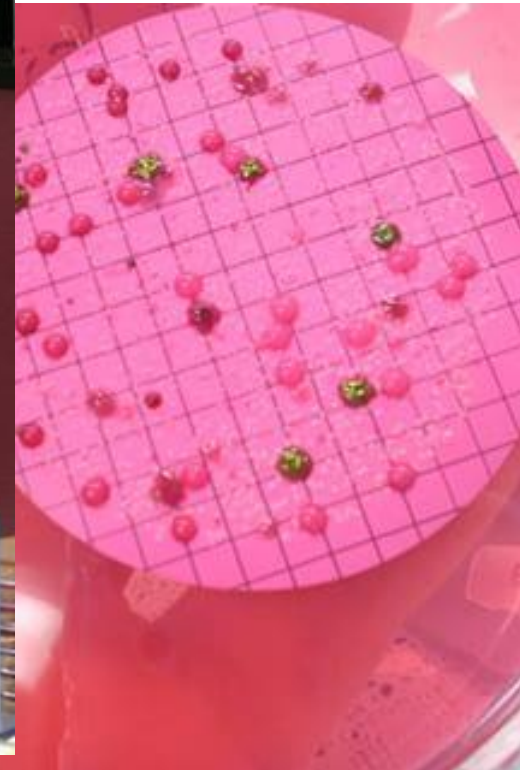
10^{-5}

10^{-6}

Conventional methods

E. coli
Detected!

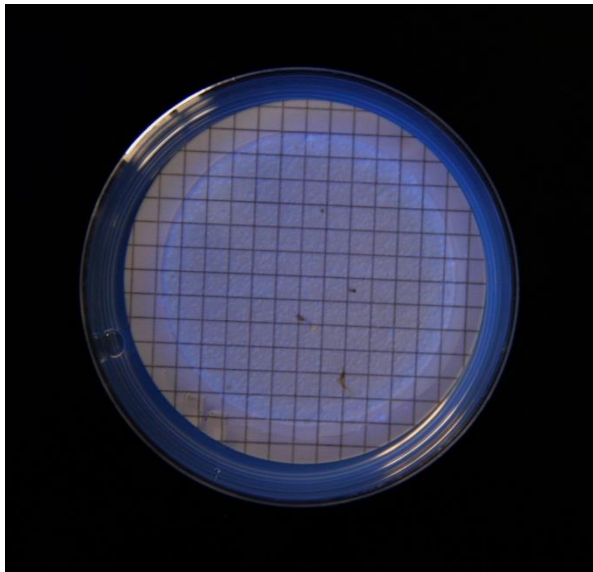
- Membrane Filtration (traditional “plate” method)
 - Culture bacteria
 - Metabolism produces colonies
 - Lactose-fermenters cause pH change (color change)
 - P/A or quantitative
 - Early version



Membrane filtration

E. coli
Detected!

- Limitations for Quantitation



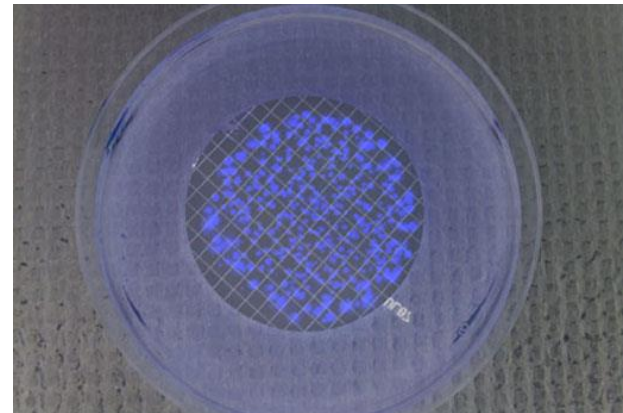
- dynamic range 0~80 CFU or sample dilutions required
- excess “general bacteria” can result in “over-grown” plate

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Enzyme methods

E. coli
Detected!

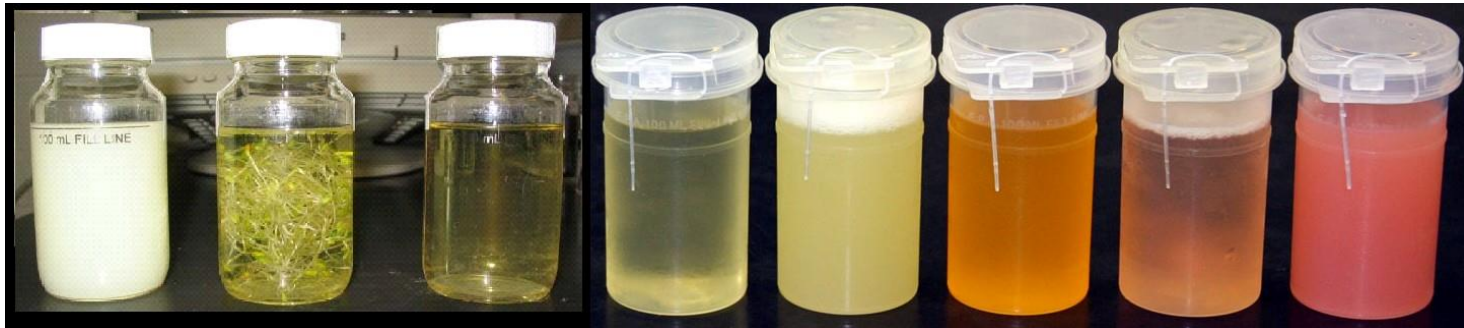
- Defined substrate methods (or Enzyme methods)
 - Colour change and fluorescence
 - Two method styles
 - Broth Culture - media powder mixed into sample
 - MF Plates
 - IDEXX Colilert, Colitag; Colisure; ReadyCult; E*Colite
 - P/A or quant by MPN (Quantitray or tubes); plate counting
 - In use since 1980s, replacing older methods



Enzyme methods

E. coli
Detected!

- Limits for visual interpretation – subjective



Milk Sprouts Apple Juice Lake Water Lemon-ade Carrot Wash Iced Tea Pink Lemonade



Automated method

E. coli
Detected!

- TECTA™ B16 Bench Top Testing System
- TECTAlert™ Consumable Test Cartridges

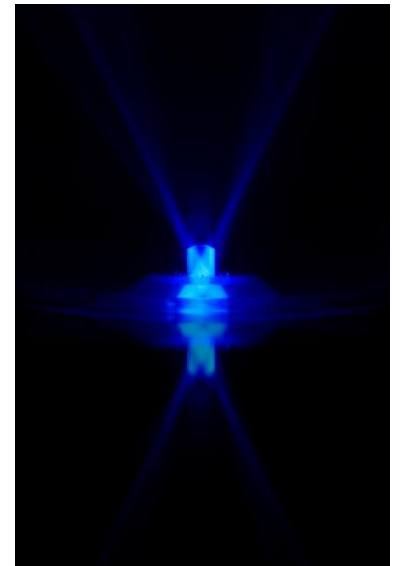


TECTA - PDS

Automated method

E. coli
Detected!

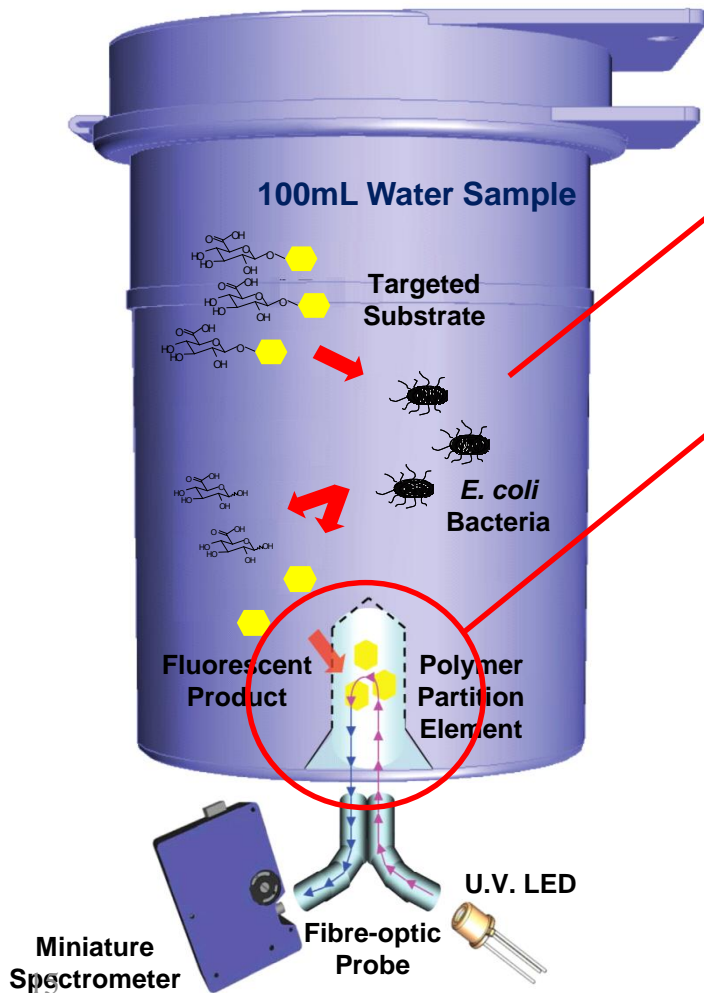
- Selective broth culture with detection of enzymes identical to conventional tests:
 - glucuronidase for *E. coli*
 - galactosidase for coliforms
- Opto-chemical sensor extracts and automatically detects enzyme product
- Complete test and sensor in a single-use cartridge with pre-measured reagents
- Simple instrument that can be operated in the field
- Continuous automated interpretation and reporting of sample result



Tecta cartridge

E. coli
Detected!

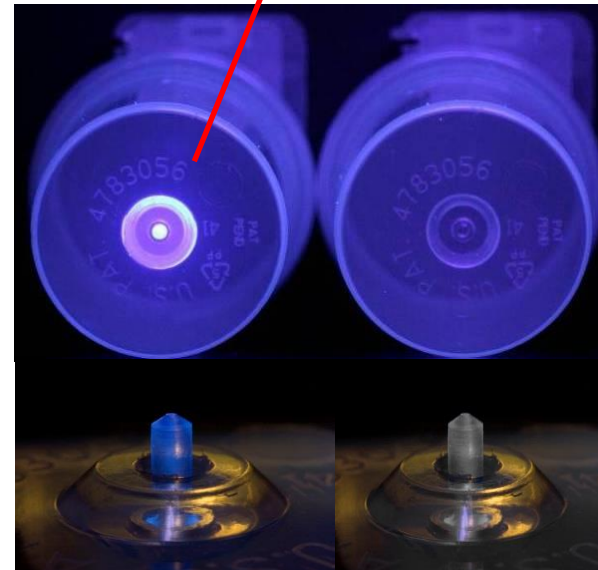
Enzyme-substrate / solution culture method



Detecting identical enzyme as conventional methods

Extracting fluorescent markers outside of sample into polymer

Automated detection of fluorescence in polymer triggers result

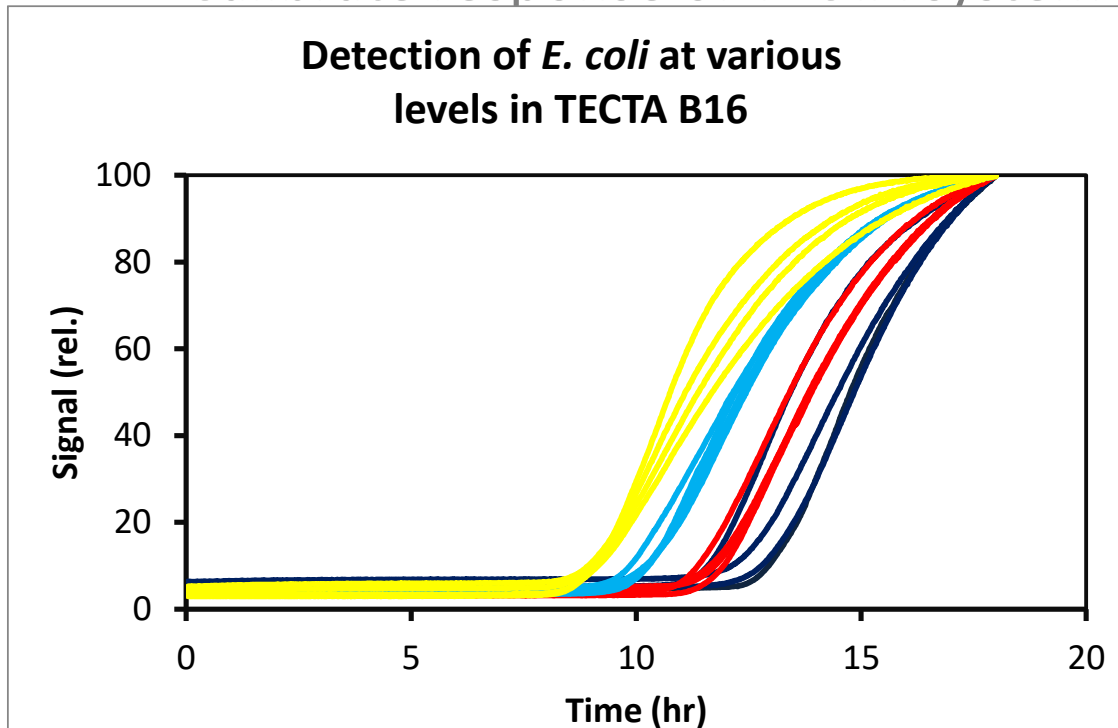


PDS

Quantitative analysis

E. coli
Detected!

- Signal onset gives Time-to-Detection (TTD)
 - TTD linearly related to log CFU bacteria
 - Indicates time for growth and enzyme expression
 - Calibrate response of TECTA system



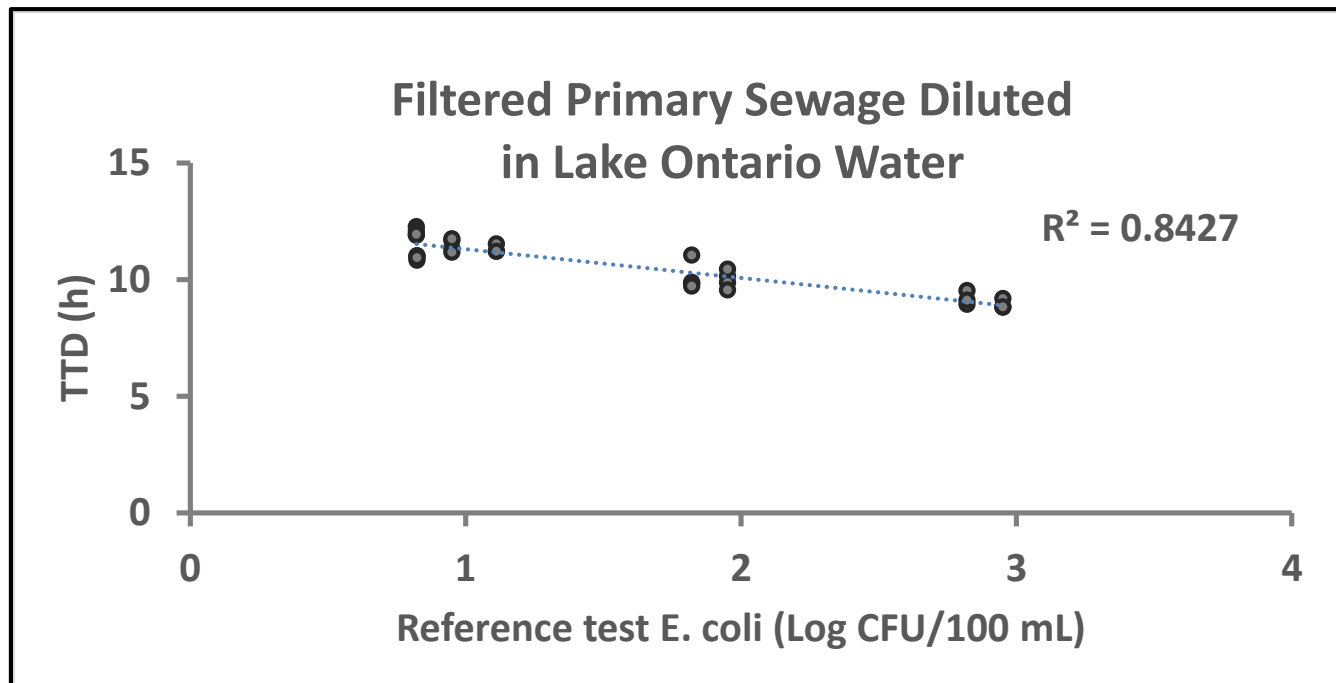
- 10,000 cfu/100mL
- 1,000 cfu/100mL
- 100 cfu/100mL
- 10 cfu/100mL

TECTA - PDS

Quantitative analysis

E. coli
Detected!

- Calibration using natural samples
 - Large sample carefully mixed and split into replicates
 - Also depends on reference method
 - various alternate methods give different results!

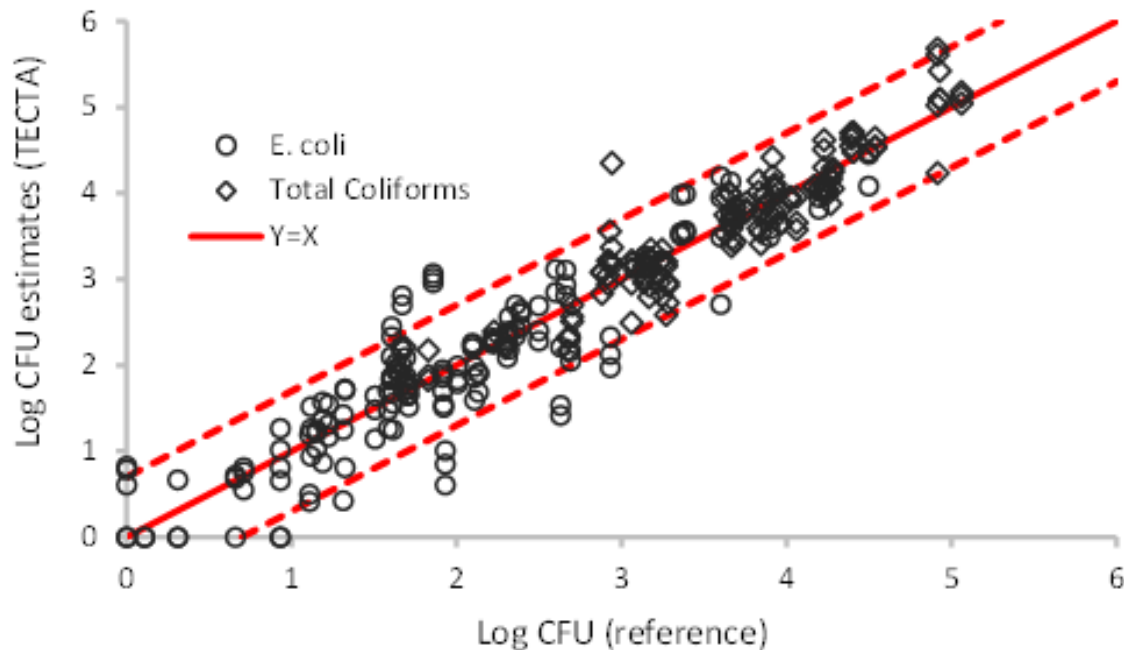


TECTA - PDS

Quantitative analysis

E. coli
Detected!

- Validation using separate sample set
 - *E. coli* and Total Coliforms tested simultaneously
 - 95% of results within 0.7 log of reference results
 - comparable to inter-lab studies using different methods

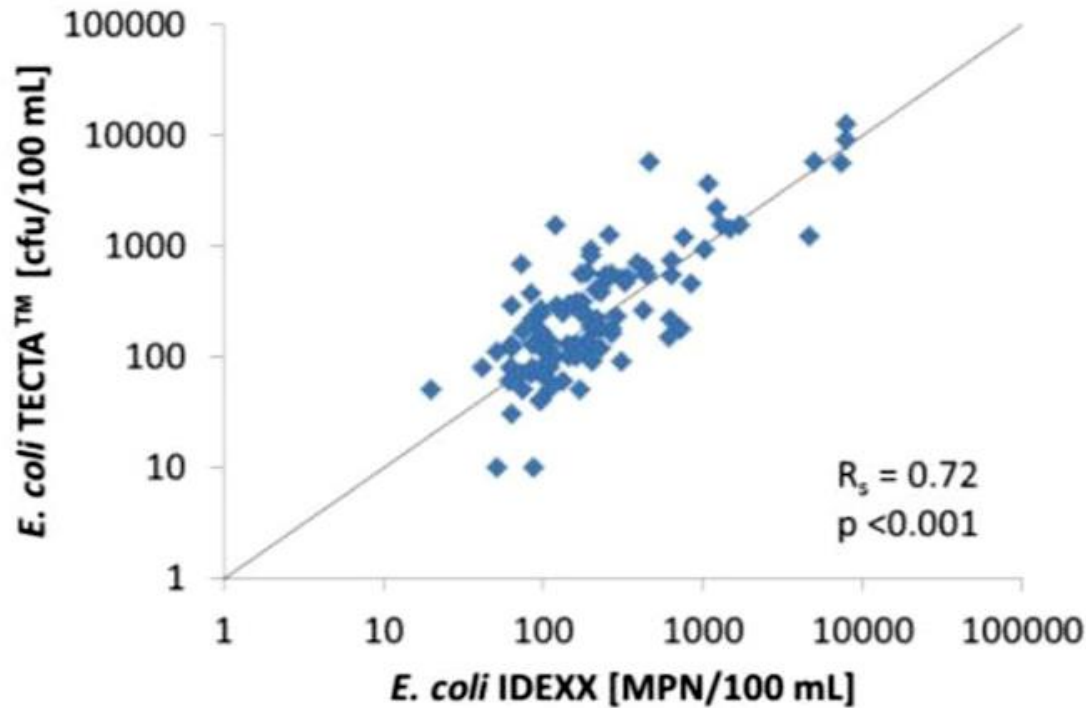


TECTA - PDS

Quantitative analysis

E. coli
Detected!

- Validation of calibration at alternate site
 - *McCarthy group, Monash U.*



TECTA-PDS

Schang *et al.* (2016). Evaluation of techniques for measuring microbial hazards in bathing waters: A comparative study. *PloS one*, 11(5), e0155848.

The Solution

TECTA™ B16 Rapid, Automated Microbial Detection System



- Fully automated bacterial test – *E. coli* and Total Coliform
- Lab-in-a-box - On-site analysis; zero transport, zero storage; zero prep, sample on-test with no delay
- No visual estimation or judgment
- No human sample manipulation or intervention
- Fully automated test monitoring, interpretation and reporting via email; networkable
- Major approvals in place including USEPA

TECTA - PDS

The Solution

TECTA™ B16 Rapid, Automated Microbial Detection System

- Not affected by turbidity or sample color
 - Applicable to a wide range of matrices
- High dynamic range: <1 CFU - 10⁸ CFU / 100mL
- Installed & operated anywhere, by anyone, at any time
- Single-cell sensitivity
- Ready-to-use, pre-sterilized test cartridge
- Fastest test on market
 - only method available with early alerting
 - results in 2-18 hours depending on contamination level



E. coli
Detected!



| Detection Times | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| CFU / 100mL | v TTD value |
| < 1 (absent) |18 hours |
| 1 CFU |10h 40m |
| 100 CFU |8h 40m |
| 1000 CFU |7h 30m |
| 10,000 CFU |6h 30m |
| 10 ⁶ CFU |4h 20m |

***default calibration – *E. coli*-only test

TECTA - PDS

The Solution

TECTA™ B16 Rapid, Automated Microbial Detection System

- Secure storage of test reports for QA/QC protection
- Networkable
- Automated reporting via email

E. coli
Detected!



TECTA-B16 (1.2.5) Report

Sample ID:
Collection Time: 2013-11-12 14:50:08
Stored: Unknown
Target Temperature (C): 35.63 | Actual Temperature (C): 35.46
Data File: XPDS00046.2013-11-12_14.50.08_Chamber1_TIME.pds

Test Result

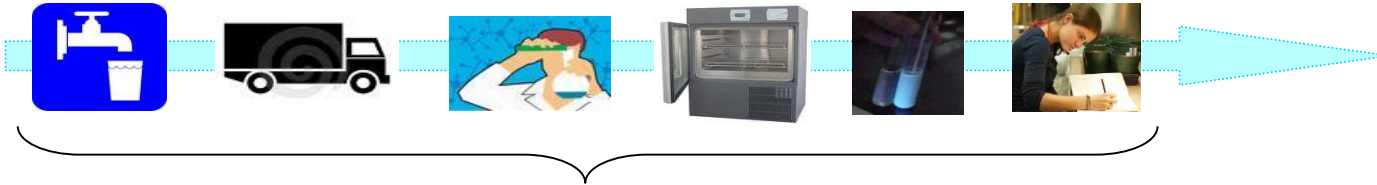
E. coli Result: **Present**
EC Detect Time: 10h4m6s || Quantity: 140 CFU/100 ml
[EC-35.5 Default Calibration rev. 1.0]

Total Coliform Result: **Present**
Total Coliform Detect Time: 10h17m23s || Quantity: 3000 CFU/100 ml
[TC-35.5 Default Calibration rev. 2.0]

The Opportunities

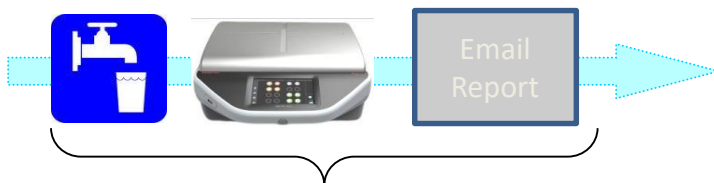
E. coli
Detected!

Conventional Methods / labs:



36 – 72 hours plus....

TECTA B-16:



2 – 18 hours

What opportunities exist for your operation if you had a rapid, on-site, easy to use micro system?

• Drinking water

- Distribution compliance samples
- Raw, pre/post filtration, pre/post chlorination, post clear well
- Customer hand off
- Broken/replacement pipe

• Waste / Reuse water

- Raw, pre/post MBR, pre/post RO, pre/post UV

• Remote/challenging locations

• Recreational water

Approvals & Validations

E. coli
Detected!



- **US EPA Approved** (*drinking water*)
 - Only EPA approved method with “early-alerting”
 - Better recovery of stressed cells
- **Ministry of Environment, Ontario, Canada** (*published in Journal of Microbiological Methods, 2009*)
 - 100% detection by non-micro operator under field conditions
 - Better accuracy than reference method

| | Actual samples | PDS | MF-DC | Actual Samples | PDS | MF-DC |
|------------------------------|----------------|-----|-------|----------------|-----|-----------------|
| True positives | 43 | 43 | 42 | 58 | 58 | 56 ^a |
| False positives | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| True negatives | 23 | 23 | 23 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| False negatives | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Sensitivity (%) ^a | | 100 | 97.6 | | 100 | 96.6 |
| Specificity (%) ^b | | 100 | 100 | | 100 | 100 |

PDS

Approvals & Validations

E. coli
Detected!

- **New Zealand Ministry of Health Approval**
 - Received March 2016
 - *“MOH is satisfied that TECTA-B16 can be used for bacterial compliance monitoring”*

- **National Institute of Environmental Research (NIER), South Korea**

- **AOAC Certified**
 - *“Performance identical to reference methods at detection limit of one viable organism in 100mL sample”*

- **US EPA ETV Study and Report**
 - *“Method very user friendly and eliminates need for technician”*



TECTA-PDS

Approvals & Validations

E. coli
Detected!

- **Monash University Research Project, Australia**

TECTA Results

Test prep-timeT-1st

Results interpretation
time1st

Incubation time2nd

Cost per test1st

| Method | Organism | Pre-processing operator time [min/sample] | Post-result operator time [min/sample] | Average turnaround time [hours] | Cost \$ vs \$standard method |
|-------------------|----------------|--|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| "standard method" | Total coliform | 5 | 2 | 24 | 1 |
| | <i>E. coli</i> | 5 | 2 | 24 | 1 |
| | enterococci | 5 | 2 | 24 | 1 |
| TECTA-B16 | Total coliform | 5 | 0 | 12.5 | 0.8 |
| | <i>E. coli</i> | 5 | 0 | 11.75 | 0.8 |
| | enterococci | 6 | 0 | 12 | 0.7 |
| qPCR | enterococci | 20 | 5 | 6 | 3.3 |
| HTS | | 60 ¹ | 30 ² | 60 ³ | 30 |

*** Was run inside lab with samples ready to test

*** Does not consider:

1. Cost / time for transportation to lab
2. Cost for trained lab tech or microbiologist

TECTA - PDS

Schang *et al.* (2016). Evaluation of techniques for measuring microbial hazards in bathing waters: A comparative study. *PloS one*, 11(5), e0155848.

Remote locations- Indigenous Communities

**E. coli
Detected!**

Challenges

- Significant delays transporting samples from highly remote sites; not well served by existing lab infrastructure
- High overall cost due to transportation
- Loss of validity of samples (estimated at 25%)

Chosen solution

- Install Tecta on-site in remote communities for all DW samples
- Capability of expanding use to other water types

Outcomes

- Faster results – increased public safety within First Nations communities
- Reduced costs
- Still maintain 100% integrity of results
- Self management combined with Health Canada support for networking; automated reporting

“The biggest benefit for us is the shorter timespan for bacteria results. It is also an advantage to be able to receive emails confirming results from the TECTA™ B16, which helps eliminate any human error,” says Jacobs. “In addition to using the machine for testing our distribution network, we hope to eventually use the TECTA™ B16 for all our water samples, including well water and recreational water.”



TECTA-PDS

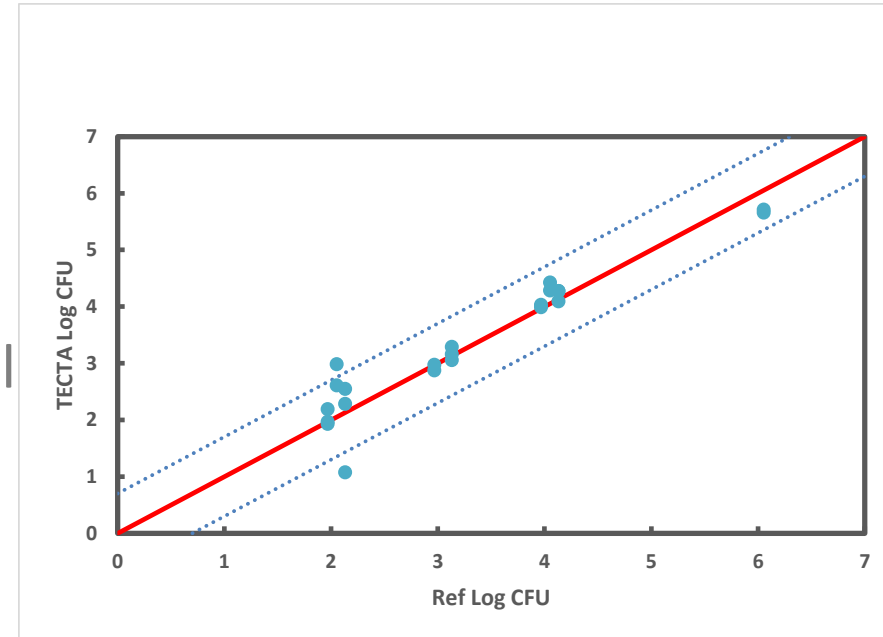
**Larry Jacobs, Environmental Health Technician,
Kahnawake Shakotila'takenhas Community Services**

Enterococcus - New Test

E. coli
Detected!

- Enterococcus test

- Enzyme based
- Selectivity with ISO Method 7899 (Slanetz & Bartley)
- Calibration procedure identical to *E. coli*
- Initial validation shows similar performance
- External validation partners in US, Australia and Singapore



In Summary...

A red circular badge with a white border and a drop shadow, containing the text "E. coli Detected!" in white. The badge is positioned in the top right corner of the slide, overlapping a red decorative bar that extends from the left edge.

- Rapid, automated TECTA™ B16 system for *E. coli*, Total Coliform, Fecal Coliform
- Simple and robust for use in remote locations outside a laboratory
- Rapid detection (most positive samples in 2 h to 12 h)
- Approved for drinking water at <1 CFU/100 mL level
- Comparison with other methods shows good agreement for enumeration
- New test for Enterococcus bacteria now available

Acknowledgements

E. coli
Detected!

- Funding for this work:



**NSERC
CRSNG**

Natural Sciences and Engineering
Research Council Canada
CRD, I2I programs



Ontario

Province of Ontario
OCE, MRIS, MOECC



SOUTHERN ONTARIO WATER CONSORTIUM
LE CONSORTIUM POUR L'EAU
DU SUD DE L'ONTARIO

- More information:

See TECTA-PDS at Booth M23 in Exhibition

TECTA-PDS

Questions?

For more information

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