

Table 1 Detection of *Mycobacterium* spp. in drinking-water samples from Basra governorate using a monophasic-biphasic culture setup

<i>Mycobacterium</i> spp.	<i>n</i>	Oxidase	Catalase	Pigmentation	Nitrate reduction	Tween 80 hydrolysis	Tellurate reduction	5% NaCl tolerance	H ₂ S production	Arylsulfatase	Pyrazinamidase test	Urease test	MacConkey agar w/out crystal violet
<i>M. marinum</i>	15	+	-	P	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	-
<i>M. kansasii</i>	30	+	+	P	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
<i>M. simiae</i>	20	+	+	P	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+
<i>M. szulgai</i>	19	+	+	S	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-
<i>M. xenopi</i>	16	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-
<i>M. avium</i> complex	21	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
<i>M. malmoense</i>	11	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
<i>M. fortuitum</i>	37	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
<i>M. chelonae</i>	50	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+
<i>M. abscessus</i>	33	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+

n = no. of isolates; P = photochromogens; S = scotochromogens; + = positive; - = negative.