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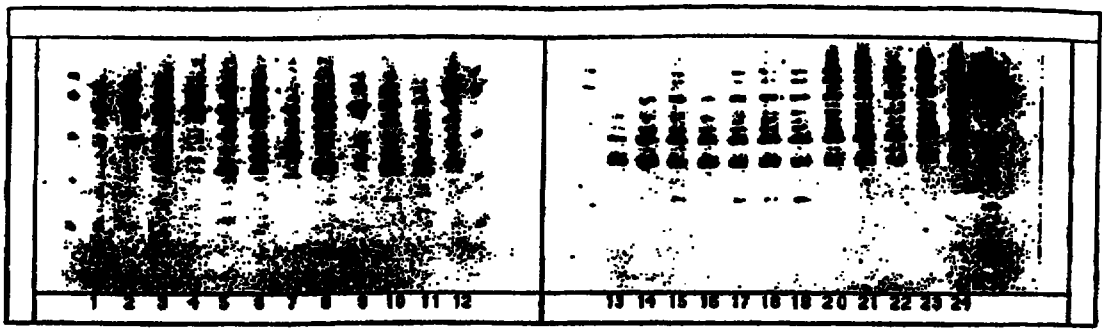
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(57) Abstract

A method, diagnostic sequences and primers are provided that are useful in the identification of the *Escherichia coli* 0157:H7 serotype. The method first involves the identification of a RAPD-amplified DNA fragment common to 0157:H7 *Escherichia coli*, the identification of the most conserved regions of that fragment, and the preparation of specific primers useful for detecting the presence of a marker within the fragment whereby that set of primers is then useful in the identification of all 0157:H7 *Escherichia coli*.