Table 1 Microbial plate counts of 31 *qishta* samples from various manufacturers in Lebanon

Microorganism	No. of positive samples/total no. of samples analysed	Mean (SD) plate counts (log$_{10}$ CFU/g)	Minimum	Maximum
Total aerobic count	31/31	4.42 (0.10)	2.41	7.01
Total coliforms	31/31	3.23 (0.09)	1.39	5.43
Escherichia coli	10/31	3.01 (0.60)	2.30	4.03
Enterobacteriaceae	31/31	3.67 (0.06)	1.74	5.66
Yeasts & moulds	31/31	4.54 (0.08)	2.19	7.27
Staphylococcus aureus	30/31	3.03 (0.10)	0.05	4.63
Salmonella spp.	2/31	-ᵃ	-	-
Listeria monocytogenes	13/31	-ᵃ	-	-

ᵃ*Salmonella* spp and L. monocytogenes *are reported as present or absent.*
SD = standard deviation; CFU = colony-forming units.