

**Table 2 Partial distribution of different environmental Mycobacterium spp. isolated from soil in a Caspian Sea province in areas of high and low tuberculosis prevalence**

Species	High-prevalence area		Low-prevalence area		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<i>M. fortuitum</i>	16	34.0	19	16.6	35	21.8
<i>M. flavescens</i>	10	21.2	23	20.1	33	20.5
<i>M. chelonae</i>	6	12.8	21	18.4	27	16.8
<i>M. thermoresistibile</i>	5	10.6	15	13.1	20	12.4
<i>M. phlei</i>	–	–	14	12.3	14	8.7
<i>M. triviale</i>	4	8.5	6	5.3	10	6.2
<i>M. terrae</i>	–	–	8	7.1	8	4.9
<i>M. gordonae</i>	–	–	4	3.5	4	2.5
<i>M. fallax</i>	2	4.3	2	1.8	4	2.8
<i>M. gastri</i>	3	6.4	–	–	2	1.9
<i>M. marinum</i>	1	2.1	1	0.9	2	1.2
<i>M. kansasii</i>	–	–	1	0.9	1	0.6
Total	47	100.0	114	100.0	161	100.0