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**Houng**

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- [54] **SIMPLE PCR TECHNIQUE FOR DETECTING AND DIFFERENTIATING BACTERIAL PATHOGENS**
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- [58] **Field of Search** ..... 435/91.2, 6; 536/24.33, 536/24.32

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A simple polymerase chain reaction procedure is described for the detection and differentiation of Shigella from other pathogenic *Escherichia coli* isolates, such as EIEC and EPEC. Serotype specific primers derived from the rfc genes of different Shigella strains are used to identify the most prominent Shigella serotypes, such as *S. sonnei*, *S. flexneria* 1 through 5, and *S. dysenteriae* 1. More than 95% of Shigellosis cases reported could be identified by the serotype specific primers described.

**11 Claims, 1 Drawing Sheet**