Abstract
Microbiological studies were performed on samples of artisanal cheeses produced at small scale in three Venezuelan States. Total DNA isolates from cheese, whey and milk, were analyzed with simple and multiple polymerase chain reaction (PCR) technique, employing oligonucleotides specific to several bacterial species. The obtained results prove the occurrence of the acid-lactic bacteria Lactobacillus fermentum, Lactobacillus delbrueckii subsp. bulgaricus and Streptococcus thermophilus, and the absence of pathogenic bacteria like Listeria monocytogenes, Salmonella, Shigella and Escherichia coli from curd and cheese samples studied.

Keywords
Lactobacillus, Streptococcus, dairy products, PCR.