Abstract

Microbial forensics is a young field that emerged in response to the Anthrax attacks in September and October 2001, later known as Amerithrax. At this time, forensic microbiology aimed to analyze microbial evidence associated with bioterrorism and biocrime. With the onset of metabarcoding and the advent of new generation sequencing, it has been possible to extend the scope of forensic microbiology. Nowadays microbial forensics can be applied in environmental monitoring, forensic identification based on personalized microbiomes, study of the influence of microorganisms on corpse decomposition, investigation of sexually motivated crime, archaeological and anthropological investigations, interpretation of forensic toxicology results and in the clarification in cases of sudden death.

Keywords: bioterrorism, B-agens, environmental monitoring, microbiome, identification, PMI, stability of forensic samples, sexome, SIDS