

ETIOLOGIC AGENTS OF BOVINE MASTITIS FROM ZONA DA MATA IN ALAGOAS STATE

Araújo, D. K. G. O.¹, Nascimento, J. S.¹, Santos, E. M. C.¹, Júnior, A. D. N.², Silva, K. P. C.²

^{1,2} UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DE ALAGOAS, Campus Arapiraca, Unidade de Ensino Viçosa (Fazenda São Luiz, S/N, Zona Rural, Viçosa – AL)

The infection of the mammary gland in cows produces numerous economic losses due to the decreasing of milk productivity and quality, as well as interfering directly in the dairy industry. This study aimed to diagnose bovine mastitis by indirect methods. Subclinical mastitis was detected through the strip cup test and the California Mastitis Test (CMT) associated with microbiological milk culture. 380 mammary quarters were studied in 95 cows from five farms located at Zona da Mata in Alagoas. The percentile of teats affected by subclinical mastitis was 28.42% (108/380), from these, intense mastitis was found in 57.4% (62/108). The negative teats represented 71.58% (272/380) of the samples. From the number of positive quarters for subclinical mastitis, 57.41% (62/108) was positive for microbiological diagnosis. A total of 141 microorganisms were isolated, with an average of 2.27 found per infected teat. The most frequently isolated genera were *Staphylococcus* sp 43.97% (62/141), *Corynebacterium* sp 19.85% (28/141), *Streptococcus* sp 11.34% (16/141), *Bacillus* sp 6.38% (9/141), *Micrococcus* sp 7.09% (10/141), *Enterobacteriaceae* 4.25% (6/141), *Candida* sp 3.5% (5/141) *Pasteurella* sp 2.12% (3/141) and *Pseudomonas* sp 0.7% (1/141). A study about bovine mastitis conducted in the dairy region of Rondon in Pará State, isolated bacteria in 15.6% milk cows (37/237), the most frequently identified bacteria groups were: *Staphylococcus* spp. coagulase-negative (32.3%), *Staphylococcus aureus* (17.7%), *Staphylococcus intermedius* (1.6%), *Streptococcus* spp. (4.8%), *Corynebacterium* spp. (4.8%), and *Staphylococcus* spp. coagulase negative / *S. aureus* (1.6%). These results differ from other research in that the isolation of *Staphylococcus* sp (63.12%), *Corynebacterium* sp (24.8%) and *Streptococcus* sp (1.55%) were more frequent. We conclude that subclinical mastitis is the most prevalent disease in dairy cattle from Zona da Mata region, caused by multi-etiological agents and commonly associated with *Staphylococcus* sp bacteria, that can originate a contagious mastitis. We suggest the adoption of hygienic measures in the milking process and a more frequent monitoring of mastitis to improve the bovine milk quality.

Keywords: Diagnosis, cows, mammary gland