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Seroprevalence of bovine brucellosis in dairy cattle of Bikaner, Rajasthan

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Abstract

Brucella is one of the most important causative agent in bovine abortion in dairy cattle and have significance zoonotic importance in developing countries. The protocol was tested on different 168 blood samples (paired=80,unpaired=8) from HF cross dairy cattle, with a history of abortion, retention of placenta or repeat breeding or any combination of these and known to be not vaccinated, in and around Bikaner city. Out of all blood samples, 26 (32.5%) were found positive which were subjected to RBPT using Rose Bengal colored antigen. Preventive and control measures should be implemented and pursued more strictly to reduce and/or eradicate brucellosis.

Keywords: *Brucella*, RBPT, abortion

Introduction

Bovine abortion caused by major bacterial agents during mid to late gestation are *Brucella* spp., *Chlamydia* spp., *Salmonella* spp., *Campylobacter* spp., *Listeria monocytogenes* and *Coxiella burnetii* [1, 2, 3]. Bovine brucellosis is one of the most important diseases worldwide, associated with bovine abortion, caused by Gram negative coccobacilli bacteria of the genus *Brucella*. Brucellosis is spread from the vaginal discharge and aborted fetal material of infected cow. Vaccination and quarantine are important for controlling and eradication of brucellosis. Zoonotic point of view it is very important disease causing undulant fever in humans.

Materials and Methods

In the present investigation on bovine abortion was carried out by RBPT for diagnosis of *Brucella* spp.

Sample collection

A total of 168 blood samples from HF cross dairy cattle with a history of abortion, retention of placenta or repeat breeding or any combination of these and known to be not vaccinated, in and around Bikaner city.

Table 1: Places and number of samples collected

Sr. No.	Place of Samples collection	Blood Samples	
		I	II
1.	Dairy farms	68	68
2.	TVCC, CVAS, Bikaner Rajuvas	13	10
3.	Polyclinic AHD, Bikaner	3	-
4.	Individual owner	4	2
5.	Total	88	80

I = First sampling at the time/near the time of abortion or retention of placenta.

II = Second sampling after 2-3 weeks of I sample collection.

TVCC = Teaching Veterinary Clinical Complex

CVAS= College of Veterinary and Animal Science

RAJUVAS= Rajasthan University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences

AHD = Animal Husbandry Department

At the time of blood sampling- II, 8 animals were not available due to sold out.

Procedure

For separation of serum, 5 ml. blood sample that was collected from each selected cow in a sterile test tube and kept in upright position at room temperature for about two hours, and then clot was detached from the wall with glass rod and these were transported to the laboratory of department on ice. The sera were isolated by centrifugation at 2500 rpm for three minutes. The test was carried out following the method described by Morgan *et al.*, 1978^[4].

Serum samples and RBPT antigen were brought to the room temperature and one drop (30 µl) of serum was taken on a clean, dry and non-greasy glass slide by micropipette. The antigen bottle was shaken well to ensure homogenous suspension and one drop of antigen was added. The test serum and antigen were mixed with the help of a clean sterilized toothpick and slide was rotated for four minutes. Negative control was prepared by adding known brucellosis negative serum and positive control was prepared by adding antigen to known brucellosis positive serum. The result was noted during four minutes. This test was carried out for both blood sampling I and II.

RBPT antigen and normal saline solution were mixed thoroughly on a separate glass slide in order to detect auto agglutination.

Results and Discussion

Definite clumping/agglutination was considered as positive reaction, where as no clumping/agglutination was considered as negative reaction. Gradding/degree of agglutination as per duration of time was following (Alton *et al.*, 1975)^[5].

(i)	0-30 sec., quick	=	++++
(ii)	30sec.-2 min.	=	+++
(iii)	2-3 min.	=	++
(iv)	3-4 min.	=	+
(v)	Negative	=	-

All 88 and 80 serum samples were subjected to RBPT using Rose Bengal colored antigen, out of which 19 (21.59%) were found positive i. e. showing agglutination reaction in sampling I and 26 (32.5%) in sampling II. Similar rate 32.92 % of brucellosis has been reported by 33% of Sahin *et al.* (2004)^[6], Otlu *et al.* (2008)^[7], 31.3% by Barkallah *et al.* (2014)^[8], and almost similar to 35.30% by Mitat *et al.* (2008)^[9], whereas lower as compared to findings 44% by Chauhan *et al.* (2000)^[10], 60% by Chakraborty *et al.* (2000)^[11], 58.9% of Genc *et al.* (2005)^[12], and, 50% by Chachra *et al.* (2009)^[13], and 46.6% by Jain *et al.* (2013)^[14].

The 32.5% seropositivity of brucellosis in current study is higher as compared to 27.7% of Akakpo *et al.* (1986)^[15], 22.50% by Sanga *et al.* (1986)^[16], 18.32 by Sarkar *et al.* (1987)^[17], 3.7% to 9.5% of Bloch *et al.* (1991)^[18], 6.6% (123/1860) by Mehra *et al.* (2000)^[19], 18.53% by Nasir *et al.* (2004)^[20], 11.76% (8/38) by Ghodasara *et al.* (2010)^[21], 13.7% by Boukary *et al.* (2013)^[3], 13% by Nitu *et al.* (2013)^[22], 21.5% by Mathew *et al.* (2015)^[23] and 9.3% by Mayada *et al.* (2016)^[24].

The serological study of present investigation by RBPT for *Brucella* is 32.5% lower than 100% reported by Chahota *et al.* (2003)^[25]. Present study suggests that abortion in cattle might be due to infectious agents other than *Brucella*.

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