

ISOLATION OF MYCOPLASMA FROM THE NASAL CAVITY OF CATTLE

Aušra Gabinaitienė, Jūratė Šiugždaite

Department of Infectious Diseases, Lithuanian Veterinary Academy, Tilžės str. 18, LT-47181 Kaunas, Lithuania
Phone: +370 37362392; e-mail: gabinaitiene@lva.lt; jurate.saugzdaite@lva.lt

Summary. The aim of performed research was to determinate the prevalence of genus *Mycoplasma* in healthy cattle of dairy, beef and dairy–beef breeds and identify *Mycoplasma* species. In European dairy and beef cattle industry mycoplasma infections, especially *Mycoplasma bovis*, is one of the leading causes of economic losses. The infection can be introduced into *M. bovis*-free herds by clinically healthy calves or young cattle – mycoplasma carriers. They shed mycoplasma through their nasal discharge for months or years.

One hundred and five nasal swabs of 110, 310 and 510 days old healthy cattle of dairy, beef and dairy–beef breeds were examined. The study showed that 27.61 % of animals are mycoplasma carriers. Using biochemical and antigenic characterization of mycoplasma three species were identified: *Mycoplasma bovis* (54.1 %), *Mycoplasma dispar* (37.8 %) and *Mycoplasma bovirhinis* (8.1 %). According to MINITAB 14.20 program, *M. bovis* was isolated mostly from cattle of dairy–beef breed at 110 and 310 days of age ($p < 0.05$). *Mycoplasma dispar* was isolated mostly from the same breed at the age of 110 days ($p < 0.05$). From the animals of beef breed *Mycoplasma bovis* was isolated mostly at the age of 110 days.

Keywords: cattle, nasal cavity, mycoplasma, carriers.