

Mastitis and death of a Corriedale ewe associated with *Mycoplasma* spp. infection in Buenos Aires province

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INTRODUCTION

Mycoplasma spp. infections are associated with different clinical syndromes in ruminants, although clinical diseases associated with *Mycoplasma*-infections are scarce in small ruminants of Argentina. Contagious agalactia due to *M. agalactiae* and *M. capricolum* infection is exotic in the region, although *M. agalactiae* was detected by PCR. Therefore, strict surveillance of these pathogens is needed.

AIM

We report a case of severe mastitis and death of a 7-years-old Corriedale ewe in a flock from Buenos Aires province

MATERIALS & METHODS

Post mortem examination was carried out in an ewe that had delivered twin lambs 15 days before clinical disease was detected and died. Tissue samples were fixed in 10% buffered formalin solution for histopathological analysis. Mammary gland and lung was cultured in Columbia blood agar, Mc Conkey and Hafliks modified media. DNA was extracted from mammary gland and lung, a nested-PCR for *Mycoplasma* spp. was applied and amplicons were sequenced.

RESULTS

Post mortem findings: supramammary lymphadenomegaly; enlarged and firm mammary gland with cyanotic skin and superficial edema, and multiple caseous whitish foci in the mammary parenchyma (picture 1, arrow); similar caseous foci were observed in the caudal-ventral lobes of the right lung (picture 2, arrow).

Histopathology: chronic multifocal necrotizing severe mastitis and fibrinous bronchopneumonia with multifocal necrosis and fibrinous pleurisy.

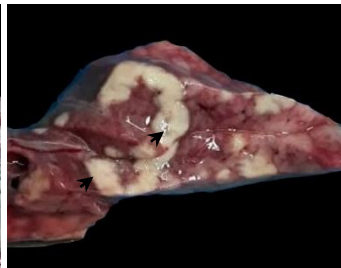
Bacteriology: *Mycoplasma* spp. was isolated from the mammary gland in Hafliks modified media (picture 3).

PCR and sequencing: *Mycoplasma* spp. nested-PCR was positive. *M. arginini* and *M. bovis* in mammary gland and lung, were detected, respectively.

Picture 1: Mammary gland



Picture 2: Lung



Picture 3: *Mycoplasma* colonies



CONCLUSIONS

Pathological findings were similar to the described in cases of contagious agalactia, therefore, *Mycoplasma* speciation was decided in order to discard the presence of this exotic disease. *M. arginini* has been associated with mastitis in goats and it has been isolated from mammary gland and lung from sheep. *M. bovis* is commonly associated with pneumonia in lambs. Unfortunately, Columbia blood agar and Mc Conkey cultures were contaminated, therefore, the presence of other bacterial pathogens was not possible.