

CONVENTIONAL AND MOLECULAR DETECTION OF *MYCOBACTERIUM BOVIS* IN ABURDEN ANGUS CATTLE AND HUMAN CONTACT IN THE NEW VALLEY GOVERNORATE, EGYPT

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ABSTRACT

In this work, *Mycobacterium bovis* isolated and identified by microbiological culture and RT-PCR from emergency slaughtered aburden Angus cattle suffering from chronic mastitis and respiratory manifestations in private farm not perform tuberculin test in New Valley governorate, Egypt. Furthermore, other contact cattle, sheep and human in the farm examined by ELISA, found that 22.2% (4/18) cattle in the farm were positive, with complete absence of infection in the sheep and contact persons in the farm. The high percent of *M. bovis* was detected by RT-PCR (83.33%) followed by microbiological culture (72.22%) in slaughtered cattle. The highest percent of tubercles lesion observed in thoracic cavity followed by the lung then the udder. From our study we can concluded that, *M. bovis* isolated and identified from imported Aburden Angus cow in New Valley Governorate. Also, ELISA test need further evaluation before using as an exploratory test for diagnosis of BTB in animal and human.

Key words: Post mortem inspection, bovine tuberculosis, RT-PCR, ELISA.

INTRODUCTION

Tuberculosis (TB) considers one of the greatest dangerous chronic, zoonotic infectious diseases, which risking consumers' health and almost species of animal causing socioeconomic implications due to reduction of productivity of tuberculous animal and condemnation of slaughtered carcasses (Sa'idu *et al.*, 2015). Bovine TB (BTB) is caused by *Mycobacterium bovis* (*M. bovis*), aerobic bacterium, needs long period for growth and it is related to mycobacterium tuberculosis complex, itcausing intercellular infection, which, result in a chronic disease in animal. In addition to that it infects humans through inhalation, ingestion, and by contact with mucous membranes and broken skin (Bilal *et al.*, 2010; Elsify *et al.*, 2013). The name of TB comes from "tubercle" which affect lymph nodes (LNs); it remains for months or years to appear. However, TB

may be latent without causing any signs, it also causing general illness from; fluctuating fever, diarrhea, weakness, loss of appetite, loss weight, protruding LNs until death of diseased animal and man, which maybe delay for many years after the infection (Nalapa *et al.*, 2017).

BTB is serious zoonotic disease chiefly in developing countries where it is endemic there (Pandey *et al.*, 2013). In Egypt, there are no official reports about the spreading map of TB infection (OIE, 2009).

BTB is detected either through skin testing (single cervical tuberculin) testing of cattle through surveillance program (covers the individual cattle of small holders) or in abattoir through observing LNs and lungs tubercles in post slaughter inspection then, confirmed by microscopic detection of acid fast bacilli or by growth on selective media. So perfect meat inspections reduce the chance of introducing BTB into food chain, allows the veterinary official team to trace the infected animal herd origin to test them and to eliminate infected animals. Treatment of infected animals are expensive and need long period

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to eliminate the disease (Neill *et al.*, 2005; Abdellrazeq *et al.*, 2016; Gizaw *et al.*, 2017).

PCR assays can be used for easily identification of mycobacterium. Amplification of the Mycobacterium DNA by PCR has sensitivity equal or greater than that of the culture method consequently, it is more reliable technique for rapid diagnosis (Ramadan *et al.*, 2012).

Enzyme Linked Immunosorbant Assay (ELISA) from the important serological diagnostic tests used for BTB detection. It is a sensitive method for antibodies measurement in the sera of tuberculous animals (Elsify *et al.*, 2013).

This work aimed to diagnosis and molecular identification of *M. bovis* in emergency slaughtered cow and examination of all animals as well as farm workers with available ELISA test, in a private farm in Elkharga city, New Valley governorate.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Animals: Study were conducted in private farm containing 19 imported A burden Angus cattle, 18 native breed sheep and 10 human contacts in Elkharga city, the capital of New Valley Governorate. It is a part of the oasis, which is located to the west of the Nile Valley. Wherein one cow emergency slaughtered with a history of chronic mastitis and pneumonia that not respond to treatment. There no history about tuberculin test examination. The data of the animals and farm workers in the farm were recorded.

Post slaughter examination.

Postmortem inspection for the presence of tubercles according to Torell *et al.* (2003).

Tubercles samples.

18 tuberculous LNs were collected, identified and preserved at -20°C till transported on icebox to the TB unit in Animals Health Researches Institute, EL-Dokki, Egypt, for *Mycobacterium* isolation and identification.

• Blood samples.

46 blood samples were obtained from 18 cattle, 18 sheep and 10 farm workers without anticoagulant for serum separation for ELISA test, which performed in TB unit in Animals Health Researches Institute, EL-Dokki, Egypt.

• Culture of Mycobacterium,

Isolation of Mycobacterium spp. on selective media according to Marks technique (Ratledge and Stanford, 1982) as follow:

Suspected tissues were cut into small pieces and mixed with 2 ml sterile distilled water, ground in the grinder until suspension was obtained. Two ml of 4 % H₂SO₄ were added to the mixture then incubated at 37 °C/30 minutes. The mixture was diluted with 16 ml of sterile distilled water and centrifuged at 3000 rpm/20 minutes, the supernatant fluid was poured off into disinfectant (5 % phenol solution) and the obtained sediment was re-suspended in 0.5 ml sterile distilled water. Using sterile plastic Pasteur pipette, some of the suspended deposit were inoculated onto two Lowenstein-Jensen slants (one tube with glycerol and the other with pyruvate for each sample) and Middle brook 7 H10, 7 H 11 agar media. Then all tubes were incubated at micro aerophilic condition at 37 °C and examined daily during the first week and then every week for at least two months. The media checked weekly for growth of acid-fast bacilli, and identified microscopically by Ziehl-Neelsen (ZN) stain according to (Robbe-Austerman *et al.*, 2013).

Real time PCR used for detection of *M.bovis*.

- (RT-PCR) kit (biovision).

DNA extraction: Each piece of infected tissue was homogenized in PBS (0.14M NaCl, 4mM KCl, 8mM Na₂HPO₄, 2mM KH₂PO₄, pH 6.5 buffer) according to Wards *et al.* (1995). Isolation of mycobacterial DNA from infected tissues: The extraction carried out according to instruction of extraction kit (Sigma).

Detection of *M. bovis* complex: Using kits obtained from biovision®. Real-time PCR was performed according to Michel *et al.* (2011) using MTplexdte-RT-qPCR Test (Edifici-Quórum3, Spain) that comprises a series of species - specific targeted reagents designed for detection of all species contained in the *Mycobacterium bovis* complex by the following reagents: 0.375 nM of each primer (*Mbovis*.88.F: 5'CGC CTT CCT AACCAG AAT TG-3' and *Mbovis*.88.R: 5' GGA GAG CGC CGT TGTAGG-3'), 10 µL of Fast Eva Greenq PCR Master Mix (Biotium, USA) in a 20 µL reaction. Thermocycler (QuantStudio7, Life Technologies, USA) programme was as follows: 95°C/5min, followed by 35 cycles at 95°C/15sac, 63°C/20sac, and 72°C/30 sac, with the reading cycle length. The curve denaturation were at 72–99°C, with intervals of fluorescence at every 1% rise in temperature (Sales *et al.*, 2014). The reaction was run in Applied Biosystem Step One TM Real Time PCR System, FAM fluorogenic signal was collected, and the cycle threshold of the reactions was detected by Step One™ software version 2.2.2 (Life Technology). The threshold cycle (CT) defined as 10 times the standard deviation of the mean baseline fluorescence emission calculated for PCR cycles 3–15. For a sample to be considered positive, the corresponding amplification curve had to exhibit three distinct phases (geometric,

linear, and plateau) that characterize the progression of the PCR reaction.

- **ELISA test**

Detection of *M. bovis* in serum samples of contact animals and farm workers of infected cow using ELISA as following; Serum samples were observed by *Bovine Tuberculosis Antibody ELISA kit, Wuhan Unibiotest Co., Ltd*, is an indirect ELISA Assay for the qualitative detection of *M.bovis* antibody in serum. Additionally the Ag was compatible with sheep and human serum samples. The test were performed according to manufacture's instruction.

RESULTS

Postmortem Inspection: TB characteristic lesions are well known as granulomas most commonly noted in the lungs and LNs. Our postmortem inspection declared in figures (1&2). Figure (1) from (A – E) declared TB lesions in LNs as yellowish caseation and calcification of mesenteric, precurar, prescapular, supramammary and bronchial, LNs. Figure (2) from (F – H) revealed the TB lesions in udder, intercostal LNs and lung tissues respectively.

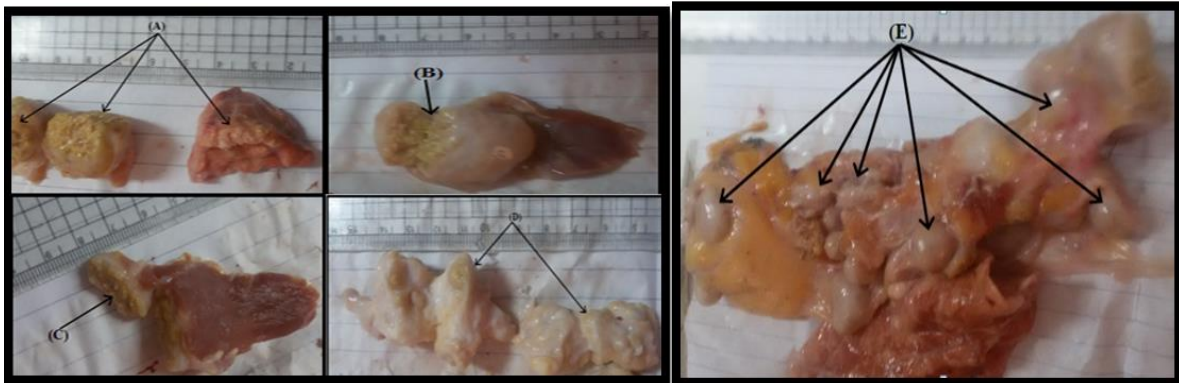


Figure (1): Declaration of TB Detected Lesions in Different LNs

Gross lesions of LNs sampling tissues, most LNs were in advanced stage of tuberculosis. (A, B, C) declared yellowish caseation and calcification different LNs. Inprescapular & precurar LNs. (D) viewed the caseation and calcification on the supramammary LNs (E) observed the tubercles in bronchial LNs.

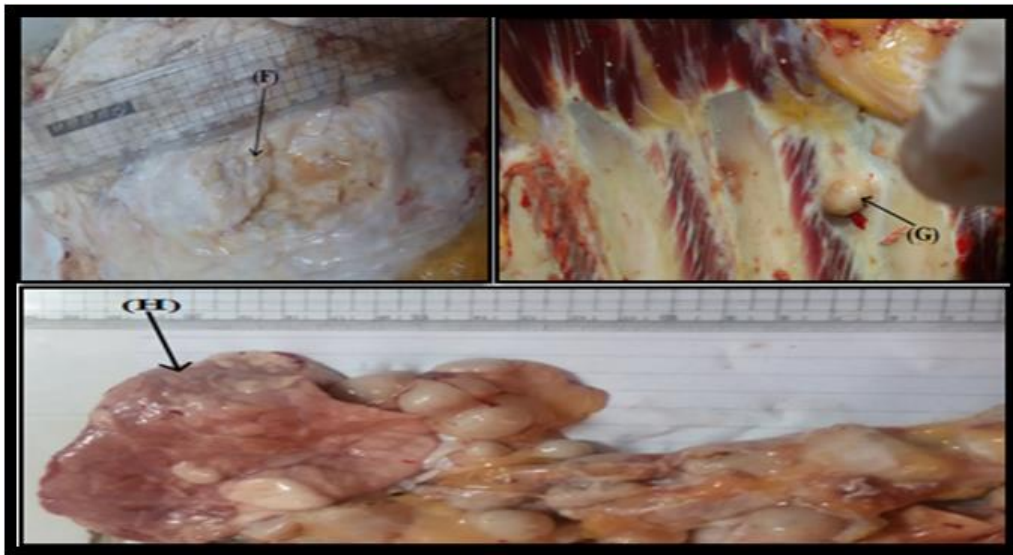


Figure (2): Declaration of TB Detected Lesions in Different Organs

Gross lesions of TB infected organs, which were in advanced stage of tuberculosis. (F) Represented the infected TB udder, which were mainly calcified and granulated. (G) The tubercle lesion appear between ribs and intercostal muscle with yellowish of adipose tissues that indicate the severity and advancement of the infection stage. (H) Lung tissue has pale coloration with large numerous tubercles.

Real time PCR



Figure (3): The amplification blot of tuberculosis samples.

Results: Figure (3) illustrated the amplification blot of tubercles samples, Analysis for the amplification blot in its linear form declared that the photo consisted of 4 positive examined tubercles samples at cycle 12 and one control positive sample and three negative samples.

- 1- This photo consisted of four positive samples at cycle 12 and one control positive sample.
- 2- There are three negative samples.
- 3- The used reference dye is (FAM).
- 4- The run is for 45 cycles.

Analysis for the amplification blot in its linear form:

Microbial culture: From 18 tubercles, lesions examined by culture isolated colonies were identified by morphology and staining by ZN stain. only 15 lesions were positive.

Table 1: Correlation between different tests in diagnosis of mycobacterium in 18 lesions from the emergency slaughtered a burden Angus carcass.

Lesion	Total lesion	Positive	Negative
Inspection	18	18 (100%)	0 (0%)
Microbiological culture	18	13 (72.22)	5 (27.78%)
RT-PCR	18	15 (83.33)	3 (16.67%)

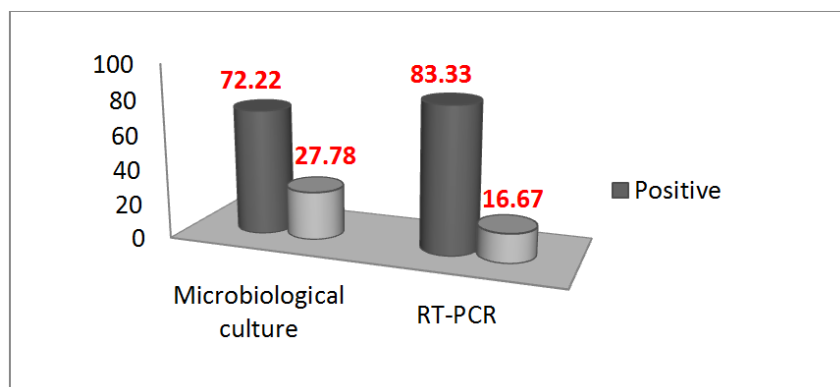


Figure 4: Correlation between different tests in diagnosis of mycobacterium in lesions obtained from the emergency slaughtered aburden Angus carcass.

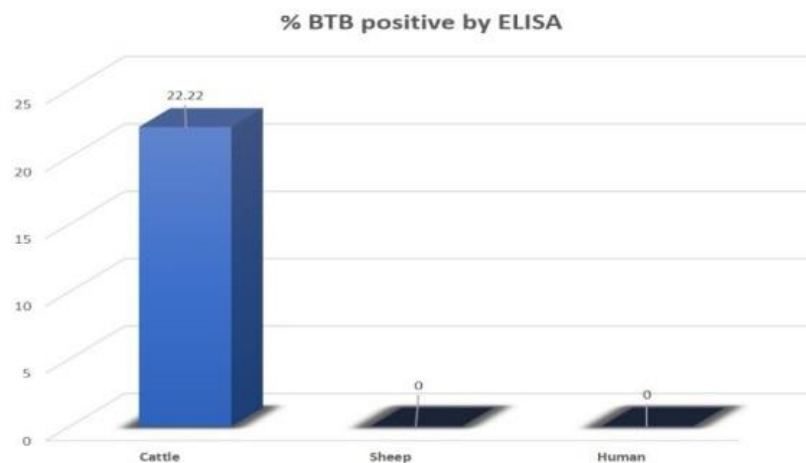
In Figure (4) showed comparison between diagnosis of BTB by different tests, the RT-PCR is highly sensitive to diagnose BTB in lesions followed by mycobacterium culture by 83.33% and 72.22% respectively.

In which serum samples from 18 cattle, 18 sheep and 10 farm workers examined by ELISA, revealed that (figure 5) the prevalence of BTB were four positive for mycobacterium in serum samples of examined cows (4/18) by 22.2%. On other hand, there are no positive serum samples for sheep and human, which meaning that all contact persons and sheep were free from BTB infection. (Table 2) (Figure 5)

Prevalence of mycobacterium in contact cattle, sheep and human

Table 2: Prevalence of *M.bovis* in cow, sheep and contact human in private farm using ELISA.

Species	Total examined	Positive by ELISA	%
Cattle	18	4	22.22
Sheep	18	0	0
Human	10	0	0

**Figure (5):** Prevalence of TB in serum of cow and sheep using ELISA.

DISCUSSION

The main cause which making animalsownerdo not slaughter the suspected animal inside the abattoir is to avoid the quarantine and the other notifiable procedures, so there is no any positive BTB cases report in all Elkharga abattoirs and that is why we detect the positive BTB case accidentally in carcass slaughtered outside the abattoir.

Diagnosis of BTB could be divided mainly into two categories; direct assays (convetional test and PCR) that generally rely on detection of the organism within samples collected at necropsy and indirect assays (detection of cellular or humoral immune response (Mackintosh *et al.*, 2007; Wadhwa *et al.*, 2012). Post slaughter inspection results were illustrated and revealed that most LNs were with high suspicious with tuberculosis for this reason rigorous meat inspections are an important procedure for eradication or constantdecline of zoonotic BTB (Good, 2006; Pavlik, 2006). The obtained results which study the prevalence of BTB in different LNs and carcass organs reported that the highest incidence of BTB by different diagnostic technique recorded (100%) in udder, supramammary LN., followed by lung, bronchial LNs., mesenteric LNs, prescapular LNs. and intercostal LNs. Nearly similar results mentioned by Teklu *et al.* (2004) who found about 83.7% of BTB lesions in the thoracic LNs, followed by 11.6% in mesenteric LNs. Similar results also reported by Elias *et al.* (2008) in Ethiopia and by

Oloya *et al.* (2007) in Uganda, while lower results observed by Gizaw *et al.* (2017) who detected the proportions of BTB lesions in the bronchial 27.9% and 11.6% in mesenteric LNs. The high incidence of BTB in organs depend on the rout of infection (respiration or ingestion).

In confirmation of the infection using microbiological culture and RT-PCR that showed amplification blot in its linear form declared that the photo consisted of 4 positive samples examined tubercles samples at cycle 12 and one control positive sample and three negative samples.

PCR techniques is very important tool for diagnosis and typing of BTB (Mirza *et al.*, 2003). This study comparing between RT-PCR and microbiological culture, the results declared that the detection potency of RT-PCR (83.3%) were higher than microbiological culture (72.2%). Similar results obtained by Abdul Basit *et al.* (2015) and Rocha *et al.* (2017) who found that microbiological culture was the least efficiency in detection of BTB while RT-PCR was the most accurate one.

ELISA test were used for serological examination of all animals and human in this farm; the results were Illustrated showed that 22.2% of cows were mycobacterium positive (4/18). On other hand, sheep and human samples were negative. Nearly similar results were obtained by Al-Fattli (2016) who reported that the overall seroprevalence in cattle was

20.16% using ELISA. However, higher results were observed by Asiak *et al.* (2007) who concluded that 36.3% of cattle were TB positive by ELISA and 43.5% by (Hassanain *et al.*, 2009). On the other hand lower results were established by Koni *et al.* (2015) (1.4%) and Wambua (2015) (3.57%).

Diagnosis of extra-pulmonary BTB is difficult in its early stages, due to nonspecific clinical features (Arikan *et al.*, 1998). ELISA on human sera has excellent sensitivity and specificity that help in early diagnosis of BTB as well as detection of several extrapulmonary cases such as genitourinary TB, miliary TB and ocular TB (Levy *et al.*, 1988; Ahmad *et al.*, 1995; Upadhye *et al.*, 2007). In this study, human samples revealed complete absence of any positive TB case by ELISA.

Higher results were reported by Chen *et al.* (2009) who reported a prevalence of *M. bovis* were (0.34%) among human, Aliyu *et al.* (2013) (0.3%) and (Firdessa *et al.*, 2013) (0.4%). Moreover, Torres-Gonzalez *et al.* (2013) detected high prevalence of latent and pulmonary TB among workers occupationally exposed to cattle infected with *M. bovis* in non-ventilated spaces. This explains our result as this farm was open farm with good ventilation or may be due to short period of contact with the imported infected breed.

Animal breed also play a role in different susceptibility to the TB infection which leading to appearance of infection in specific sensitive breed while other breed in the same farm may not take TB infection (Vordermeier *et al.*, 2012). Moreover, ELISA could be a useful complementary test with tuberculin test in detecting anergic tuberculous animals (subclinical infection) that represent a risk for the rest of the herd.

CONCLUSIONS

In this study we diagnosed *M. bovis* in an emergency slaughtered cow by postmortem inspection, mycobacterium culture and RT-PCR, besides ELISA that performed to detect infection in other four cases from contact animals, so we can conclude that, ELISA is an assistant in BTB diagnosis specially with absence of tuberculin test. Increasing public awareness on the BTB transmission methods.

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COMPETING INTERESTS

All authors are certifying that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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الكشف التقليدي والجزيئي عن السل البقري في ماشية أبردين أنجس والانسان المخالط في محافظة الوادي الجديد ، مصر

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في هذه الدراسة تم عزل ميكروب السل البقري من بقرة من سلالة ابوردين أنجس المستوردة بمزرعة بمحافظة الوادي الجديد لم تقوم باجراء اختبار حيث تم ذبح هذه البقرة اضطراريا خارج المجزر أنها كانت تعاني من التهاب رئوى مزمن والتهاب ضرع ولا تستجيب للعلاج وبالفحص ظاهريا بعد الذبح وجد بها درنات وغدد ليمفاوية متجينة في أماكن مختلفة كالفص الصدري والرئتين والضرع تم أخذ العينات وارسالها الى وحدة السل بمركز بحوث صحة الحيوان وتم عزل الميكروب وتم التعرف عليه باستخدام RT-PCR . وعلاوة على ذلك، الماشية الأخرى والأغنام والانسان المخالطين في المزرعة تم فحصها باختبار الاليزا ووجد 2,2% (١٨/٤) بقرة في المزرعة كانت إيجابية ، مع غياب تام للإصابة في الأغنام والانسان بالمزرعة. من العينات التي تم اخذها وجد اختبار RT-PCR أعلى كفاءة في تشخيص السل البقري من الزرع البكتيري.