Bacteria and fungi associated with abortion in sheep and goat in Menoufiea Governorate

By

Elham I. Atwa[*] and Flourage M. Rady[**]

[*]Bacteriology and [**]Mycology Department, Animal Health Research Institute Shebin El- Kom-Menoufiea

SUMMARY

A total of (120) samples of aborted foeti, vaginal discharage and Placenta were collected from (70) aborted ewes and (50) aborted she goats from Menoufiea Governorate for bacteriological and mycological examination. Swabs from stomach and intestinal contents of aborted foeti as well as liver , spleen, and lungs were collected. The bacteriological examination of aborted foeti, vaginal discharage and Placenta of aborted sheep revealed the isolation of *Brucella melitensis, Campylobacter fetus* subsp.*fetus, Campylobacter fetus* subsp.*venerealis, Listeria monocytogens, Salmonella typhimurium, Salmonella dublin, Escherichia coli* and *Staph. aureus* with the incidences of 21.4%, 11.4%, 7.1%, 8.6%, 5.7%, 2.9%, 1.4% and 1.4%, respectively. While the bacteria isolated from aborted she goats were *Brucella melitensis, Campylobacter fetus* subsp. *fetus, Campylobacter fetus* subsp.*venerealis, Listeria monocytogens, Salmonella typhimurium, Salmonella dublin, Staph. aureus* and *Escherichia coli* with the incidences of 20%, 10%, 6%, 10%, 8%, 4%, 4% and 2%, respectively.

Mycological examination of aborted foeti, vaginal discharage and Placenta of aborted sheep revealed the isolation of *Aspergillus fumigatus, Aspergillus niger, Aspergillus flavus, Candida albicans , Candida krusei, Mucor* spp. *Abisidia* spp. and *Rhodotrula* spp. with incidence of (12.9%,5.7%, 2.9%, 8.6%, 2.9%, 4.3%, 2.9% and 1.4%, respectively). While the fungi isolated from aborted she goats were *Aspergillus fumigatus, Aspergillus niger, Aspergillus flavus, Candida tropicalis, Candida albicans, Mucor* spp., *Rhizopus* spp., *Penicillium* pp. and *Fusarium* spp. with incidence of (14%, 6%, 2%, 10%, 8%, 6%, 4%, 2% and 2%, respectively).

The stomach contents of the aborted foeti of ewes and she goats were the most common seat for the isolation of bacteria and fungi which cause abortion

In vitro the antibiogram test indicated that the different bacterial species were more sensitive to danofloxacin, gentamicin, erythromycin and amoxicllin & clavulanic acid. While the most fungal isolates were sensitive to clotrimazole and miconazole.

PCR (Polymerase chain reaction assay) was a valuable tool for direct and rapid diagnosis of *Brucella melitiensis* and *Aspergillus fumigatus* from aborted foeti specimens. The amplification of 169 and 792 bp fragments from the extracted DNA of *Brucella melitensis,* while 383 bp fragments from the extracted DNA of *Aspergillus fumigatus* were done.

INTRODUCTION

Sheep and goat represent an important sources of meat and milk production as human consumption in Egypt. High need of animal protein in Egypt increases year by year .So to overcome the problem of this deficiency, the maintenance of good fertility in herds is important because the reproductive health of animals is related to the nutritional needs of human population from meat, milk and wool for manufacturing purposes.

These large farms met various problem especially the abortion problem which is initiated through various causes. Abortion is caused by many factors as mechanicl , chemical, nutritional , bacterial and mycotic causes .

Bacterial abortion caused by *Brucella melitiensis , Campylobacter fetus , Listeria monocytogens, Salmonella* spp., *Escherichia coli*, *Leptospira, Staph. aureus, Streptococci, Corynebacterium pyogens* and *Chlamydia* spp. **(Kholeaf *et al*., 1977 , Butachaiah and Khera ,1982 , Bajmocy *et al*., 1987, Plagemann, 1989** and **Sargison *et al*.,2001).**

Mycotic abortion caused by *Aspergillus* spp. *Candida* spp. *Rhodotorula* spp. *Absidia* spp., *Alternaria* spp. and *Mucor* spp. **(Pal *et al*., 1985 , Pal, 1988** and **Verma *et al*., 1999).**

Brucellosis is a zoonotic disease that cause abortion, fetus death and genital infections in animals and humans . The illness initially presents as fever and may later affecting various organs and tissues (**Redkar *et al*., 2001).** Brucellosis is considered one of the major problem affecting sheep and goats, producing many economic losses due to abortion and infertality (**Butachaiah and Khera, 1982**). Sheep and goats are mainly affected by *Brucella melitiensis* (**Wilson and Miles, 1975).**

Vibronic abortion of sheep and goat are characterized by abortion during the last half of gestation period , the disease is extermely sporadic . The incidence of abortion in sheep and goat occur due to *Campylobacter fetus* may reach up to 70% (**Flaat and Roed, 1980, Bird *et al*., 1984 , Bajmocy *et al*., 1987** and **Varga, 1990) .** While *listeria monocytogens* is a public health concern and affect human whose immune system are inefficient, and in pregnant women cause infant death, meningitis and abortion. In infected sheep and goats, abortion occurred at early stages of pregnancy and stillborn or weak kids (**Plagemann ,1989**).

Fungi are pathogenic to man and animals, and are able to grow saprobiologically. They produce serious disease symptome as inflammation of the genitalia especially endometritis with mucopurulent discharge. They may be responsible for causing infertility, and abortion (**Ainsworth and Austwick, 1973)**. Mycotic abortin is caused by fungal infection of the genital tract by several moulds and yeasts(**Kirkbride, 1990** and **Knudtson and Kirkbride, 1992**).Abortion usually occurred during the last trimester of pregnancy (**Williams *et al*.,1977** and **Corbel,1988**).The fungus *Aspergillus fumigatus* and *Aspergillus niger* were isolated in pure culture from cases of abortion in ewe by several researchers as (**Siddique *et al*., 1976, Cuci, 1987 , Pal, 1988 , Vandyousefi & Zoghi 1988** and **Patnaik *et al*., 1992).**

Mycotic abortion among ewes reflects its isolation for the first time in India. *Aspergillus fumigatus* from cases of metritis and abortion in cows (**Pathak & Mittal, 1966** and **Pal *et al*., 1985**). Mycotoxins in the genital tract are spermicidal to spermatozoa, as documented by **Saxena and Ishaque (1977)**.

Identification of *Brucella melitiensis* and *Aspergillus fumigatus* by isolation was time consuming and the cultures need to be handled with care because of the zoonotic potential. So PCR assay was used for confirmation of presumptive *Brucella melitiensis* and *Aspergillus fumigatus* isolates , allowing the rapid diagnosis and facilitated studies of microorganisms (**Brieker and Halling 1994, Cetinkaya *et al*., 1999, Liliana *et al*., 2004, William *et al*., 2004** and **David *et al*., 2005).**

The aim of this study is to prove the microbiological causes of sheep and goat abortion. This can be established through demonstration, isolation and identification of the bacterial and mycotic agents. On the other hand, their susceptibility to chemotherapeutic agents was done as an aid to overcome this problem and reduce losses. Also, using polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to substitute the conventional cultural methods and rapid diagnosis of *Brucella melitiensis* and *Aspergillus fumigatus.*

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Samples:

120 samples of aborted foeti were obtained under complete aseptic condition from 70 ewes and 50 she goats for bacteriological and mycological examination. Swabs from all number of examined samples of stomach and intestinal contents of aborted foeti as well as liver , spleen , and lungs were collected in a separete sterile containers and were transported as quickly as possible to laboratory in ice box (Animal Health Research Institute – Shebin El-Kom).

Placenta and vaginal discharage were collected aseptically from aborted ewes and she goats by sterile cotton swabs and tranferred immediately to the laboratory , where they were examined bacteriologically and mycologically.

All samples were obtained from aborted ewes and she goats from various private farms at El- Menoufiea Governorate .

Bacteriological examination:

The collected samples including swabs from stomach (abomasal), intestinal contents, vaginal samples and placenta of the aborted foeti as well as internal organs were inoculated directly onto the Albimi agar plates, Cmpylobacter blood free selective agar , blood agar ,MacConkey's bile salt lactose agar, S.S. agar and mannitol salt agar. The inoculated plates for the Albimi agar plates was incubated in aerobic condition in jars or incubator containing 5-10% CO_2 at 37^{o}C. Cmpylobacter blood free selective agar supplemented with antibiotics was incubated in microaerophilic condition of reduced 5% O_2 , 10% CO_2 using CO_2 generating kit and 85% N_2 in plastic anaerobic jar at 37 ^{o}C for 3- 4 days . Then suspected *Brucella* colonies were identified morphologically, staining reactions and biochemically according to **Alton *et al*., (1975)**. While Campylobacter colonies were identified according to **Skirrow and Benjamin, (1980)** and **Prescott and Munroe, (1982)**.

The inoculated plates for the last four media were incubated at 37^{o}C for 24-48 hours, then suspected colonies were picked up and streaked onto nutrient agar slant , incubated at 37^{o}C for 24 hours to obtain pure culture. Suspected colonies were identified morphologically, Gram's stain reactions and biochemically according to the **Koneman *et al*., (1992) and Quinn *et al*., (2002)**.

Mycological examination:

The collected samples,(swabs from stomach (abomasal), intestinal contents, vaginal samples and placenta of the aborted foeti as well as internal organs) were inoculated onto the surface of Sabouraud's dexrose agar (SDA) containing 0.05% chlooramphenicol, and Candida agar (CA), the spot inoculation method was followed to culture fungi . Plates were inoculated at 25^{o}C for a minimum period of 7 days . The inoculated plates were examined for fungal growth , texture, diffusable pigment and morphological descripiton according to **Raper and Fennel, (1965), Carter and Cole, (1990)** and **Koneman *et al*., (1992)**.

Susceptability of isolates to chemotheraputic agents :

The standardized disc agar diffusion method was applied on a pure subcultures to detect the drug of choice against different bacteria isolated strains accordind to **Finegold** and **Martin (1982).** The results were interpretated according to **Koneman *et al*., (1992)**.

While use of filter paper disks (3mm in diameter) were used for preparation of antimycotic disc by soaked disk in 1 ml of drug used and left to complete dryness. Disks from each drug were put in the plate and incubated at 25 ^{o}C for 2-3 days according to **Colle *et al*., (1996)**. The results were interpretated according to **Rippon (1988)**.

Extraction of *Brucella melitiensis* DNA according to Sambrook *et al*., (1989) and William *et al*., (2004):

Five ml of trypticase soy broth were inoculated with bacterial strains at 37^{o}C for 24-48 hours. Spin 1.5 ml of culture in microcentrifuge for 2 minutes until the compact pellet forms and the supernatant discarded. The pellet resuspended in 500ul of TE buffer (Tris-EDTA buffer).Then 50uL of 10% SDS (Sodium dodocyle sulphate) and 3mg/ml proteinase K to give final concentration of 100ug/ml proteinase K in 0.5% SDS then mixed and incubated for 1hour at 37 ^{o}C. Then add 100ul of 5M NaCL and mixed to remove cell wall debris, denaturated protein and polysaccharides complexes. While retaining of the nucelic in the solution. Add apprximately equal volume of chloroform/ isoamyl alcohol then mixed and spins 4 to 6 minutes in a microcentrifuge, the aqueous , viscous supernatant is put in microcentrifuge tube with equal volume phenol / chloroform / isoamyl alcohol, extracted thoroughly, and spin in a microcentrifuge for 5 minutes. The supernatant is put in fresh tube with 0.6 volume isopropanol was added to precipitate nucleic acid , the tube was shaked until the DNA precipitate, then pelleted by spinning at room temperature. DNA was washed with 70% ethanol to remove residual and respinned 5 minutes at room temperature repellet, then remove supernatant and dried pellet by lyophlizer. DNA pellet was redissolved in 100 ul of TE buffer.

Primers for *Brucella melitiensis:*

Specific oligonuclotide multiplex primer assay designated by **Brieker and Halling (1994)** and **Ewalt and Bricker (2000)** as AMOS for rapid differenenation between (Abortus, Melitiensis, Ovis, Suis), The forward primer for *Brucella melitiensis* was (5`-AAA-TCG-CGT-CCT-TGC-TGG-TCT-GA-3`). While the IS711 was used as a reverse primer (5`-TGC-CGA-TCA-CTT-AAG-GGC-CTT-CAT-3`). Specific primer for *Brucella melitiensis* was amplified fragment at:169bp and 792bp. The specific oligonuclotide primers were obtained from MWG Biotech AG and used as pooling primers for AMOS amplification.

***Brucella melitiensis* DNA amplification by PCR:**

DNA samples were denaturated by boilling for 10 minutes before amplification and then quenched on ice. The PCR was performed according to **Bricker and Halling (1994)** in a touchdown thermocycler in a total reaction volume of 50 ul containing 60 mM tris- HCL (pH 9.0), 1.5 mM $MgCL_2$, 15mM $(NH_4)_2SO_4$, 250mM each of the four deoxynucleotide triphosphate, 0.2 mM of each primer, 1 unit of Taq polymerase and 200uL of extracted DNA. The PCR mixtures were over laid with 40uL paraffin oil and ampilified in DNA thermal cycler. Amplification was obtained with 35 cycles. Each cycle involved denaturation at 95^{o}C for 1.5 minutes, annealing at 55 ^{o}C for 2 minutes , and extension at 72 ^{o}C for 2 minutes. The final extension was performed at 72^{o}C for 5 minutes .

For the detection PCR products , a 10 ul of amplified DNA was examined by electrophoresis in 1.5% agarose gel, and visualized with ethidium bromide and UV light . Electrophoresis was carried out for 2 hours at 110 V.

Extraction of *Aspergillus fumigatus* DNA according to Liliana *et al*., (2004) and **David *et al*., (2005):**

Aspergillus fumigatus was grown on 5 ml sabourad dextrose agar in 50 ml flask at 37 ^{o}C for 2 days and then left at 25 ^{o}C to sporulate until mature. The agar was overlaid with 10ml of sterile 0.1% Tween 20, then placed in rotary shaker for 10 minutes. The conidia and hyphal fragments of *Aspergillus fumigatus* was harvested and passed through 5um polycarbonate filter to remove hyphae.Stir bar was used to break hyphae by spinning on a stir plate.Hyphal fragments were pelleted by centrifugation at 3,200 x g for 15 minutes and resuspended in sterile water. The DNA was precipitated with isopropanol and sodium acetate , washed with 70% ethanol and resuspended in Tris-EDTA buffer. The extraction of DNA by (Ultra Clean soil DNA isolation kit) uses a bead matrix and lysis buffer to pulverize cells by horizontal shaking on a vortex mixer, followed by adsorpation of DNA to a spin filter, a wash step, and the dilution of DNA in TE buffer.

Primers for *Aspergillus fumigatus:*

Aspergillus fumigatus specific primer sequence were published by **David *et al*., (2005)** the forward primer for PCR was Fun-18S-995F **(**5`-CGA TYA GAT ACC GTY GTG TC-3`). While the Fun-18S-1217R was a reverse primer **(**5`-TGT CTG GAC CTG GTG AGT TT-3`). Specific primer for *Aspergillus fumigatus* was amplified fragment on :383bp. The specific oligonuclotide primers were obtained from Invitrogen Corp., Carlsbad.

***Aspergillus fumigatus* DNA amplification by PCR:**

2ul of diluted DNA samples were mixed with 20 mM tris- HCL, 50mM KCl, 1.5mM $MgCL_2$, 0.2mM each of the four deoxynucleotide triphosphate, 0.5 mM of each primer and 0.5 unit of Taq DNA polymerase ,in total volume of 20uL. PCR ampilification conditions were 5 minutes of denaturation at 96^{o}C, followed by 40 cycles of 94 ^{o}C for30 seconds, 58 ^{o}C for 30 seconds,and 72 ^{o}C for 30 seconds. The final extension step was performed at 72 ^{o}C for 15 minutes, (**David *et al*., 2005).**

RESULTS

Results in Table (1), show the bacterial and fungal isolates from aborted foeti, vaginal discharge and placenta of aborted ewe. Out of 70 samples, 42 samples (60%) were positive for bacteriological isolates, while 29 samples (41.4%) were positive for mycological isolates.

The bacteria isolated from ewe aborted foeti were *Brucella melitensis, Campylobacter fetus* subsp. *fetus, Campylobacter fetus* subsp.*venerealis, Listeria monocytogens* and *Salmonella typhimurium* with incidence of (10%, 7.1%, 4.3%, 4.3% and 2.9%, respectively). While the bacteriological isolation from vaginal discharge were *Brucella melitensis, Campylobacter fetus* subsp. *fetus, Campylobacter fetus* subsp.*venerealis, Listeria monocytogens, Salmonella typhimurium, Salmonella dublin* and *Escherichia coli* with incidence of (4.3%, 1.4%, 1.4%, 2.9%, 1.4%, 1.4%, and 1.4% respectively). The bacteriological isolation from placenta were *Brucella melitensis, Campylobacter fetus* subsp. *fetus, Campylobacter fetus* subsp.*venerealis, Listeria monocytogens, Salmonella typhimurium, Salmonella dublin* and *Staph. aureus* with incidence of (7.1%, 2.9%,1.4%, 1.4%, 1.4%, 1.4% and 1.4%, respectively).

The fungi isolated from ewe aborted foeti were *Aspergillus fumigatus, Aspergillus niger, Candida albicans, Mucor* spp. and *Abisidia* spp. with incidence of (8.6%,1.4%,4.3%, 2.9% and 1.4%, respectively).The fungi isolated from vaginal discharge were *Aspergillus fumigatus, Aspergillus niger, Aspergillus flavus, Candida albicans , Candida krusei, Mucor* spp. *Abisidia* spp. and *Rhodotrula* spp. with incidence of (2.9%,1.4%, 1.4%, 2.9%, 1.4%, 1.4%, 1.4% and 1.4%, respectively). While the fungi isolated from placenta were *Aspergillus fumigatus, Aspergillus niger, Candida albicans* and *Candida krusei* with incidence of (1.4%, 1.4%, 1.4% and 1.4%, respectively).

In attempt to correlate the relation between various types of bacteria and fungi and their sites of positive aborted ewe foeti, the data obtained were recorded in Table (2).Out of 20 aborted ewe infected with *Brucella melitensis, Campylobacter fetus* subsp. *fetus, Campylobacter fetus* subsp.*venerealis, Listeria monocytogens* and *Salmonella typhimurium* the organisms were present mainaly in the fourth stomach cotents with incidence of 100% in all bacterial isolates, then marked drop in liver with an incidence of (85.7%, 80%,100%, 66.7%, and 100%, respectively), followed by spleen with an incidence of (85.7%, 60%, 66.7%, 66.7% and 50%, respectively).Also lung specimens were the least common seats of infection with an incidence of (71.4%, 60%, 66.7%, 0%, and 50%, respectively) .

While Out of 14 aborted ewe infected with *Aspergillus fumigatus, Aspergillus niger, Candida albicans, Mucor* spp. and *Abisidia* spp. The fungi were present mainaly in the fourth stomach cotents with incidence of 100% in all fungal isolates, then marked drop in lungs with an incidence of (100%, 50%, 66.7%, 100% and 100%, respectively), followed by liver with an incidence of (83.3%, 100%, 66.7%, 50% and 0%, respectively).Also spleen specimens were the least common seats of infection with an incidence of (66.7%, 50%, 33.3%, 0% and 0%, respectively) .

Results in Table (3), show the bacterial and fungal isolates from aborted foeti, vaginal discharge and placenta of aborted goats.Out of 50 samples,32

samples(64%) were positive for bacteriological isolates, while 27 samples (54%) were positive for mycological isolates.

The bacteria isolated from goat aborted foeti were *Brucella melitensis, Campylobacter fetus* subsp. *fetus, Campylobacter fetus* subsp.*venerealis, Listeria monocytogens, Salmonella typhimurium, Salmonella dublin* and *Staph. aureus* with incidence of (12%, 6%, 2%, 4%, 4%, 2% and 2%, respectively). While the bacteriological isolation from vaginal discharge were *Brucella melitensis, Campylobacter fetus* subsp. *fetus, Campylobacter fetus* subsp.*venerealis, Listeria monocytogens, Salmonella typhimurium, Salmonella dublin* and *Escherichia coli* with incidence of (4%, 2%, 2%, 2%, 2%, 2%, 2% and 2% respectively). The bacteriological isolation from placenta were *Brucella melitensis, Campylobacter fetus* subsp. *fetus, Campylobacter fetus* subsp.*venerealis, Listeria monocytogens, Salmonella typhimurium* and *Staph. aureus* with incidence of (4%, 2%, 2%, 4%, 2% and 2%, respectively).

The fungi isolated from ewe aborted foeti of goats were *Aspergillus fumigatus, Aspergillus niger, Candida tropicalis, Candida albicans, Mucor* spp. and *Rhizopus* spp. with incidence of (8%, 4%, 4%, 2%, 2% and 2%, respectively).The fungi isolated from vaginal discharge were *Aspergillus fumigatus, Aspergillus niger, Aspergillus flavus, Candida tropicalis, Candida albicans, Mucor* spp., *Rhizopus* spp., *Penicillium* pp. and *Fusarium* spp. with incidence of (4%, 2%, 2%, 2%, 2%, 2%, 2%, 2% and 2%, respectively). While the fungi isolated from placenta were *Aspergillus fumigatus, Candida tropicalis, Candida albicans* and *Mucor* Spp. with incidence of (2%, 4%, 2% and 2%, respectively).

In attempt to correlate the relation between various types of bacteria and fungi and their sites of positive aborted ewe foeti, the data obtained were recorded in Table (4).Out of 16 aborted goat infected with *Brucella melitensis, Campylobacter fetus* subsp. *fetus, Campylobacter fetus* subsp. *venerealis, Listeria monocytogens, Salmonella typhimurium, Salmonella dublin* and *Staph. aureus* the organisms were present mainaly in the fourth stomach cotents with incidence of 100% in all bacterial isolates, then marked drop in liver with an incidence of (66.7%, 66.7%, 100%, 50%, 100%, 100% and 0%, respectively), followed by spleen with an incidence of (83.3%, 33.3%, 0%, 50%, 50%, 0% and 0%, respectively).Also lung specimens were the least common seats of infection with an incidence of (33.3%, 33.3%, 0%, 0%, 50%, 0% and 100%, respectively) .

While Out of 14 aborted ewe infected with *Aspergillus fumigatus, Aspergillus niger, Candida tropicalis, Candida albicans, Mucor* spp. and *Rhizopus* spp. The fungi were present mainaly in the fourth stomach cotents with incidence of 100% in all fungal isolates, then marked drop in lungs with an incidence of (100%, 50%, 100%, 100%, 0% and 100%, respectively), followed by liver with an incidence of (75%, 50%, 50%, 50%, 0% and 0%,

respectively).Also spleen specimens were common seats of infection with an incidence of (100%, 100%, 100%, 50%, 100% and 0%, respectively) .

Table (5) : show the results of the antibiogram of different isolates in which gentamicin, danofloxacin and erythromycin were the most effective anti bacterials on the *Campylobacter fetus* subsp.*fetus,* while danofloxacin, amoxicllin& clavulanic acid, erythromycin and lincomycin were the most effective anti bacterials on the *Campylobacter fetus* subsp *venerealis,* but amoxicllin& clavulanic acid, cephalocin, danofloxacin, penicillin G and chloramphenicol were the most effective anti bacterials on the *Listeria monocytogens*. *Salmonella* spp was sensitive to danofloxacin , gentamicin and chloramphenicol, but *Staph. aureus* isolates were sensitive to amoxicllin& clavulanic acid, cephalocin and danofloxacin , while *E. coli* was sensitive to amoxicllin& clavulanic acid, danofloxacin and penicillin G.

Table(6):summarized the results of chemical compounds were tested as antifungal agents, in which *Aspergillus fumigatus* and *Aspergillus flavus* were highly sensitive to anti fungal agents clotrimazole (canesten) and miconazole, intermediate in sensitivity to nystatin and resistant to thibenzole.While *Aspergillus niger* were highly sensitive to clotrimazole (canesten) and miconazole, but resistant to nystatin and thibenzole. All tested strains of *Candida albicans* and *Candida krusei* completely resistant to nystatin and miconazole, but highly sensitive to clotrimazole and thibenzole. Meanwhile *Candida tropicalis* were highly senstitive to clotrimazole, intermediate in sensitivity to thibenzole, but resistant to nystatin and miconazole.

Two isolates representative of *Brucella melitensis* and two isolates for *Aspergillus fumigatus* were selected and subjected to PCR analysis. The specificity of the oligonucleotide primer was confrimed by the positive amplification of 169 and 792 bp fragments from the extracted DNA of *Brucella melitensis,* while 383 bp fragments from the extracted DNA of *Aspergillus fumigatus* (Fig.1) .

Table (1):Prevalence of bacteria and fungi isolated from vaginal discharge, placenta and aborted foeti of aborted sheep.

Microorganisms	Sites of isolation						Total isolates	
	Aborted foeti (70)*		Vaginal discharge(70)*		Placenta (70)*			
A-Bacterial isolates	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**
Brucella melitensis	7	10	3	4.3	5	7.1	15	21.4
C. fetus subsp. *fetus*	5	7.1	1	1.4	2	2.9	8	11.4
C. fetus subsp. *venerealis*	3	4.3	1	1.4	1	1.4	5	7.1
Listeria monocytogens	3	4.3	2	2.9	1	1.4	6	8.6
Salmonella typhimurium	2	2.9	1	1.4	1	1.4	4	5.7
Salmonella dublin	0	0	1	1.4	1	1.4	2	2.9
Escherichia coli	0	0	1	1.4	0	0	1	1.4
Staph. aureus	0	0	0	0	1	1.4	1	1.4
Total bacterial isolates	20	28.6	10	14.3	12	17.1	42	60
B-Fungus isolates								
Aspergillus fumigatus	6	8.6	2	2.9	1	1.4	9	12.9
Aspergillus niger	2	1.4	1	1.4	1	1.4	4	5.7
Aspergillus flavus	0	0	1	1.4	0	0	2	2.9
Candida albicans	3	4.3	2	2.9	1	1.4	6	8.6
Candida krusei	0	0	1	1.4	1	1.4	2	2.9
Mucor species	2	2.9	1	1.4	0	0	3	4.3
Abisidia species	1	1.4	1	1.4	0	0	2	2.9
Rhodotrula species	0	0	1	1.4	0	0	1	1.4
Total fungal isolates	14	20	11	15.7	4	5.7	29	41.4

* Number of examined samples

Table (2): Bacteria and fungi isolated from aborted sheep foeti as regarded to its sites of isolation from the internal organs.

Microorganisms	Total isolates		Sites of isolation							
			Stomach content		Liver		Spleen		Lungs	
A-Bacterial isolates	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**
Brucella melitensis	7	10	7	100	6	85.7	6	85.7	5	71.4
C. fetus subsp. *fetus*	5	7.1	5	100	4	80	3	60	3	60
C. fetus subsp.*venerealis*	3	4.3	3	100	3	100	2	66.7	2	66.7
Listeria monocytogens	3	4.3	3	100	2	66.7	2	66.7	0	0
Salmonella typhimurium	2	2.9	2	100	2	100	1	50	1	50
Total bacterial isolates	20	28.6	20	100	17	85	14	70	11	55
B-Fungus isolates										
Aspergillus fumigatus	6	8.6	6	100	5	83.3	4	66.7	6	100
Aspergillus niger	2	1.4	2	100	2	100	1	50	1	50
Candida albicans	3	4.3	3	100	2	66.7	1	33.3	2	66.7
Mucor species	2	2.9	2	100	1	50	0	0	2	100
Absidia species	1	1.4	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100
Total fungal isolates	14	20	14	100	10	71.4	6	42.9	12	85.7

Table (3):Prevalence of bacteria and fungi isolated from vaginal discharge, placenta and aborted foeti of aborted goats.

Microorganisms	Sites of isolation						Total isolates	
	Aborted foeti(50)*		Vaginal discharge(50)*		Placenta (50)*			
A-Bacterial isolates	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**
Brucella melitensis	6	12	2	4	2	4	10	20
C. fetus subsp. *fetus*	3	6	1	2	1	2	5	10
C. fetus subsp. *venerealis*	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	6
Listeria monocytogens	2	4	1	2	2	4	5	10
Salmonella typhimurium	2	4	1	2	1	2	4	8
Salmonella dublin	1	2	1	2	0	0	2	4
Staph. a*ureus*	1	2	0	0	1	2	2	4
Escherichia coli	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	2
Total bacterial isolates	16	32	8	16	8	16	32	64
B-Fungus isolates								
Aspergillus fumigatus	4	8	2	4	1	2	7	14
Aspergillus niger	2	4	1	2	0	0	3	6
Aspergillus flavus	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	2
Candida tropicalis	2	4	1	2	2	4	5	10
Candida albicans	2	2	1	2	1	2	4	8
Mucor species	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	6
Rhizopus species	1	2	1	2	0	0	2	4
Penicillium species	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	2
Fusarium species	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	2
Total fungal isolates	12	24	10	20	5	10	27	54

* Number of examined samples

Table (4): Bacteria and fungi isolated from aborted goats foeti as regarded to its sites of isolation from the internal organs.

Microorganisms	Total isolates		Sites of isolation							
			Stomach content		Liver		Spleen		Lungs	
A-Bacterial isolates	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**
Brucella melitensis	6	12	6	100	4	66.7	5	83.3	2	33.3
C. fetus subsp. *fetus*	3	6	3	100	2	66.7	1	33.3	1	33.3
C. fetus subsp.*venerealis*	1	2	1	100	1	100	0	0	0	0
Listeria monocytogens	2	4	2	100	1	50	1	50	0	0
Salmonella typhimurium	2	4	2	100	2	100	1	50	1	50
Salmonella dublin	1	2	1	100	1	100	0	0	0	0
Staph. a*ureus*	1	2	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100
Total bacterial isolates	16	32	16	100	11	64.7	8	47.1	5	29.4
B-Fungus isolates										
Aspergillus fumigatus	4	8	4	100	4	100	3	75	4	100
Aspergillus niger	2	4	2	100	1	50	1	50	2	100
Candida tropicalis	2	4	2	100	2	100	1	50	2	100
Candida albicans	2	2	2	100	2	100	1	50	1	50
Mucor species	1	2	1	100	0	0	0	0	1	100
Rhizopus species	1	2	1	100	1	100	0	0	0	0
Total fungal isolates	12	24	12	100	10	83.3	6	50	10	83.3

Table (5) :Antibiotic sensitivity test of the different isolated strains isolated from aborted sheep and goats using disc diffusion method.

Antibacterial agents	Concentration	*C.fetus* supsp. *fetus* (13)*		*C.fetus* supsp. *Venerealis* (8)*		*Listeria monocytogens* (11)*		*Salmonella* spp. (12)*		*Staph. aureus* (3)*		*E.coli* (2)	
		S.	%	S.	%	S.	%	*S.*	*%*	S.	%	S.	%
Ampicillin	10ug	3/13	23.1	3/8	37.5	10/11		1/12		2/3	66.7	1/2	50
Amoxicillin + Clavulanic acid	10ug	8/13	61.5	6/8	75	11/11	100	4/12	33.3	3/3	100	2/2	100
Cephalocin	10ug	1/13	7.7	0/8	0	11/11	100	6/12	50	3/3	100	1/2	50
Chloramphenicol	30ug	0/13	0	0/8	0	9/11	81.8	10/12	83.3	1/3	33.3	1/2	50
Danofloxacin	30ug	13/13	100	8/8	100	10/11	90.9	12/12	100	3/3	100	2/2	100
Erythromycin	10ug	11/13	84.6	6/8	75	5/11	45.5	3/12	25	1/3	33.3	0/2	0
Gentamicin	10ug	13/13	100	4/8	50	3/11	27.3	11/12	91.7	2/3	66.7	0/2	0
Lincomycin	10ug	3/13	23.1	6/8	75	6/11	54.5	7/12	58.3	1/3	33.3	0/2	0
Neomycin	30ug	2/13	15.4	5/8	62.5	2/11	18.2	7/12	58.3	0/3	0	0/2	0
Oxytetracycline	30 ug	3/13	23.1	4/8	50	8/11	72.7	8/12	66.7	0/3	0	0/2	0
Penicillin G	10U	2/13	15.3	1/8	12.5	10/11	90.9	0/12	0	1/3	33.3	2/2	100
Streptomycin	10ug	0/13	0	0/8	0	7/11	63.6	2/12	16.7	1/3	33.3	0/2	0
Tetracycline	30ug	2/13	15.4	2/8	25	7/11	63.6	6/12	50	0/3	0	1/2	50
Trimethoprim	1.25ug	6/13	46.2	4/8	50	4/11	36.4	8/12	66.7	2/3	66.7	1/2	50

*: Number of isolates.
S: Sensitive.
% : Percentage of sensitive isolates in relation to total isolates.

Table (6) :Antifungal sensitivity tests of the fungi isolated from aborted sheep and goats.

Antimycotic agents	Concentration	*Aspergillus fumigatus* (16)*		*Aspergillus niger* (7)*		*Aspergillus flavus* (3)*		*Candida albicans* (10)*		*Candida tropicalis* (5)*		*Candida krusei* (2)*	
		S.	%	S.	%	S.	%	*S.*	*%*	S.	%	S.	%
Nystatin (mycostatin)	1.000 unit	10/16	62.5	1/7	14.3	2/3	66.7	1/10	10	0/5	0	0/2	0
Miconazole (Daktarin)	0.2mg	16/16	100	7/7	100	3/3	100	3/10	30	2/5	40	1/2	50
Clotrimazole (canesten)	0.1mg	14/16	87.5	6/7	85.7	3/3	100	10/10	100	4/5	80	2/2	100
Thibenzole (thiobendazole)	10mg	3/16	18.75	2/7	28.6	0/3	0	7/10	70	3/5	60	2/2	100

*: Number of isolates.
S: Sensitive.
% : Percentage of sensitive isolates in relation to total isolates.

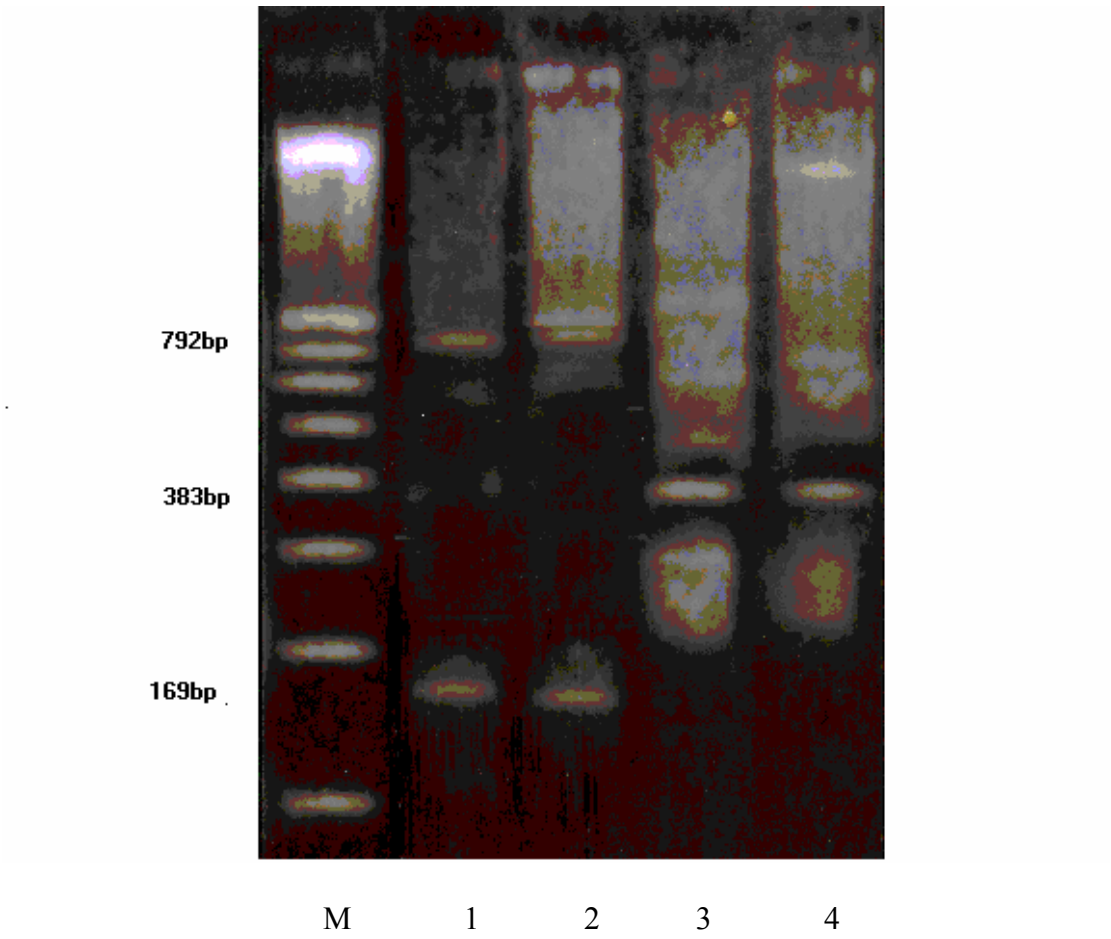

Fig.(1): Electrophoresis analysis of PCR product of amplified *Brucella melitensis* and *Aspergillus fumigatus.*

M : 100bp marker.

Lane1,2 indicate a positive amplification of *Brucella melitensis* at the 169 and 792bp.

Lane 3,4 indicate positive amplification of *Aspergillus fumigatus* at the 383bp.

DISCUSSION

Abortion of sheep and goats constitute the most importante problem causes a great economic implications in terms of milk yield, meat production and fertility of animals.

Bacteria and fungi were usually associated with abortion of sheep and goats. In this study, the bacteriological and mycological examination of aborted foeti, vaginal discharge and placenta of (70)aborted sheep revealed that 42 samples were (60%) positive for bacteriological isolates, while 29 samples (41.4%) were positive for mycological isolates.

As shown in Table (1), the bacteriological examination illusterated that the *Brucella melitensis* was the most microorganism isolated from aborted sheep with the incidence of 21.4%. They mostly isolated from aborted foeti, placenta and vaginal discharge with the incidence of(10%, 7.1%and 4.3%, respectively from sheep),followed by *Campylobacter fetus* subsp. *fetus, Campylobacter featus* subsp.*venerealis* with the incidence of 11.4% and 7.1%, respectively in sheep. Also *Listeria monocytogens, Salmonella typhimurium, Salmonella dublin, Escherichia coli* and *Staph.aureus* were isolated from aborted foeti, placenta and vaginal discharge with an incidence 8.6%, 5.7%, 2.9%, 1.4% and 1.4%, respectively from sheep.These results agreement with **Redman *et al*., (1963)** who isolated campylobacter organisms with incidence of 14.7% from aborted ewe, **Varga *et al*., (1990)** recorded that abortion in sheep was caused in 18 flocks (78.3%) by *C. fetus* subsp. *fetus* and in 5 flocks (21.7%) by *C. fetus* subsp *venerealis.* Also agreement with **Derbala and Ghazi (2001)** they isolated *Brucella melitensis* from aborted sheep with the incidence of 18.9%, **Leyla *et al*., (2003)** who identifed *Brucella melitensis* from aborted featus with an incidence of 31%.While **Plagemann (1989)** isolated *Listeria monocytogens, Salmonella typhimurium* and *Escherichia coli* from aborted fetuse and placenta of aborted sheep **Sargison *et al*., (2001)** isolated *E. coli* from placenta of aborted sheep .

The mycological examination of aborted sheep as shown un table (1) illusterated that *Aspergillus fumigatus* was the most isolates among *Aspergillus* species with the incidence of 12.9%. These results agreement with **Siddique *et al*., (1976), Cuci (1987), Vandyousefi and Zoghi (1988) and Munoz *et al*., (1989)** they isolated *Aspergillus fumigatus* in a pure culture from cases of metritis and abortion in ewe**.** *Candida albicans* (8.6%), was the 2nd isolated fungus and this is in agreement with **Osman and Abou-Gabal, (1978)** who isolated *Aspergillus fumigatus* and *Candida albicans* from vaginal swabs of reproductive disorder ewes, while **Faried *et al*., (1986)** reported isolation of 42.8% of infertile ewe. *Aspergillus niger, Aspergillus flavus, Mucor* spp. *Abisidia* spp. and *Rhodotrula* spp. were isolated with the incidence of (5.7%, 2.9%, 2.9%, 4.3%, 2.9% and 1.4%, respectively from aborted foeti, vaginal discharge and placenta of aborted sheep. This results runs parallel with **Verma**

***et al.*, (1999)** who islated *Aspergillus fumigatus, Aspergillus niger* and *Aspergillus flavus* from aborted ewe and endometritis.

Specimens required for laboratory diagnosis of ovine abortions are abomasal contents, liver, spleen and lungs after fetal death. Clarifying the role of bacteria and fungi in aborted foetus may lead to more extensive light involving its problem of ovine abortion.Distribution of bacteria species and fungi species in aborted dead foeti in sheep and its incidence is represented in Table (2). It is worthy to mention that stomach of aborted ewe foetus harboured all isolated bacteria and fungi from dead aborted foeti and the stomach contents was the most common seat for isolation and considered as the specimens of laboratory choice. It was followed by liver and spleen specimens concerning bacterial isolates, but followed by lung and liver in fungual isolation.While the lungs specimens were the least organs infected by bacteria from examined aborted ewe's foeti, the spleen were the least infected organs by fungi.These findings coincide with the observations obtained by **Redman *et al.*, (1963)** and **Ardrey *et al.*, (1972)** who recovered *campylobacter* spp. mainly from the stomach contents of aborted ovine foetuses followed by the liver specimens, **Allsup (1985)** noticed that the main best sites for C*ampylobacter* spp. were foetal liver and placenta. While **Doghiem *et al.*, (1995)** reported that highest isolation of *Brucella melitensis* was obtained from spleen followed by liver, lungs, lymph node and kidney, **Cetinkaya *et al.*, (1999)** isolated *Brucella melitensis* from stomach contents of aborted sheep fetuses by bacteriological isolation and by PCR. **Hunter *et al.*, (1976)** recorded isolation of *salmonella typhimurium* from fetal stomach contents and placenta. **Low and Renton (1985)** who isolated *Listeria monocytogens* from lung liver spleen and kidney of aborted ewe.
Isolation of *Candida albicans* from stomach contents of aborted ewe foeti due to the swallowing of the amniotic fluid contaminated with the yeast bodies **Smith (1967)**. **Pier *et al.*, (1972)** isolated *Aspergillus fumigatus* from extrauterine organs, placenta and foetal stomach contents. *Aspergillus fumigatus* penetrates the placenta and infects the foetus by contamination the amniotic fluid, so stomach contents are usually a good source for isolate mycotic agents **Miller (1977)**.

As shown in Table (3), bacteriological and mycological examination of aborted foeti, vaginal discharge and placenta of (50)aborted goats were 32 samples (64%) positive for bacteriological isolates, while 27 samples (54%) were positive for mycological isolates. From the bacteriological examination the *Brucella melitensis* was the most microorganism isolated from aborted goats with the incidence of 20%. They mostly isolated from aborted foeti, placenta and vaginal discharge with the incidence of(12%,4% and 4%, respectively), followed by *Campylobacter fetus* subsp. *fetus, Campylobacter fetus* subsp. *venerealis* with the incidence of 10% and 6%, respectively. They mostly isolated from aborted foeti, placenta and vaginal discharge. *Listeria monocytogens, Salmonella typhimurium, Salmonella dublin, Staph. aureus* and *Escherichia coli* were isolated from goat aborted foeti, placenta and vaginal

discharge with an incidence 10%, 8%, 4%, 4% and 2%, respectively. These results agreement with **El-Nahas (1951),** reported brucellosis in goats with an incidence of (21.5%), **Hamdy (1992)**) isolated *Brucella melitensis* from sheep and goats, **Montasser (1999)** tested blood serum of goat slaughtered in Cairo abattoir for *Brucella* was11.3% **and Hosein *et al*., (2002**) isolated *Brucella melitensis* from sheep and goats. *Campylobacter fetus* subsp. *fetus* isolated in pure culture from the tissues and stomach contents of an aborted foetus of goats **Anderson *et al*., (1983)**.

Mycological examination of aborted goats shown in table(3) illusterated that *Aspergillus fumigatus* was the most isolates among *Aspergillus* species with the incidence of 14%. They mostly isolated from aborted foeti, placenta and vaginal discharge with the incidence of(8%, 2% and 1%, respectively). It was followed by *Candida tropicalis* (10%), *Candida albicans* (8%). Then *Aspergillus niger, Aspergillus flavus, Mucor* spp. *Rhizopus* spp., *Penicillium* spp. and *Fusarium* spp. with the incidence of (6%, 2%, 6%, 4%, 2% and 2%, respectively from aborted foeti, vaginal discharge and placenta of aborted goats. This results agreement with **Osman and Abou-Gabal (1978)** who reported the incidence of mycotic infection of goats may reach to 50% including *Aspergillus* spp.and *Candida* spp. **Agag *et al*., (1988)** reported the isolation of *Fusarium, Cladosporium* and *Penicillium* spp. from mycotic abortion in goats.

Bacteriological and mycological examination of the abomasal contents,liver, spleen and lungs of the goats collected from 50 aborted dead foeti as shown in Table (4), revealed that the stomach contents was the most common seat for the isolation of bacteria and fungi, followed by liver, spleen and lungs specimens for the bacterial isolation, except *Brucella melitensis* spleen is the second seat followed by liver and lungs.While in mycological isolation the stomach contents followed by lungs, liver and spleen.These results are in accordance with the findings obtained by **Prescott and Bruin Mosch (1981)** and **Andreson *et al*., (1983)** who isolated *Campylobacter* spp. from stomach contents of goats**.** The stomach contents are usually a good source for isolation of mycotic agents (**Jensen, 1990** and **Jensen *et al*., 1994)**.

As shown in Table(5), most species of *Campylobacter fetus* subsp. *fetus,* and *Campylobacter fetus* subsp. *venerealis* were highly sensitive to gentamicin, danofloxacin and erythromycin but highly resistant to ampicillin, cephalocin, chloramphenicol,streptomycin and tetracycline. These findings are agreement with that obtained by **Zenin (1985)** and **Narita *et al*., (1988**). While amoxicllin&clavulanic acid, cephalocin, danofloxacin, penicillin G and chloramphenicol were the most effective anti bacterials on the *Listeria monocytogens,* these findings are agreement with **Braun (2006)**. *Salmonella* spp. was sensitive to danofloxacin , gentamicin and chloramphenicol, but *Staph. aureus* isolates were sensitive to amoxicllin& clavulanic acid, cephalocin and danofloxacin , while *E. coli* was sensitive to amoxicllin&

clavulanic acid danofloxacin and penicillin G. These agreement with the results of **Mishra *et al*., (1996).**

The results in Table (6), summarized the effects of antifungal agents on the *Aspergillus fumigatus* and *Aspergillus flavus* were sensitive to clotrimazole, miconazole, and nystatin. While *Candida albicans* and *Candida krusei* were highly sensitive to clotrimazole and thibenzole.These results agreement with results obtained by **Rippon (1988)** and **Collee *et al*., (1996)**.

The use of polymerase chain reaction (PCR), as shown in Fig. (1), revealed positive amplification of *Brucella melitensis* on 169bp and 792bp fragments on lane 1-2. While lane 3-4 indicates positive amplification of 383bp fragment of *Aspergillus fumigatus*. These results are in agreement with the results of **(Bricker and Halling 1994, Ewalt and Bricker 2000)** who used AMOS PCR technique as a diagnostic assay for identification and differentiation of *Brucella melitensis* from other type of *Brucella* spp.(Abortus, Melitiensis, Ovis, Suis) . **David *et al*., (2005)** recorded that PCR is a useful assay for detection and identifcation *Aspergillus fumigatus* , also is providing a good alternative to the time consuming isolation test normally used in laboratory routine .

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الملخص العربي

البكتريا والفطريات المصاحبة للأجهاض في الأغنام والماعز في محافظة المنوفية

د/الهام ابراهيم عطوة* د/ فلوراج محمود راضى**
*قسم البكتريولوجى **وقسم الفطريات بمعهد بحوث صحة الحيوان

معمل شبين الكوم

الأجهاض يعتبر من أهم المشاكل التي تصيب الأغنام والماعز لما يسببه من خسائر اقتصادية كبيرة.

وقد أجريت هذه الدراسة على (١٢٠) عينة من الأغنام والماعز المجهضة بمحافظة المنوفية وذلك لمعرفة أهم المسببات البكتيرية والفطرية للأ جهاض فى الأغنام والماعز.

تم فحص الأجنة المجهضة والمخاط المهبلى والمشيمة في (٧٠) حالة من الأغنام التى حدث بها اجهاض . وبالفحص البكتريولوجي للعينات تم عزل *البروسيلا مليتينسيز والكامبيلوباكتر الجنينى* تحت الجنس *الجنينى والكامبيلوباكتر الجنينى* تحت الجنس *الفنيريالس والليستيريا مونوسيتوجين والسالمونيلا تيفيميوريم والسالمونيلا دابلين والأشيرشيا كولاى والميكروب العنقودى* بنسب (٢١.٤% و١١.٤% و ٧.١% و٨.٦% و٥.٧% و ٢.٩% و١.٤% و ١.٤%على الترتيب). وبالفحص البكتريولوجي فى (٥٠) حالة مجهضة من الماعز تم عزل *البروسيلا مليتينسيز والكامبيلوباكتر الجنينى* تحت الجنس *الجنينى والكامبيلوباكتر الجنينى* تحت الجنس *الفنيريالس والليستيريا مونوسيتوجين والسالمونيلا تيفيميوريم والسالمونيلا دابلين والميكروب العنقودى والأشيرشيا كولاى* بنسب (٢٠% و١٠% و ٦% و١٠% و٨% و ٤% و٤% و ٢%على الترتيب)

وبالفحص للفطريات في الأجنة المجهضة والمخاط المهبلى والمشيمة في (٧٠) حالة من الأغنام التى حدث بها اجهاض تم عزل *الأسبيروجيلس فيوميجاتس و الأسبيروجيلس نيجر و الأسبيروجيلس فلافيس والكانديدا البيكانس والكانديدا كروسي والميوكر والأبسيديا والرودوتريلا* بنسب (١٢.٩% و ٥.٧% و ٢.٩% و٨.٦% و ٢.٩% و ٤.٣% و ٢.٩% و ١.٤% على الترتيب). ولكن بفحص الفطريات المسببة للأجهاض في (٥٠) حالة من الماعز تم عزل *الأسبيروجيلس فيوميجاتس و الأسبيروجيلس نيجر و الأسبيروجيلس فلافيس والكانديدا تروبيكالس والكانديدا البيكانس والميوكر والريزوبس والبنيسيليم والفيوزاريم* بنسب(١٤% و ٦% و ٢% و١٠% و ٨% و ٦% و ٤% و ٢% و٢% على الترتيب).

وقد لوحظ أن محتويات المعدة للأجنة المجهضة من أهم الأماكن التي يمكن منها عزل البكتيريا والفطريات المسببة للأجهاض.

وتم ايضا دراسة مدى حساسية العترات البكتيرية المعزولة للمضادات الحيوية فكانت معظم العترات المعزولة حساسة للدانوفلوكساسين والجنتاميسين والأموكسيسيلين مع حمض الكلافيولانك. وكانت معظم الفطريات المعزولة أكثر حساسية للكلوتريمازول (الكانيستين) و الميكونازول.

وقد تم أستخدام اختبار تفاعل البلمرة المتسلسل كطريقة حديثة وسريعة لتشخيص *البروسيلا مليتينسيز الأسبيروجيلس فيوميجاتس* بأستخدام البريمر المخصص لكل واحد منهم علي العترات المعزولة. وقد أثبتت النتائج سرعة ودقة أختبار تفاعل البلمرة المتسلسل فى التشخيص المعملي السريع .