Diagnosis of Johne's disease in cattle in some Egyptian governorates with special reference to culture and ELISA methods.

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Abstract:

Paratuberculosis or johne's disease is a chronic debilitating disease that affects a wide range of animal hosts, both domestic and wild. A total of 175 cattle were in poor condition with marked reduction in milk production caused by (MAP), chronic or intermittent diarrhea and showed no fever. Fecal and serum samples were collected from these 175 animals and other 25 apparently healthy contact animals. The five examined districts (Alex, Gharbia, Ismailia, Damietta and Giza) included positive cases for MAP. Fifty fecal samples (25%) were positive by culture method as 47 diarrheic cows were positive and 3 apparently healthy contact cows were positive. Seventy serum samples were positive by indirect ELISA as 63 diarrheic cows were harboring antibodies against MAP and 7 apparently healthy contact cows were also harboring the same antibodies against MAP. The present study suggests the use of both fecal culture method and indirect ELISA as laboratory methods in diagnosis and control programs of paratuberculosis.

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