



Epidemiological study of clinical and subclinical mastitis in she-camel in Samawah desert / Al Muthanna governorate

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Abstract

She-camel mastitis is relatively not well studied in camel-rearing areas worldwide. In Iraq, few reports have been done on the camelids in general and on mastitis in particular in compare to other livestock such as cattle, sheep and goat. This study intends to determine the clinical and subclinical mastitis and its etiological agents in she-camels in Samawah desert / Al

Muthanna governorate. Thirty milk samples were collected from apparently clinical normal she- camels from 3 camelids herds during December 2016 to March 2017. The milk samples were aseptically collected from each quarter after stimulation milking process in she-camel. Each milk sample was subjected to physical and bacteriological examination and mastitis screening tests including (somatic cell count) SCC and California mastitis test (CMT). The pH of fresh camel milk was varied from 6.1 to 6.5. All milk samples revealed a bright white color with upper thick creamy layer. No any signs of clinical mastitis were observed in all examined she-camels. Meanwhile, keratosis of the teats and udder due to severe tick infestation was observed in 83.33% percentage (25 out of 30). The subclinical mastitis was determined in 30% percentage (9 out of 30) lactating she-camels using SCC, CMT and revealed various bacterial growth. These bacteria were the *Enterobacterium spp.*, *Staphylococcus spp.* and *Streptococcus spp.* moreover, the percentage of isolates was 55.55% (5 out of 9), 33.33% (3 out of 9) and 11.11% (1 out of 9) respectively. In conclusion, this study confirmed the correlation between SCC and CMT in diagnosis of subclinical mastitis in 30% of the examined she-camel. Moreover, it approved the absence of clinical mastitis due to the nature of the milk production. The authors recommend to perform another future studies that including large number of the animals, in addition to study the natural physiological phenomena of milk production in she- camels.

Key words: Al Muthanna, CMT, Camelids, Iraq, SCC, Subclinical Mastitis, Udder.

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