

COMMUNICATION

(Comunicação)

Sensitivity of *California mastitis* (CMT) and *Whiteside* (WS) tests on the diagnosis of caprine mastitis

(Avaliação da sensibilidade do *Califórnia Mastitis Test* (CMT) e *Whiteside* (WS) na mastite caprina)

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Goat milk has a high nutritious value and stands in a highlighted position in relation to animal source foods consumed by man. Its use by the body is related to its quality. Hence it must be produced in ideal sanitary conditions of environment hygiene and milking (Guimarães et al., 1989; Egito & Pinheiro, 1989).

The presence of mastitis causes a decreasing in milk production and alters its quality which can be harmful not only to consumers health but also to milk by products or even making it unfit for use. This surely causes economical loss to owners (Guss, 1975; Lima Jr. et al., 1995; Costa et al., 1995).

One way to control this problem in dairy goat is firstly to determine the subclinical mastitis rate in the herd through tests which early detect physicochemical alterations and an increase in cell content which occurs in mastitic milk (Hinckley, 1983).

In face of the great importance of dairy goat culture this paper has the objective to compare two widely used tests which detect subclinical mastitis in cows: CMT and WS.

Both tests indirectly measure the leucocyte concentrations in milk being the result according

to level of thickness of reaction. However in small ruminant milk there is the presence of epithelial cells which along with leucocytes react to CMT. That is why reaction level 2 should be used to indicate subclinical mastitis in caprine (Paape et al., 1963; Upadhyaya & Rao, 1993).

For this study, 322 milk samples from Saanen and Parda breeds were examined by both tests. Sixty-seven (21%) animals reacted both to CMT and WS, 210 (65%) showed a negative result for both tests and 45 (14%) showed different results comparing the two tests, being 41 (91%) positive by CMT but negative to WS.

These results pointed out that CMT is a more sensitive test to detect subclinical caprine mastitis. In addition to its practicability, specially at field work, its use will bring great benefits to owners and will facilitate the control planning of caprine mastitis.

Keyword: Mastitis, CMT, WS, goat

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RESUMO

Considerando que uma das medidas para o controle da mastite caprina consiste, inicialmente, na determinação da taxa de mastite subclínica, e também diante da importância da caprinocultura, o presente estudo teve por objetivo comparar o teste California Mastitis test (CMT) com o Whiteside (WS), utilizando-se 322 amostras de leite de cabra. Dessas, 67 (21%) reagiram concomitantemente ao CMT e ao WS, 210 (65%) apresentaram-se negativas para ambos os testes e 45 (14%) apresentaram resultados discordantes entre os dois testes, 41 (91%) delas positivas ao CMT e negativas ao WS. Os resultados permitiram apontar o CMT como o mais sensível e que, por ser mais prático, poderá trazer benefícios no planejamento do controle da mastite caprina.

Palavras-Chave: Mastite, CMT, WS, cabra

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