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Review Article

ASPECIFIC DETECTION AND DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN ANAPLASMA OVIS AND ANAPLASMAMARGINALE USING A MSP1 A POLYMERASE CHAIN REACTION ASSAY

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ABSTRACT

Blood parasite constituent a major problem in goat breeding due to severe economic losses and lowered vitality which lead to a decrease of animal production and increase the susceptibility to bacterial and viral infections. The only common feature between these diseases is that they can all be transmitted by ticks. The objective of the present study was to determine the prevalence of Anaplasmosis in Iraq goats of Baghdad city and differentiation between *Anaplasma ovis* and *Anaplasma marginale* by using PCR and PCR-RFLP. The results revealed that 55 out of 100 blood samples were positive for *Anaplasma* spp. Infection. All positive samples were *A. ovis* as confirmed by restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP) method. Results showed that PCR-RFLP of the MSP4 gene aspecific method for the detection of *A. ovis* species in goats.

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INTRODUCTION

Anaplasmosis in animals is caused by *Anaplasma* spp., which are small, Gram-negative, obligate intracellular bacteria that reside within the endothelial cells of blood vessels or the cytoplasm of blood cells such as

neutrophils, monocytes, macrophages and erythrocytes (1). The genus *Anaplasma* includes *A. marginale*, *A. centrale*, *A. ovis* species infect erythrocytes of domesticated and wild ruminants while *A. bovis*, infect monocytes (2).

Anaplasma ovis and *A. marginale*, infect goats (3). *Anaplasma marginale* (the type species for cattle) also causes latent anaplasmosis in sheep and goats (4,5). The acute phase of the disease is characterized by severe anemia, fever, weight loss, abortion, lower milk production, pallor of mucous membrane, jaundice and often death (6;7).

Anaplasma ovis transmitted by *Rhipicephalus bursa*, *Haemaphysalis sulcata* and probably other ticks (8,9). Anaplasmosis is also transmitted in a variety of mechanical ways for example through vaccination, tattooing or castration tools and biting arthropods (10,11,12).

Diagnosis of both *A. ovis* and *A. marginale* is performed routinely by their hosts and morphological identification based on the location of inclusion bodies marginally within the erythrocytes (13). Giemsa-stained blood smears can be indeed used as a suitable method to detect *Anaplasma* agents in the animals clinically suspected for acute anaplasmosis, but it is

not applicable for the determination of pre-symptomatic and carrier animals (14). Polymerase chain reaction, as a more sensitive and specific technique than other conventional methods, has been increasingly applied to diagnose anaplasmosis in blood and tick vectors (15,16,17).

The *msp4* gene and its protein sequences, which are involved in interactions with both vertebrate and invertebrate hosts and evolve more rapidly than other genes, are used to characterize *Anaplasma* spp. (18, 19, 20, 21). The study has aimed the detection and differentiation of *Anaplasma* spp. (*ovis*, *marginale*) in a blood sample using (PCR) amplification then use of enzyme MSP1 to differentiation of species by PCR - RFLP.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

Samples collection

The study was conducted during 2016 on 100 blood samples were collected from the jugular vein of goats, the blood samples for each animal were collected in a sterile tube containing an anticoagulant (EDTA) and held in cold box until arrival at the laboratory of parasitology faculty of veterinary medicine university of Baghdad, Iraq further analysis

DNA extraction

DNA was extracted from 100 blood samples using DNA isolation (promega, USA) Kit according to the manufacturer's instruction. The DNA were stored at 4°C for PCR amplification.

Polymerase chain reaction

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For the detection of Anaplasmosis, PCR technique was used and one pair of oligonucleotide primers was designed based on the MSP4 gene sequence of *Anaplasma* spp. (*Anaplasma ovis* and *Anaplasma marginale*). Primers for the PCR were forward strand primers 5'-TTGTTTACAGGGGGCCTGTC-3' and reverse strand primers 5'-GAACAGGAATCTTGCTCCAAG-3'.

The PCR was performed in 20µ total volume including, 10µ PCR master mix, 2µ DNA template, 1µ of each primer (10pmol) and 6µ PCR water in an automated thermocycler. The reaction was performed under the following condition: an initial denaturation step at 95°C for 4 min was followed by 30 cycles at 95°C for 30s, 57°C for 30s (Annealing step) and 72°C for 1 min (extension step) with the final extension step of 72°C for 10 min. The PCR products were electrophoresed on 1% Agarose gel stained ethidium bromide and visualized by UV transilluminator.

RFLP Method

The use of this technique was aimed to detect *Anaplasma* species, the enzyme MSP1 was found to differentiate two species of *Anaplasma* (*A. ovis* and *A. marginale*) in goat.

RFLP –PCR master mix prepared for detection of *Anaplasma* spp. by using restriction enzyme (MSP1) 5 µl of PCR products was pipetting for electrophoresis to check the positive result of PCR amplification.

The amp icons were digested by using MSP1 restriction enzyme (promega, usa) for detection of *Anaplasma* spp. 20 µl of PCR product were incubated at 37°C for 3 hr after 0.5µl of the enzyme was added.

Theoretically, *Anaplasma ovis* should give us (121, 183, 227, 300) bp pattern while *A. marginale* present (92,152, 587) bp pattern after gel electrophoresis using 1.5 % agarose at 100 v for 1.5 hr.

Results

Prevalence of Anaplasmosis in goat using PCR and PCR - RFLP

The use of PCR technique was aimed to detect *Anaplasma* species which spread in the area of study. PCR analysis of the DNA isolated from 100 blood samples showed that 55% have *Anaplasma* spp. positive and revealed an expected PCR product of 831 bp in length (Fig.1).

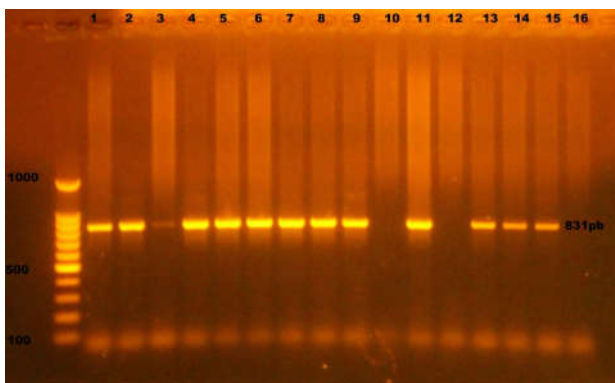


Figure 1

Figure 1: Agarose gel electrophoresis image shows the PCR product analysis of MSP4 gene of *Anaplasma* spp. In blood samples. Lanes 1,2,4,5,6,7,8,9,11,13,14 and 15 positive samples (831bp). Whereas Lanes 10,12,13 and 16 negative samples.

According to RFLP-PCR, the restriction MSP1 which added to *Anaplasma* positive PCR products cut it into two 300 bp and 121 bp in length respectively and the result was all positive samples were *Anaplasma ovis* (Figure 2).

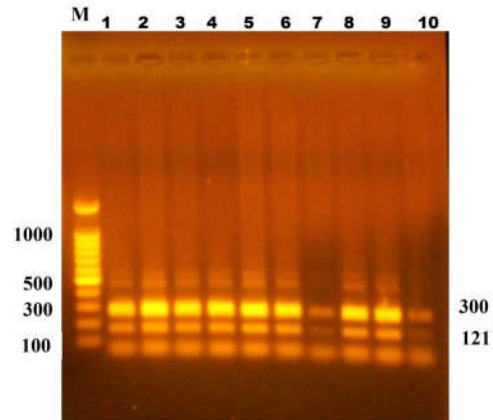


Figure 2

Figure 2: Agarose gel electrophoresis image shows the RFLP – PCR product analysis of 831 pb of MSP4 gene of *Anaplasma* spp. that digested by restriction enzymes (MSP1) where M: marker 100 bp, (lane 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10) positive *Anaplasma ovis* that given cut at 300 bp and 121 bp.

Molecular methods, as more sensitive and specific diagnostic tools, have been increasingly used to detect and differentiate *Anaplasma* spp. in carrier animals, it is recognized even a relative amount of DNA of the parasite (22).

The diagnosis of rickettsial infections in vertebrate hosts has been mainly carried out by microscopic examination of a blood smear (16). Because the *Anaplasma* organisms lack distinguishing morphological characteristics, and in low-level parasitemias they cannot be differentiated from Howell-Jolly bodies, the low sensitivity of this method does not permit its use in epidemiological investigations (23).

The present study using PCR technique showed that high rate was of infection with *Anaplasma*, 55 % out of the 100 blood samples were *Anaplasma* spp., the result of this study was agree with the result (24) which recorded by PCR 66.5 % (130/195) in north Iraq .

In other countries, similar results have been reported in Italy 57% (25). In Iran 63.7% (5) and in Cyprus 51% (26). In Sudan and Turkey with 41.6% and 31.4%, respectively, in sheep (24). High prevalence 80.3% has been reported in Iran (27) in Portugal 82.5% (24). And Angola 100% (28)

Analysis of all 55% *Anaplasma* positive PCR products with the restriction enzyme MSP1 showed all positive samples, PCR products could be cut in two expected DNA fragments with 300bp, 121bp in length respectively and this confirm a diagnosis that goat in this study was infected with *A. ovis*.

This simple PCR method based on MSP4 gene and following by PCR-RFLP able to give a rapid discrimination between *A. ovis* and *A. marginale*, the result of this study agreed with the result of (5) in Iran.

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