INCIDENCE OF *HISTOPHILUS SOMNI* IN PURULENT VAGINAL DISCHARGES IN A HUNGARIAN HOLSTEIN-FRIESIAN DAIRY FARM


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*Histophilus* (*Haemophilus*) *somni* causes a variety of clinical syndromes in cattle including thromboembolic meningocencephalitis, arthritis, pneumonia, mastitis and reproductive failure (Harris and Janzen, 1989). The role of *H. somni* as a reproductive pathogen is controversial (Stephens et al., 1986). The aim of the present study was to investigate the prevalence of *H. somni* in cows and heifers with abnormal vaginal discharges in a Hungarian Holstein-Friesian dairy farm. Three days before controlling the estrus by rectal and ultrasonographic examinations all of the animals were treated with prostaglandin (PGF Veyx Forte, Veyx Pharma GmbH, Schwarzenborn, Germany) as part of the herd reproductive management program. Vaginal swabs were collected for bacteriological examinations from 15 heifers and 60 cows with abnormal vaginal discharges and 5 heifers and 10 cows with normal vaginal discharge at the time of insemination.

*H. somni* was isolated from 7 of 15 (47%) heifers and 32 of 60 (53%) cows with abnormal vaginal discharges. Also, *H. somni* was isolated from 3 of 5 and 2 of 10 control heifers and cows, respectively. *H. somni* was isolated alone (6/7 in heifers and 19/32 in cows) or with other uterine pathogenic or potential pathogenic bacteria (1/7 in heifers and 13/32 in cows) such as *Arcanobacterium pyogenes*, *Escherichia coli* and *Proteus spp.*, *Streptococcus spp.*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Pasteurella multocida*, *Mannheimia haemolytica* and *Corynebacterium spp.* from cows with abnormal vaginal discharges. These pathogenic or potential pathogenic bacteria were only isolated from heifers (5 of 15) and cows (19/60) with abnormal vaginal discharges. In conclusion, *H. somni* can be a purulent pathogen of genital tract in dairy cows and heifers. Other studies are needed to evaluate the effect of *H. somni* on fertility results in the farm.

References:
