ISOLATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF *TRITRICHOMONAS FOETUS* AND BACTERIAL FLORA FROM UTERINE LAVAGES FROM COWS IN TWO COLOMBIAN DAIRY HERDS WITH REPRODUCTIVE PROBLEMS

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It has been shown worldwide that there is a direct association between economic losses in the cattle industry and reproductive tract infections caused either by bacteria, virus or parasites. These reproductive diseases cause embryo losses, abortions stillbirths and weak calves and among them bovine trichomoniasis plays a very important role in herds with natural breeding.

In Colombia there are only a few studies about trichomoniasis in dairy cattle. Determining its role as etiologic agent in reproductive diseases in Colombian dairy cattle is needed and will allow to establish preventive and control programs. With the objective to determine the association of *Trichomonas foetus* and uterine flora with reproductive diseases a study was done in 2 dairy farms with history of reproductive problems, located in the Colombian andes 2600 meters above sea level.

21 samples from uterine lavage from cattle with reproductive problems were collected, 10 and 11 cows were sampled respectively in each farm. The samples were obtained by uterine lavage of the uterine body. The samples were processed 5 hours after sampling; post centrifugation the sediment was cultured in trichomonas based agar (8 days at 37°C) and in blood agar (24 h at 37°C). Protozoal presence was determined by directly dark field microscopy, wright and lugol staining. The bacterial flora was isolated by standard culture techniques, cytological evaluations were done to evaluate inflammatory response.

61.8% of the sampled cows were positive for *Trichomonas foetus* and pathogenic bacteria were isolated in 33.33% of the samples. The isolated pathogens were β, α y γ hemolytic Streptococcus, Actinomyces pyogenes, Lactobacillus sp and Klebsiella sp.

This study showed the presence of *T. foetus* by culture of uterine lavage, showing its role in reproductive problems and the need to search for it routinely in cows. The study also showed a possible association among macroscopic appearance of the lavage fluid, inflammatory response and bacterial isolation.