

## نتائج موجبة لأختبار الروزبنكال في الخيول

نبيه محمد عطا ، محمد جويد علوان ، سعدي أحمد غناوي السامرائي  
شاكر محمود مرهش ، حيدر بدري عبود ،أياد عبد الجبار  
كلية الطب البيطري - جامعة بغداد

### ملاحظات قصيرة

لوحظت حالات متفرقة في مجموعة من الخيول شملت ناسور الحارك، التهاب المفاصل وتورم كيس الصفن. سحبت عينات دم من بعض هذه الحالات ومن خيول تبدو سليمة لقياس خضاب الدم وأجراء اختبار الروزبنكال ( Rose Bengal test ). كذلك تم سحب نموذج من السائل في كيس الصفن. أظهرت الفحوصات أن مستوى خضاب الدم كان ضمن الحدود الطبيعية (11.6-16.2)غم/100سم<sup>3</sup>. وان خمسة خيول من عشرة (50%) أظهرت نتيجة موجبة لأختبار الروزبنكال وكانت من الجنسين وبأعمار مختلفة ، ولم تقتصر على الخيول التي أظهرت ناسور أو تورم . ولم تعزل جراثيم من السائل المصلي الرائق والحاوي على كريات دم حمراء وخلايا قاحية والمسحوب من كيس الصفن لأحد الخيول .

## NATURAL NOCARDIOSIS IN CATTLE :

### A SURVEY AND PATHOLOGICAL STUDY

M.J.ALWAN

Department of Vet. Pathology and poultry, College of  
Vet. Medicine University of Baghdad, Iraq.

#### SUMMARY

This work was done to investigate Nocardiosis in cattle in order to evaluate the incidence of nocardial mastitis in Al- dejjala station, bacteriological examination was conducted on 90 milk samples obtained from mastitic cows Nocardia asteroides was found in 25 out of 90 (27.77% mastitic cows. This M.O was recovered in pure culture in 5 cases and as mixed with other microorganisms in 20 cases. The gross examination of the affected udders showed multiple nodular lesions in firm fibrotic udders, some of them formed draining sinus which exuded pus to the exterior multifocal nodules of varying size were seen in the lungs Microscopic examination of the affected

udders revealed pyogranulomatous lesions in different areas of the glandular parenchyma multiple classical granulomatous lesions were also noticed in the lung tissues.

## INTRODUCTION

Since the early isolate of Nocardia asteroides in 1888 by Nocard, many naturally occurring conditions have been recorded in different animal species, such as dog, sheep, horse and wild animals (1,2,3)

In cattle, the disease was shown in three main forms, skin farcy, mastitis and pulmonary form. Bovine skin farcy was frequently observed in Africa. Awad (4) described the disease as an external form of farcy in Sudanese cattle characterized by chronic subcutaneous abscesses. The internal form of skin farcy may or may not be accompanied by the external form and is characterized by a localized or diffuse pyogranulomatous lesion of the internal organs and tissues (5).

In the pulmonary form, the lungs are involved primarily or secondarily to skin farcy or mastitis (6,7). Dissemination of the lesions to internal organs (8). Nocardial mastitis has been reported as sporadic cases or in outbreaks over the world (9). Hibbs et al., (10)

reported outbreaks of nocardial mastitis in 3300 dairy cows where 450 cows died and further 500 were culled . In this work , the author aimed to evaluate the occurrence of nocardial mastitis in dairy cattle and to describe the pathological changes accompanied .

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study was carried out on cattle at the AL-Dejiala station . Bacteriological examination was conducted on 90 milk samples obtained from mastitic cows . Five mastitic cows which positive for nocardial examination were slaughtered . Post- mortem examination were carried out specimens from different organs were fixed in 10% normal buffer formalin for histopathological examination . Milk , pus and tissue samples were collected aseptically for bacteriological examination .

### Bacterial examination

Soon after collection , samples were cultured into brain heart infusion agar , containing 7% sheep RBC and blood agar .

They were incubated at 37c° for three days . Suspected colonies were subjected to gram and acid fast stains

followed by necessary confirming biochemical and physiological examination chosen according to Alwan (4) and Collins and Anne (II)

#### Animals inoculation

In order to determine the pathogenicity of the isolates, five guinea pigs were used . They were inoculated intrapulmonary with  $1 \times 10^9$  CFU of N. asteroides , taken from a suspension of 3 days old culture in sterile saline . thermodurability of the isolated M.O was checked by incubating at 50c ' f0r shrs .

### RESULTS

N. asteroides was found in 25 out of 90 (27.77%) mastitic cows as wellas milk tank . Isolation of this M.O. was found in pure culture in 5 cows . In other remaining samples M.O including candida spp , streptococeus spp, staphylococcus spp , klebseila and Bacillus spp were also isolated . N. asteroides were also isolated from the lung and supramammery lymph nodes of the necropsied cows .

Colonies of N. asteroides wre seen on blood agar and brain heart infusion agar after 72 hrs of aerobic inoeubation colonies of N. asteroides were seen on blood agar and brain heart infusion agar after 72 hrs of aerobic inocubation at 37C,They were opaque, chalky

white firmly adherent to the medium, and not haemolytic ( Fig:1 ) . in 72 hrs of incubation, the colour of colony was turned in to yellowish- orange. In broth, a pellicle of waxy growth was noticed after 48 hrs of incubation. The M.O. were partially or completely acid fast. Some beaded appearance due to irregular staining. These M.O. remained alive more than 8hrs at 50°C. The isolates were fermented glucose, producing acid and gas, mannitol, sucrose and fructose were not fermented . They reduced nitrate to nitrite, produced urease and hydrolysed aesculine but not casein ( Table:1) The inoculated guinea pigs died within 5-6 days post infection . *N. asteroides* was isolated from all internal organs. All infected animals showed massive pmns and mns infiltration in the examined organs .

#### Pathological changes

At early stage, the infected udders were swollen and painful but later on , they become firm and fibritic with palpable nodular lesions . Some of them ruptured or formed draining sinus which exuded whitish pus to the exterior ( Fig:2 ) in addition marked thick walled abscesses were observed One Or more quarter of the udder were involved In the lung , necropsy findings revealed firm yellowish- white multifocal nodules of

varying size ranging from 1-1.5cm in diameter. They are uniformly scattered throughout the parenchyma with their cut section revealed dry purulent center. The supramammary lymph nodes were enlarged and edematous mediastinal and bronchial L.N. were also showed the same lesions Histopathological examination of mammary glands showed massive inflammatory cells infiltrated the interacinar tissue which lead to induce pressure atrophy the adjacent acini and lactiferous duct which showed in addition of epithelial sloughing. Multiple classical granulomatous lesions were also noticed in different areas of the udder. They were characterized by purulent necrotic center surrounded by a zone of epithelioid cells, mononuclear and langhans, giant cells and outer zone of fibrous connective tissue ( Fig:3 ). The skin at the sinus tract area showed cellulitis. The adjacent udder skin was acanthotic and hyperkeratotic ( Fig:4 ). Microscopic examination of lung revealed pyogranulomatous lesions identical to those described in the mammary glands. The interalveolar and interlobular septa were thickened due to mononuclear cells and neutrophils infiltration as well as fibroblast proliferation ( Fig:5 ).

## DISCUSSION

The results showed that among 90 mastitic cows in the AL- dejjala station , 25 (27.77%) were shedding N. asteroides in their milk . such high incidence was also reported by Argente et. al. (12) who found a total number of 227 cows in Briton , 41 casrs of nocardial mastitis . Tarable et. al., (13) have also reported the existence of N. asteroides in the milk of 22 out of 25 (84%) mastitic cows in Argentina .

The significantly high percentage of nocardial isolates observed in this study indication that nocardiosis is not rare in dairy herds in Iraq . The affect cows showed drop in milk yeild with loss condition . This exentually should lead to culling of affected . On the other hand , the mangment of such cows was costly of continuous treatment with no promising responses . N.asteroides has been identified as a problem of economic significace in certain dairy herds ( Blood et. al. , (14) .

The isolation of N.asteroides in pure culture from 5 cases is a strong evidence to be an important independent cause of bovine mastitis . previous reports stated that the isolation of this M.O in pure and mixed from mastitic cows (15) . The existence of mastitis in



outbreak and the occurrence of the disease lactating heifers might be attributed to the improper hygienic measures employed in AL- dejjala station . The existence of the M.O . in soil and possible in tick facilitates its transmission and infection (16) . Although the initial infection might occur during the dry period where a focus of infection remain clinically unrecognized till parturation as the cow an start to lactate and udder is full with milk , the Nocardial foci probably become disrupted and the M.O. spreads through the lactiferous tree resulting in massive infection . The existence of this organism in milk tank may indicate improper , non hygienic handling of the milk or that might be due to bacteremia . pulmonary lesions might be due to hematogenous metastasis (17) .

Table . I : Some biochemical and physiological characteristic of N. asteroides isolated

From mastitic cows

1-	Gram stain Reaction	≠	6-	Aesculine Hydrolysis	+
2-	Acid fast staining	Partial	7-	Nitrate reduction	+
3-	Growth at 50	≠	8-	Urease activity	+
4-	Guinea pig inoculation	Died after 5-6 days	9-	REC hemolysis	-
5-	Fermentation of Mannitole	-	10-	Gelation liquefaction	-
	Sucrose	-	11-	Casein hydrolysis	-
	Fructose	-			
	Glucose	+			

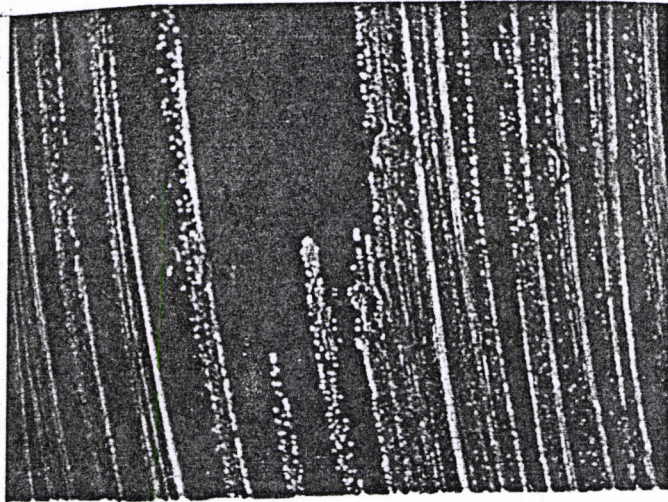


Fig.i : colonies of *N. asteroides* after 72 hr of incubation on blood agar . Notice opaqu , chalky white , non hemolytic firmly adherent colonies .

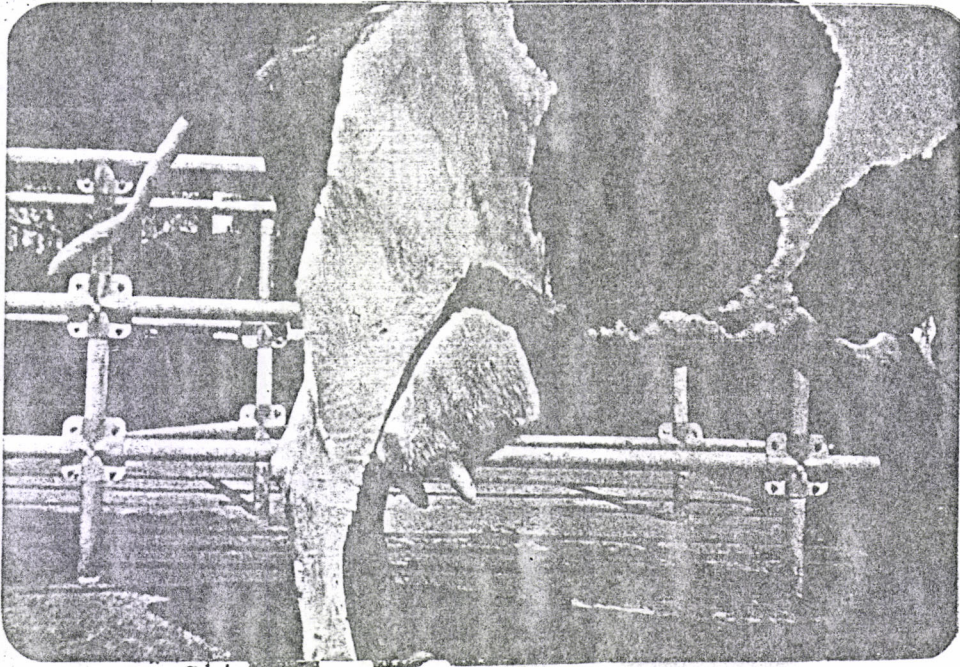


Fig . 2 : udder of mastitic cow , swollen with sinus tract .

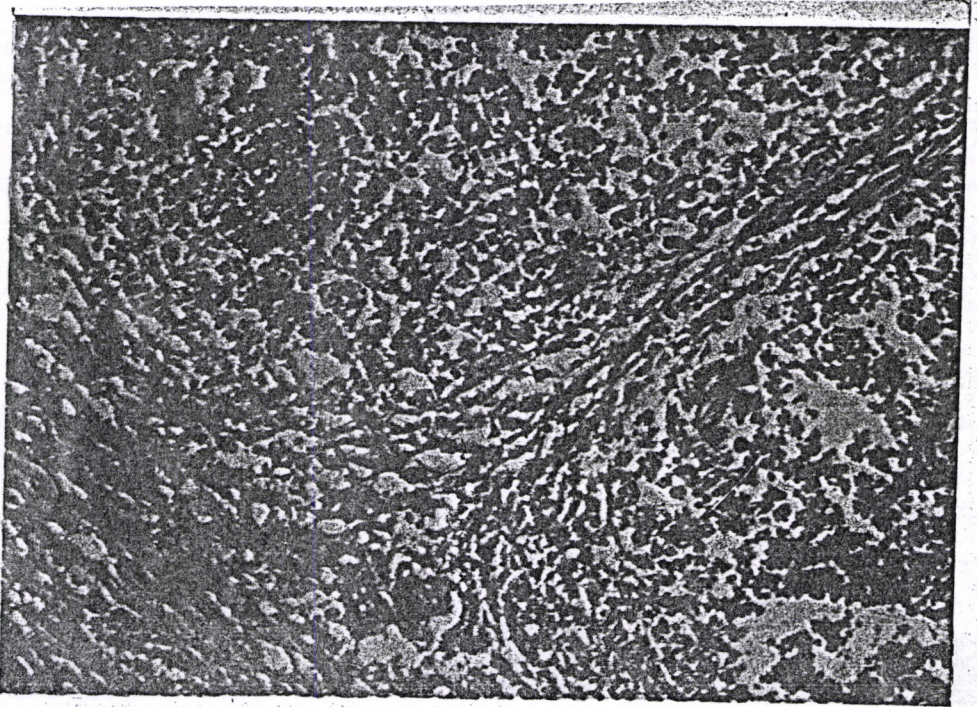


Fig . 3 : Udder of mastitic cow . pyogranulomatous lesion with purulent necrotic surrounded by epithelioid cells , mononuclear cells , giant cells and enveloped by fibrous connective tissues (H.E. 100X)

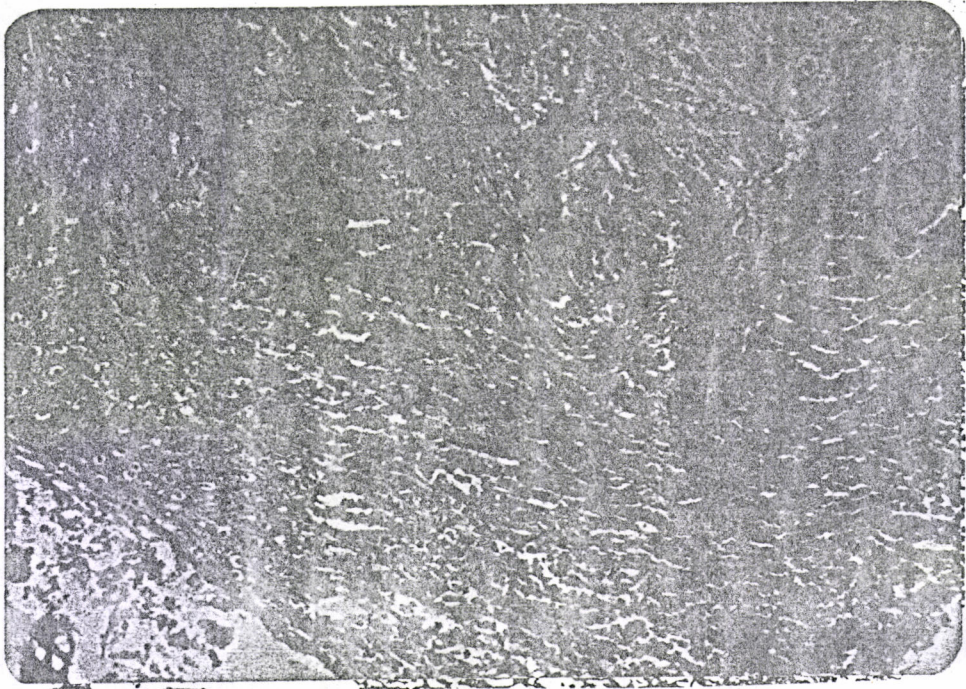


Fig. 4: Skin of mastitic udder. Notice cellulitis adjacent to the sinus tract. (H.E.100X) .

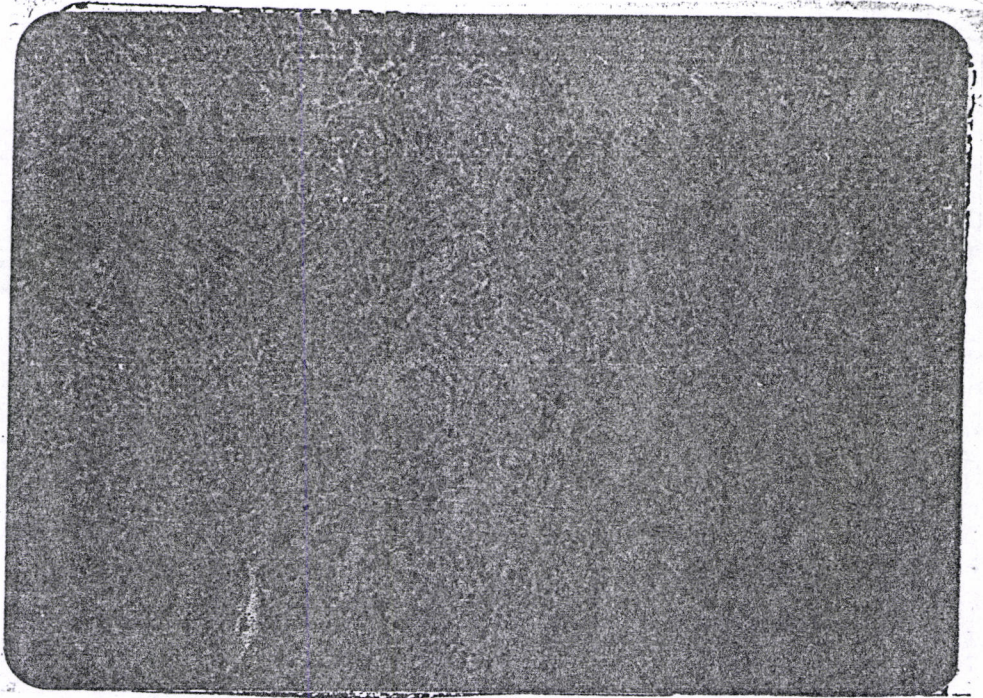


Fig . 5: Bovine nocardiosis . Lung showing fibrotic thickening of the interalveolar septa due to fibrous connective tissue proliferation and mononuclear cells infiltration  
(H. & E. 100X) .

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## الخلاصة

مرض داء النوكارديا في الأبقار  
مسح ميداني ودراسة التغيرات المرضية

محمد جويد علوان  
فرع الأمراض والداجن / كلية الطب البيطري  
جامعة بغداد - العراق

استهدفت هذه الدراسة بحث إصابة الأبقار بجراثيم Nocardia asteroides ولمعرفة مدى انتشار ووبائية المرض في الأبقار الحليب من محطة الدجيل من خلال فحص (90) نموذج حليب جمعت من حيوانات مصابة بالتهاب الضرع، أوضحت الدراسة وجود داء النوكارديا بشكل وبائي في محطة أبقار الدجيل حيث عزلت جرثومة N. asteroides من (20) حالة وشكلت نسبة الإصابة 77 و 27 % . لقد تعززت هذه النتائج من خلال ظهور عزلات نقية للجرثومة من (5) حيوانات إضافة إلى وجودها مع عزولات جرثومية أخرى من (20) حالة. أظهر الفحص المجهرى وجود الورم الحبيبي القيحي في ضرع الحيوانات المصابة بالتهاب الضرع إضافة إلى وجودها في رئات نفس الحيوانات .