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Some studies on Mycoplasmosis in some animals

Thesis presented

by

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*To my father & mother...the
most supporting...*

*To my husband...the most
beloving & enduring...*

To my son...the most adorable..

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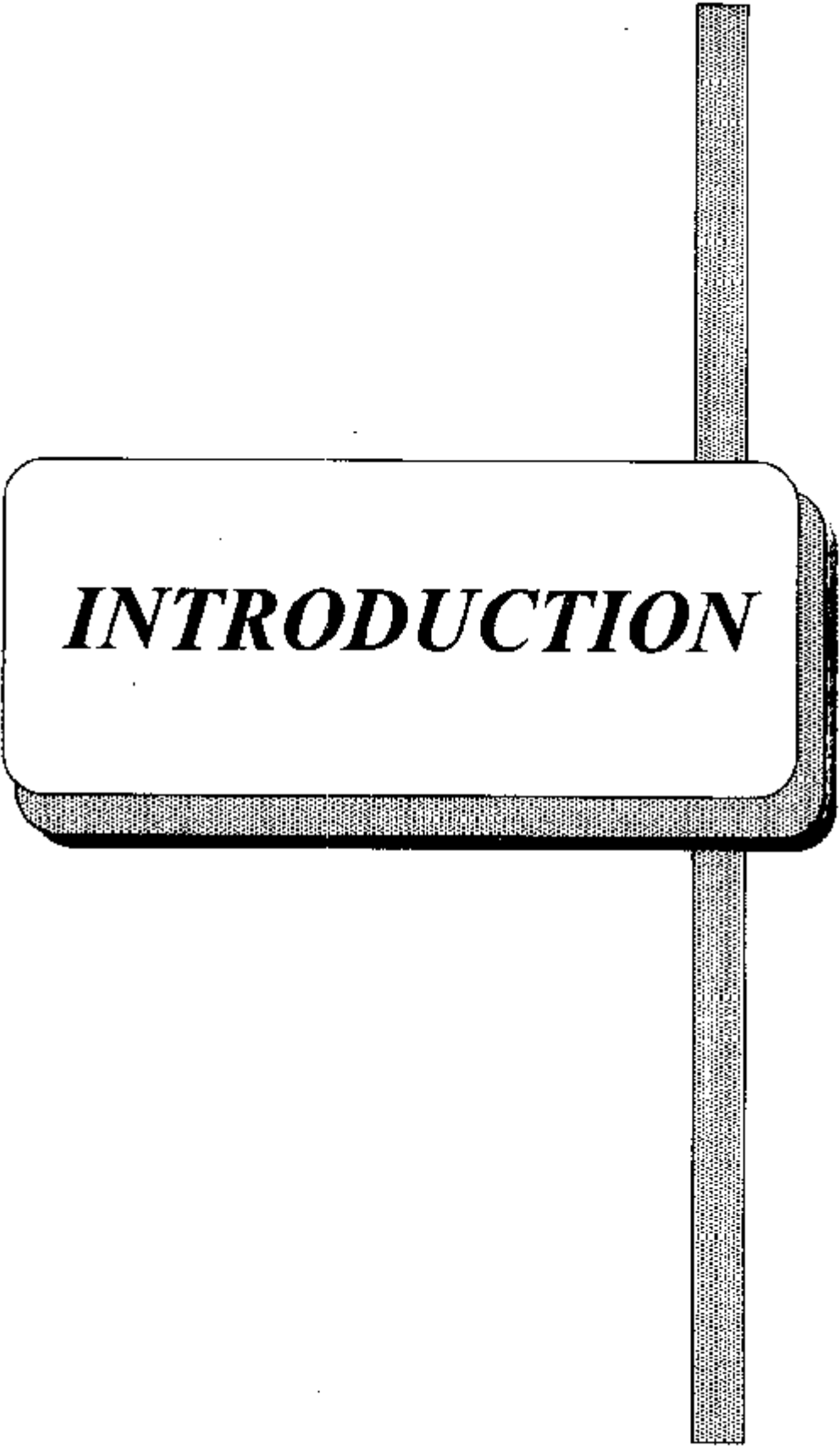
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A stylized illustration of a signpost. A vertical pole is shown with a horizontal sign attached to it. The sign is rectangular with rounded corners and a thick, dark border. The word "INTRODUCTION" is written on the sign in a bold, italicized, serif font. The pole and the sign's border have a textured, stippled appearance.

INTRODUCTION

I- INTRODUCTION

Sheep and goats constitute 1056.3 million and 705.2 million, respectively, of the world livestock population "FAO, 1999". They are becoming increasingly important in the provision of milk and meat products. However, they are under the threat of both infectious and metabolic diseases, which constitute serious limiting constraints in their husbandry and productivity in both temperate and tropical countries. "Haelele, 1992; Egwu, et al., 1995; Chartier and Brogua, 1996; and Lipej and Sostaric, 1997"

Mycoplasmas belong to a group of microorganisms known as Mollicutes, which are very small prokaryotes, totally devoid of cell wall. A major proportion of mycoplasmas show a marked affinity for certain tissues and organ systems. Accordingly most of the pathogenic mycoplasmas are grouped into four categories:-

- (1) Those primarily causing respiratory tract infection.
- (2) Those involved with infection of urogenital tract and reproductive system.
- (3) Arthritogenic mycoplasmas.
- (4) Mycoplasmas producing diseases in central nervous system.

Although of course, some overlapping may occur between these groups in the sense that a certain mycoplasma species may affect different tissues, other exhibit a high degree of tissue specificity or association with only one type of target cell "Freundt, 1985".

Mycoplasmas have long been recognized as an important causal agents of sheep and goats diseases " Jones, 1978; Cottew, 1979; DaMassa et al., 1992; Rosendal, 1994 and Egwu et al., 1998a". The most important mycoplasmal diseases in these species are contagious