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Cairo University  
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine  
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# **Some studies about *Theileria* spp. among sheep in Egypt**

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### **Abstract**

The present study was carried out to investigate the accurate status of ovine *Theileria* infection in sheep in Giza governorate, Egypt during the period from May 2013 to April 2014. A total of 347 sheep blood samples (240 from different flocks and 107 from different slaughter houses) blood samples collected from both sex and different age groups. Giemsa stained blood smears examination by light microscope showed that 15.56% (54/347) were infected with *Theileria* spp. Statistical analysis using chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) found no statistical significance among percent of *Theileria* infection in different age, sex, season and animal locations. Also, 86 tissue specimens were collected from slaughtered sheep each sample was divided in to two parts one for preparing impression smears stained with 10% Giemsa and the other part were fixed in 10% neutral buffered formalin, and used for histopathology. Schizont was more prevalent in lymph node impression smears (92.85%) than spleen and lung ones (81.81% and 36.36% respectively). Pathological examination revealed mainly depletion and necrosis of lymphocytes in inspected sheep lymph nodes and spleen. Also, sever destructions in the lung tissue (emphysema, collapse, congestion, pneumonia and infiltration with inflammatory cells) were observed. PCR applied for amplification of a fragment of the 18S ribosomal DNA on 5 positive and 10 negative samples by microscopic examination. 40% (6/15) of examined samples were infected. The PCR products subjected to RFLP assay for differentiation of various *Theileria* spp. By using HpaII restriction fermentase enzyme. The restriction enzyme differentiated *Theileria* spp. to *T. lestoquardi*, *T. ovis* and *T. annulata*. The present study concluded that the pathological alteration in examined organs indicated infection of the inspected sheep with the pathogenic type (*T. lestoquardi*). PCR RFLP is a diagnostic tool enabling direct, highly specific identification of *Theileria* spp. when compared with microscopic examination. Also, *Theileria* spp. that infects sheep in Egypt is polyphyletic origin.

**Keywords:** Sheep, *Theileria*, PCR RFLP, Egypt.



*Dedicated to my  
father's soul and my family*





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# CONTENTS

Title	Page
<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	1
<b>REVIEW OF LITERATURE.....</b>	
I- Taxonomy of <i>Theileria</i> species.....	4
II- Importance of <i>Theileria</i> infection in sheep.....	4
III- Incidence rate of <i>Theileria</i> spp. infection in sheep.....	7
IV- Microscopic examination.....	16
V- Histopathological effect of <i>Theileria</i> spp. infection in sheep.....	20
VI- Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR).....	22
VII- Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism (RFLP).....	31
<b>MATERIAL AND METHODS.....</b>	
I- Investigated animals .....	34
II- Samples collection.....	34
III- Microscopic examination.....	35
IV- Statistical analysis.....	36
V- Histopathological examination.....	36
VI- Polymerase chain reaction (PCR).....	37
VII- Restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP) of PCR products.....	41
VIII- Agarose gel electrophoresis.....	43
<b>RESULTS.....</b>	
I-Incidence of <i>Theileria</i> spp. infection among sheep.....	45
Incidence of infection with <i>Theileria</i> spp. in inspected sheep from different sources.....	47
Incidence of infection with <i>Theileria</i> spp. among different exes.....	48
Incidence of infection with <i>Theileria</i> spp. in different age groups.....	49



II- Morphology of <i>Theileria</i> spp. in blood smears.....	50
Incidence of different stages of <i>Theileria</i> spp in blood smears.....	52
Microscopic examination of impression smears from slaughtered sheep internal organs.....	53
Incidence of <i>Theileria</i> spp. schizont in impression smears from sheep internal organs .....	54
Comparison between blood smear and impression smear for detection of <i>Theileria</i> infection.	55
III- Histopathological examination.....	56
IV- Polymerase chain reaction (PCR).....	61
V- RFLP of PCR products.....	63
 <b>DISCUSSION</b> .....	 65
 <b>CONCLUSION</b> .....	 75
 <b>SUMMARY</b> .....	 77
 <b>REFERENCES</b> .....	 80
 <b>ARABIC SUMMARY</b> .....	 ...



## LIST OF TABLES

Number	Table	Page
1	Sequence of primers used in the present study.	39
2	Reaction mixture used in PCR procedures.	40
3	Thermal profile used in PCR procedures.	40
4	Monthly and seasonal incidence rates of <i>Theileria</i> spp. infection among sheep in Giza governorate.	45
5	Incidence of <i>Theileria</i> infection in resident and preslaughtered sheep.	47
6	Incidence of <i>Theileria</i> spp. infection among different sheep sexes.	48
7	Incidence of <i>Theileria</i> infection among different age groups of sheep.	49
8	Incidence of different stages of <i>Theileria</i> spp. in positive sheep blood smears.	52
9	Incidence of <i>Theileria</i> spp. shizonts in impression smears from slaughtered sheep internal organs.	54
10	Comparison between different methods for the detection of <i>Theileria</i> infection.	55
11	Comparison between PCR and microscopic examination of <i>Theileria</i> spp. in sheep.	62
12	The pattern of RFLP of PCR products of different <i>Theileria</i> spp. by the use of HpaII.	64