



# **Kafrelsheikh University**

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## **Comparative Diagnostic Study on Tuberculosis in Cattle and Buffaloes**

**A thesis submitted**

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# Contents

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<b>Content.....</b>	<b>Page</b>
• <b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>1</b>
• <b>Review of Literature.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>History and importance of bovine tuberculosis (bTB).....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Etiology of bTB.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Risk factors, transmission and Immunopathogenesis of bTB.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Diagnosis of bTB.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Field diagnosis of bTB.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Tuberculin test.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Antemortem examination of bTB.....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Postmortem examination of bTB.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Laboratory diagnosis of bTB.....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>IFN-<math>\gamma</math> release assay (IGRA).....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>ELISA.....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Mycobacterial culture.....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Histopathology as a diagnostic method of bTB.....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Molecular diagnosis.....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>In-silico analysis.....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Treatment, Prevention and Control of bTB.....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Bovine TB in Egypt.....</b>	<b>42</b>
• <b>Materials and Methods.....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>A. Materials:</b>	
<b>Study area.....</b>	<b>48</b>

---

---

# Contents

---

---

<b>Animals.....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Samples.....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Materials used in ELISA.....</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Media, stains, and chemicals.....</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Materials used in RT-PCR .....</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Materials used in conventional PCR.....</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Materials used in the sequencing of conventional PCR products.....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Tools used in phylogenetic analysis.....</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Bioinformatics tools.....</b>	<b>60</b>
 <b>B. Methods:</b>	
<b>Evaluation criteria of the performed SID test during the national control program at the study area.....</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Clinical and Postmortem examinations.....</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>In-Vitro Testing by cocktail-antigens ELISA.....</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Histopathological examination.....</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Mycobacterial culture.....</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Real Time PCR (RT-PCR) .....</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Conventional PCR.....</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Sequencing.....</b>	<b>68</b>

---

---

# Contents

---

---

<b>Phylogenetic analysis.....</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>Bioinformatics analysis.....</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>Epidemiological and statistical analysis.....</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>• Results.....</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>• Discussion.....</b>	<b>126</b>
<b>• Summary.....</b>	<b>144</b>
<b>• Conclusions.....</b>	<b>147</b>
<b>• References.....</b>	<b>149</b>
<b>• Appendices.....</b>	
<b>• Arabic Summary.....</b>	

# List of Tables

---

---

<b>Table.....</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Table (1):</b> Prevalence of bTB in Egypt based on lesion inspection.....	<b>44</b>
<b>Table (2):</b> Prevalence of bTB in Egypt based on tuberculin testing.....	<b>45</b>
<b>Table (3):</b> Primer sequences used in RT-PCR.....	<b>56</b>
<b>Table (4):</b> Primer sequences used in conventional PCR.....	<b>57</b>
<b>Table (5):</b> Results of ELISA in relation to tuberculin test status.....	<b>75</b>
<b>Table (6):</b> The prevalence of bTB among examined slaughtered cattle and buffaloes at Tanta slaughterhouse, Egypt in 2018 – 2019.....	<b>77</b>
<b>Table (7):</b> Distribution of the tuberculous lesions in different organs of cattle and buffaloes affected with bTB in an abattoir survey in Tanta slaughterhouse, Egypt, 2018 - 2019 .....	<b>79</b>
<b>Table (8):</b> Comparison between culture, molecular and histopathological tested vs positive samples.....	<b>104</b>
<b>Table (9):</b> Mutated genes associated with drug resistance as well as, spoligotyping and regions of difference (RDS) of the isolated <i>Mycobacterium spp.</i> .....	<b>113</b>
<b>Table (10):</b> Gene mutations which are not associated with drug resistance in the isolated <i>Mycobacterium spp.</i> of the current study, but previously reported as drug resistant mutations.....	<b>114</b>

---

---

# List of Tables

---

---

**Table (11):** Reported gene mutations that don't confer drug resistance in mycobacterial isolates at the current study and also previously reported as non-conferred drug resistant mutations.....**114**

**Table (12):** New identified gene mutations within isolates of the current study which require future experimental work for their validation.....**116**

**Table (13):** Detected mutations of *rpoC* gene.....**117**

**Table (14):** Detected mutations of *rrs* gene.....**119**

**Table (15):** Detected mutations of *rrl* gene.....**121**

# List of Figures

---

---

<b>Figure.....</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Fig. (1):</b> Map of the study area, Kafrelsheikh governorate.....	<b>49</b>
<b>Fig. (2):</b> Map of Gharbia governorate.....	<b>49</b>
<b>Fig. (3):</b> The collected blood, serum, and tissue samples in the current study.....	<b>51</b>
<b>Fig. (4):</b> Workflow of the performed in silico analysis.....	<b>60</b>
<b>Fig. (5):</b> Optical Density values of the ELISA tested animals.....	<b>76</b>
<b>Fig. (6):</b> S/P Values of positive and negative serum samples.....	<b>76</b>
<b>Fig. (7):</b> Distribution of the tuberculous lesions in different organs.....	<b>79</b>
<b>Fig. (8):</b> Differential percentages of the detected tuberculous lesions.....	<b>80</b>
<b>Fig. (9):</b> Pulmonary TB affected cow, as revealed by PM examination showed emaciation, arched back, and abducted fore limbs.....	<b>80</b>
<b>Fig. (10):</b> Incised severely enlarged bronchial LN containing tuberculous lesions.....	<b>81</b>
<b>Fig. (11):</b> Miliary TB on peritoneum "Pearls appearance" .....	<b>81</b>
<b>Fig. (12):</b> Large number of discrete shot-like tubercles on the pleura in a miliary TB affected cow.....	<b>82</b>
<b>Fig. (13):</b> Bronchial LN of a bull showing caseous granulomas.....	<b>82</b>
<b>Fig. (14):</b> Multiple small sized caseous tubercles of bronchial LN of a bull.....	<b>83</b>
<b>Fig. (15):</b> Severely enlarged mediastinal LN containing thick creamy pus.....	<b>83</b>
<b>Fig. (16):</b> Incised retropharyngeal LN containing multiple thick yellow to orange lesions surrounded by a thick fibrous capsule.....	<b>84</b>

## List of Figures

---

---

<b>Fig. (17):</b> Miliary TB in a lung of a cow showing multiple yellowish white tubercles that resembles pearls.....	<b>84</b>
<b>Fig. (18):</b> Opened retropharyngeal LN containing thick cheesy yellowish pus.....	<b>85</b>
<b>Fig. (19):</b> Retropharyngeal LNs of a buffalo bull showing multiple tuberculous nodules.....	<b>86</b>
<b>Fig. (20):</b> Extensively thick caseous yellowish materials with hyperemia and bronchopneumonia in a cow.....	<b>87</b>
<b>Fig. (21):</b> Sliced cow lung showing diffused yellowish circumscribed tubercles.....	<b>87</b>
<b>Fig. (22):</b> Severe huge inflamed and emphysematous lung of pulmonary TB affected dairy cow.....	<b>88</b>
<b>Fig. (23):</b> Incised mesenteric LN containing yellowish creamy pus.....	<b>88</b>
<b>Fig. (24):</b> Yellowish tubercles in liver of cow.....	<b>89</b>
<b>Fig. (25):</b> Tubercles affecting spleen of a miliary bTB affected cow.....	<b>89</b>
<b>Fig. (26):</b> Peritoneum showing accumulation of chronic inflammatory cells, epithelioid cells and giant cells (Stain H&E X100) .....	<b>91</b>
<b>Fig. (27):</b> A high power of the previous picture showing large number of langhans' giant cells with different type of chronic inflammatory cells including lymphocytes (Stain H&E X200) .....	<b>91</b>
<b>Fig. (28):</b> Mesenteric LN showing different calcified nodules within the lymphatic tissues, calcification within necrotic tissues in the center (yellow arrow) surrounded by fibrosis (Stain H&E X100) .....	<b>92</b>
<b>Fig. (29):</b> Retropharyngeal LN showing old calcification (yellow arrow), peripheral collar inflammatory cells accumulation (blue arrow) (Stain H&E X200) .....	<b>92</b>

---

---



# List of Figures

---

---

<b>Fig. (30):</b> Retropharyngeal LN showing old calcification with necrotic disintegrated tissues (Stain H&EX 200) .....	<b>93</b>
<b>Fig. (31):</b> Peri-bronchial LN showing calcification, lytic tissues, and lymphatic tissue lysis (blue arrow), fibrosis around the calcified tissues (Stain H&E X100) .....	<b>93</b>
<b>Fig. (32):</b> Peri-bronchial LN showing accumulation of giant cells (pink arrow), fibroblastic proliferation (blue arrow) and calcification in the centre (yellow arrow) (Stain H&E X200) .....	<b>94</b>
<b>Fig. (33):</b> Lung interstitial thickening with inflammatory cell accumulation and atelectatic alveoli (Stain H&E X200) .....	<b>94</b>
<b>Fig. (34):</b> Lung showing broncho-centric tuberculosis with expectoration of giant cells in the bronchioles (yellow arrow) and accumulation of chronic inflammatory cells in the thickened interstitial tissues around bronchioles (Stain H&E X200) .....	<b>95</b>
<b>Fig. (35):</b> Hyperchromatic proliferated metaplastic epithelium of the bronchioles with severe peri-bronchial fibrosis (Stain H&E X200).....	<b>95</b>
<b>Fig. (36):</b> Hyperplastic proliferated normal bronchiolar epithelium of lung (Stain H&E X400) .....	<b>96</b>
<b>Fig. (37):</b> Lung showing other bronchioles with finger like projection metaplastic proliferated pleomorphic hyperchromatic epithelium lining of lung (cancerous lesion) (Stain H&E X200).....	<b>96</b>
<b>Fig. (38):</b> liver showing multinodular hepatic cirrhotic nodules surrounded by fibroblastic proliferation (blue arrows) with accumulation of chronic inflammatory cells and giant cells (yellow arrow) (Stain H&E X100) .....	<b>97</b>
<b>Fig. (39):</b> Liver showing accumulation of different types chronic inflammatory cells including lymphocytes, epithelioid cells, lysis of hepatic tissues and fibroblastic proliferation (yellow arrows) (Stain H&E X400)...	<b>97</b>

---

---

# List of Figures

---

---

<b>Fig. (40):</b> Liver showing Langhans ‘giant cell (yellow arrow), vacuolation necrotic tissues and, fibrosis (Stain H&E X400) .....	<b>98</b>
<b>Fig. (41):</b> Liver showing severe engorgement of sinusoids with blood (yellow arrows) (Stain H&E X200) .....	<b>98</b>
<b>Fig. (42):</b> Lung showing proliferated hyperplastic and metaplastic epithelial lining the bronchioles in addition to thrombus in the blood vessels (Stain H&E X100). .....	<b>99</b>
<b>Fig. (43):</b> High power of the previous picture showing proliferated hyperplastic and metaplastic elongated nuclei epithelial lining the bronchioles (yellow arrows) pleomorphic different shape size preneoplastic epithelial lining cells bronchioles (blue arrow) (Stain H&E X600).....	<b>99</b>
<b>Fig. (44):</b> Bronchial LN showing follicular lymphoma, many proliferated follicles surrounded by connective tissues .....	<b>100</b>
<b>Fig. (45):</b> Bronchial LN showing undifferentiated pleomorphic lymphocytes (Stain H&E X400) .....	<b>100</b>
<b>Fig. (46):</b> High power of previous picture illustrating abnormal undifferentiated lymphocytes (Stain H&E X400) .....	<b>101</b>
<b>Fig. (47):</b> Spleen with abnormal undifferentiated pleomorphic cells in splenic follicles (Stain H&E X200) .....	<b>101</b>
<b>Fig. (48):</b> Spleen showing abnormal atypical pleomorphic hyperchromatic cells (Stain H&E X200) .....	<b>102</b>
<b>Fig. (49):</b> High power of the previous picture of a spleen illustrating the hyperchromatic pleomorphic undifferentiated cells (Stain H&E X600)....	<b>102</b>
<b>Fig. (50):</b> Growth of <i>Mycobacterium ssp.</i> colonies on Lowenstein-Jensen slants.....	<b>103</b>
<b>Fig. (51):</b> Analysis of the amplification plot of the tuberculous samples...	<b>104</b>

---

---

# List of Figures

---

---

<b>Fig. (52):</b> PCR targeting 314 bp of <i>Mpb70</i> gene; Lane1: control negative, Lane2: control positive, Lane 4 to 13: positive samples.....	<b>105</b>
<b>Fig. (53):</b> Phylogenetic tree showing clustering of 10 Egyptian strains of 5 cattle (C1-C5) and 5 buffaloes (B1-B5) in comparing with 18 standard strains from gene bank. Strain B1 is the <i>Mtb</i> strain.....	<b>106</b>
<b>Fig. (54):</b> The percent identity and the divergence between the ten strains of the current study and the most similar strains (Cattle strains are labeled in red and buffaloes strains are labeled in blue) .....	<b>107</b>
<b>Fig. (55):</b> Alignment report of the ten strains (1-80 nucleotides) showing mutations of 9 strains where Cytosine and Adenine replaced Adenine and Guanine nucleotides at the position 10 and 11 in comparing with the most similar 18 strains of the gene bank.....	<b>109</b>
<b>Fig. (56):</b> Alignment report of the ten strains (80-160 nucleotides) showing no mutation.....	<b>109</b>
<b>Fig. (57):</b> Alignment report of the ten strains (160-240 nucleotides) showing no mutation.....	<b>110</b>
<b>Fig. (58):</b> Alignment report of the ten strains (240-312 nucleotides) showing mutation at the position 305 and 306, where Thymine and Cytosine had replaced Cytosine and Thymine.....	<b>110</b>
<b>Fig. (59):</b> Alignment report of the ten strains showing protein mutations in 9 strains from Serine to Histidine and one mutation from Asparagine to Lysine in B3 strain.....	<b>111</b>
<b>Fig. (60):</b> Alignment report of the ten strains showing protein mutations in 8 strains from proline to Leucine.....	<b>111</b>
<b>Fig. (61):</b> The sequence data of <i>Mpb70</i> gene of the ten <i>Mycobacterium spp.</i> strains obtained in this study.....	<b>112</b>

---

---

# List of Figures

---

---

- Fig. (62):** Bipartite graph represents the *rpoC* gene and relevant source mutations and chromosome position; Blue circles represent the amino acids mutations.....**118**
- Fig. (63):** Bipartite graph represents the *rrs* gene and relevant source mutations (96) and chromosome position; Blue circles shows C1483T and G1332A mutations that are previously reported.....**120**
- Fig. (64):** Bipartite graph represents the *rrl* gene and relevant source mutations (127) and chromosome position.....**123**
- Fig. (65):** The proteins functionalities and their associated dynamics resulted from the enrichment analysis. Mature-expressed proteins (green), Sensitive proteins to signals (dark violet), Drug-resistance proteins (Pink), Mycobacterial wall protein (Red) .....**125**

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## Summary

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### Summary

This study was conducted at the Middle-Delta region; Disuk, Sidi-salem, EL-Reyad, Baltim and Biyala districts of Kafrelsheikh Governorate as well as Tanta abattoir at Gharbia Governorate to investigate the existing gap between TB-detection of the national control program SID test and that is during routine meat inspection. Additionally, to assess the cocktail antigen ELISA as a complementary test for TB diagnosis. Moreover, to estimate disease prevalence and describe the clinical signs, PM lesions, histopathological findings of bTB at the study area. Furthermore, to identify the involved mycobacteria with subsequent molecular investigation and bioinformatics analysis.

A total of 400 animals (330 cows and 70 buffaloes) were tested with SID during the national control program against bTB at Kafrelsheikh Governorate. In addition, total of 750 animals; 569 cows and 181 buffaloes in between 25 serum-sampled emergency slaughtered animals, were slaughtered at Tanta abattoir and subjected for clinical examination before slaughtering. After slaughtering, animals were subjected to PM examination.

Tuberculin-testing of 400 animals during the national control program was evaluated, many technical and procedural errors were detected, and all animals were negative. Out of them, 55 animals were tested by ELISA before the application of tuberculin test, 30 (54.5%) animals were seropositive.

A total of 25 emergency-slaughtered animals of unknown tuberculosis-status were investigated by cocktail-antigens ELISA and post-

## Summary

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mortem examination. Five visible tuberculous-lesion cases were detected and confirmed by PCR. ELISA was sensitive and predictive of the existence of tuberculous-lesions; 4(80%) out of 5 visible-lesion cases were seropositive. True prevalence among the slaughtered animals was 27.14%.

To confirm the effect of the reported errors on reliability of tuberculin test, reference serum of 20 tuberculosis-positive animals that were tested by standard-procedures tuberculin test and their status were confirmed by PCR after slaughtering, were tested by ELISA. Those reference samples were belonged to the TB project (No. 2966, Science & Technology Development Fund, 2017) in AHRI. A complete matching was evident, the 20 standard-tuberculin positive animals were all seropositive by the cocktail antigen ELISA.

Out of the 750 examined slaughtered animals, visible TB was detected in 4 % of animals and the TP was estimated at 6.85% (95% CI: 5.3 % – 8.9%). The disease was significantly prevalent in females than in males and there was no significant difference in prevalence between cattle and buffaloes. Lesions were of variable size contained creamy, crumbly-cheese-like, or orange pus, most (40.95%) were in lungs and its associated LNs, followed by retropharyngeal (31.8%) and mesenteric LNs (13.6%).

Mycobacterial-culture, histopathology and RT-PCR targeting all members of MBTC were performed, upon which 85%, 80% and 100% of the tested lesions of each were confirmed as TB, respectively. *Mpb70*-targetting PCR was conducted on ten of RT-PCR positive samples, the amplicons were sequenced and identified nine *M. bovis* strains and, interestingly, one *Mtb* strain from a buffalo.

## Summary

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Bioinformatics tools were used for the prediction of gene mutations, nucleotide polymorphisms, lineages, drug resistance and PPI of the sequenced strains. Two *M. bovis* strains were belonged to BOV AFRI lineage (Spoligotypes BOV 1; BOV 2) whilst the remaining eight strains belonged to East-Asian (Beijing) lineage that indicate their geographical origin and the role of trading in transmission of mycobacteria across countries.

The *Mtb* strain was resistant to RIF, INH and SM, and to the best of our knowledge, this is the first report of MDR-*Mtb* originating from buffaloes. In addition, seven *M. bovis* strains were resistant to EMB and ETH. INH, RIF, SM, EMB and ETH resistances were associated with *KatG*, *rpoB*, *rpsL*, *embB* and *ethA* genes mutations, respectively. Other mutations and nucleotide polymorphisms of many genes were also predicted, which either aren't associated with drug resistance in this study but previously reported as drug resistant mutations, don't confer drug resistance or other mutations which are reported for the first time and require further experimental work for their validation.

PPI analysis revealed more interactions than what would be expected for a random set of proteins of similar size and had dense interactions between nodes that are biologically connected, as a group. Moreover, the algorithms predicted additional five functional partners (*rpsG*, *rplB*, *rplP*, *rpsS* and *rpoA*) that had a biological connection with the other genes.