DETECTION BY MULTIPLEX PCR ASSAY AND ISOLATION OF *Mycobacterium bovis* IN MILK FROM COWS WITH NEGATIVE INTRADERMAL TUBERCULIN TEST

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The raw cow’s milk can harbor a variety of microorganisms pathogenics such as *Mycobacterium bovis*, the etiologic agent of bovine tuberculosis (bTB). The bTB is a infection disease of worldwide occurrence, that present a serious health risk to humans and economic loss, specially in developed countries, such as Brazil. The aim of this study was to investigate the presence of *M. bovis* by culture and multiplex polymerase chain reaction (m-PCR) in milk from cows with negative intradermal tuberculin test. The samples were assceptically collected by manual milking from eight lactating cows that were negative to Cervical tuberculin test (CT) and apparently healthy. Each sample was decontaminated, inoculated onto Stonebrink media e incubated for 12 weeks at 37°C. The milk samples were also tested by m-PCR, that employed two sets of primers simultaneously:RvD1Rv2031c (500pb) specific for *M. bovis* and IS6110 (245bp) sequence present in all *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex species. Of eight milk samples tested, five were positive, which only one (12.5%) was culture positive and four (50%) were detected by m-PCR. This study suggests, that m-PCR assay may prove useful in the early diagnosis of *M. bovis* in milk.