



PHYLOGENOMIC ANALYSIS AND ANTIMICROBIAL SUSCEPTIBILITY DATA OF MYCOPLASMA BOVIS FROM DIFFERENT BELGIAN CATTLE PRODUCTION SYSTEMS

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Mycoplasma bovis is a leading cause of pneumonia and antimicrobial use in the different cattle sectors worldwide. Fear is that the veal calf industry harbours multi-resistant isolates because of their intensive antimicrobial use. This study compared isolates from the veal, dairy and beef sector on their antimicrobial susceptibility and genetic relatedness. MIC-values were determined (microbroth dilution) on 141 Belgian M. bovis isolates (2016-2019), of which 100 were whole genome sequenced (MinION Nanopore). The population was divided into wild type (WT) and non-wild type (nWT) using the epidemiological cut-off (visual eye-ball method). SNP analysis was performed to type M. bovis strains, and develop a phylogenetic tree (CSI Phylogeny). Logistic regression was performed on binary variables (WT=0; nWT=1). Acquired resistance was frequently observed for macrolides, and only in a few isolates also for gentamicin, florfenicol, enrofloxacin and tiamulin. No acquired resistance against oxytetracycline or doxycycline was observed. Beef isolates (64% nWT) had a three times higher odds (95%CI: 1.2-7.7) for gamithromycin resistance than dairy isolates (35%)(P=0.02), but no difference compared to veal isolates (58%). Five M. bovis clusters were observed, but none of them could be associated with any sector. Only M. bovis isolates from cluster III (85% nWT) showed a 22.7 (95%CI: 4.0-125.0) and 8.1 (95%CI: 1.6-41.7) times higher odds for gamithromycin resistance compared to clusters IV (19% nWT) and V (41% nWT) (P<0.12), respectively (Figure 1). This study could not evidence existence of sector specific M. bovis strains, but did show sector and strain specific gamithromycin resistance. This knowledge can contribute to better control and prevention quidelines for M. bovis.



Figure 1. Distribution of Belgian M. bovis isolates susceptible (○) or resistant (●) for gamithromycin over a SNP-based phylogenetic tree of 100 Belgian M. bovis isolates.