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## Seasonal prevalence of bovine mastitis causing organism during summer ,from grazing land of western Ghats

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Mastitis is an inflammatory condition of the udder , resulting in physical , chemical and microbiological changes in the milk ; pathological changes in the milk include changes of colour , consistency and presence of abnormally large numbers of leucocytes . A variety of bacterial , viral and fungal species are associated with the inflammatory condition , including  $strep tococcus \ agalatiae$  ,  $stap hylococcus \ aureus$  . The high summer prevalence of bovine mastitis causing organisms from the grazing land of the Western Ghats is due to rough grazing . The present study focuses on the occurrence of  $strep tococcus \ agalatiae$  in a completely grazed area during summer .

Four soil samples per month were collected in a sterile plastic bag from various places in the grazing land and rain forest soil of Western Ghats (lat  $.10^{\circ}12'$  N ,long  $.77^{\circ}30'$  E) Tamil Nadu ,India in different seasons (January-December) . Soil samples were saturated with sterile distilled water ,serially diluted and then inoculated on selective and differential media . These plates were incubated at  $.37^{\circ}$ C for 24 hrs . Bacteria were identified using standard biochemical tests based on Berge's Manual of Systematic Bacteriology .

**Result** Seven different isolates were identified in the soil samples from both rain forest and grazing zone. *Pseudomonas* was observed to exhibit antagonistic properties against *streptococcus agalatiae*.

Month	Season	Grazing zone CFU/ml	Rain forest zone CFU/ml
April		$4 \times 10^{6}$	8×10 <sup>6</sup>
May	Summer	$6 \times 10^{6}$	$8 \times 10^{6}$
June		$6 \times 10^{6}$	$8 \times 10^{6}$
July		8×10 <sup>6</sup>	$10 \times 10^6$
August	Spring	$10 \times 10^{6}$	$10 \times 10^{6}$
September		$8 \times 10^{6}$	$16 \times 10^{6}$
October		$8 \times 10^{6}$	$20 \times 10^6$
November	Winter	$8 \times 10^{6}$	$23 \times 10^{6}$
December		$8 \times 10^{6}$	$25 \times 10^6$
January		$6 \times 10^{6}$	15×10 <sup>6</sup>
February	Autumn	$8 \times 10^{6}$	$15 \times 10^{6}$
March		$6 \times 10^{6}$	$10 \times 10^6$

**Discussion** Seasonal conditions favor the occurrence of streptococcus agalatiae leading to mastitis infections. Pseudomonas can be recommended to control the occurrence of the streptococcus agalatiae infection in cattle particularly during periods of heavy grazing.