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Mastitis and death of a Corriedale ewe associated with *Mycoplasma* spp. infection in Buenos Aires province

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Mycoplasma spp. infections are associated with different clinical syndromes in ruminants: mastitis, pneumonia, arthritis, otitis, among others. Nevertheless, case reports of clinical diseases associated with *Mycoplasma*-infections are scarce in small ruminants of Argentina. *Mycoplasma agalactiae* and *Mycoplasma capricolum* are the causal agents of contagious agalactia, an exotic disease in the region, although *M. agalactiae* was detected by PCR. Therefore, strict surveillance of these pathogens is needed. We report a case of severe mastitis and death of a 7-years-old Corriedale ewe in a flock from Buenos Aires province. The affected ewe had delivered twin lambs 15 days before clinical disease was detected and died. During *post mortem* examination, supramammary lymphadenomegaly was evident. Mammary gland was enlarged and firm, with cyanotic skin and superficial edema; multiple caseous whitish foci were observed in the mammary parenchyma. Similar caseous foci were observed in the

caudal-ventral lobes of the right lung. In the histopathological analysis, chronic multifocal necrotizing severe mastitis and fibrinous bronchopneumonia with multifocal necrosis and fibrinous pleurisy were observed. Mammary gland and lung was cultured in Columbia blood agar, Mc Conkey and Hafliks modified media. *Mycoplasma* spp. was isolated from the mammary gland in Hafliks modified media. DNA was extracted from mammary gland and lung, and a nested-PCR for *Mycoplasma* spp. resulted positive. Sequencing analysis confirmed the presence of *M. arginini* and *M. bovis* in mammary gland and lung, respectively. The pathological findings were similar to the described in cases of contagious agalactia, therefore, *Mycoplasma* speciation was decided in order to discard the presence of this exotic disease. *M. arginini* has been associated with mastitis in goats and it has been isolated from mammary gland and lung from sheep. *M. bovis* is commonly associated with pneumonia in lambs. Unfortunately, Columbia blood agar and Mc Conkey cultures were contaminated, therefore, the presence of other bacterial pathogens was not possible.

Keywords: *Mycoplasma*, sheep, mastitis, pneumonia.