Author's Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S2211-7539(16)30049-5 DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.mmcr.2016.11.004 Reference: MMCR204

To appear in: Medical Mycology Case Reports

Received date: 22 November 2016 Revised date: 23 November 2016 Accepted date: 24 November 2016

Cite this article as: Guilherme Konradt, Daniele Mariath Bassuino, Matheu Viezzer Bianchi, Lismara Castro, Rafaela Albuquerque Caprioli, Saulo Petinatt Pavarini, Janio M. Santurio, Maria Isabel Azevedo, Francielli P. Jesus and Davic Driemeier, Cutaneous Pythiosis in calves: an epidemiologic, pathologic serologic and molecular characterization, *Medical Mycology Case Reports* http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.mmcr.2016.11.004

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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Cutaneous Pythiosis in calves: an epidemiologic, pathologic, serologic and molecular characterization

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ABSTRACT

This study reports the epidemiological, pathological and mycological findings of cutaneous pythiosis in cattle in southern Brazil. 23 calves, that were kept next to a river with extensive marshy regions, presented ulcerated cutaneous lesions in thoracic and pelvic limbs, sometimes extending to the ventral thoracic region. Histopathological examination revealed multifocal pyogranulomas in the superficial and deep dermis. The Grocott-Methenamine silver, immunohistochemistry anti-*Pythium insidiosum*, ELISA serology and molecular characterization demonstrated the agent *P. insidiosum* in these cases.

Keywords:

Cattle, Diagnostic methods, Marshy regions, Pyogranulomatous lesions, Phytium insidiosum

1. Introduction

Pythiosis is a chronic granulomatous disease caused by the oomycete *Pythium insidiosum* belonging to the Kingdom *Stramenopila* [11]. These opportunistic pathogens live in warm stagnant water and are most often reported in regions with tropical and subtropical environments [10]. In Brazil, the disease occurs predominantly in horses, however, outbreaks have been reported in sheep and cattle [16,17].

Pythiosis has three distinct forms of clinical presentation in domestic animals: cutaneous [5,6,10], gastrointestinal [15] and rhinofacial [17]. In cattle, the cutaneous form of the disease is sporadic and widely described [16] and usually occurs during the rainy season in subtropical areas [5].

The clinical diagnosis is based on epidemiological characteristics and pathological lesions [3]. However, for definitive diagnosis, cultivation and identification of the agent are crucial [10]. Techniques of immunohistochemistry, serological testing by ELISA and polymerase chain

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