

**EPIDEMIOLOGICAL CHARACTERIZATION AND RISK FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH
Chlamydophila abortus INFECTION IN WOOLLESS SHEEP OF THE BRAZILIAN
SEMIARID REGION**

(CARACTERIZAÇÃO EPIDEMIOLÓGICA E FATORES DE RISCO ASSOCIADOS À INFECÇÃO
POR *Chlamydophila abortus* EM OVINOS DESLANADOS DO SEMIÁRIDO BRASILEIRO)

**A. E. M. FARIAS¹, L. G. FERNANDES², S. S. AZEVEDO³, C. S. A. B. SANTOS⁴, R. M.
PIATTI⁵, C. J. ALVES^{6*}**

The objective of this study was to identify the risk factors and determine the prevalence of positive and seropositive animals to *Chlamydophila abortus* in woolless sheep of the semiarid region of northeastern Brazil. We collected blood samples of 476 sheep from 72 farms in 14 counties in the middle region of the Sertão, Paraíba. The serological diagnosis of *Chlamydophila abortus* was performed using the complement fixation test (CFT). The sheep farm was considered positive when presented at least one positive animal. Of the 72 farms tested, 38 (52.8%) had at least one positive animal while of the 476 tested animals, 94 (19.7%) were seropositive. Participation in exhibitions (odds ratio = 4.31, 95% CI = 1.80 to 10.35, p = 0.011) was identified as a risk factor. It is suggested that *Chlamydophila abortus* infection is widespread in sheep of the region, and based on the analysis of risk factors, sanitary control is recommended in animal exhibitions.

¹ Mestre, Universidade Federal de Campina Grande

² Doutorado, Universidade Federal de Campina Grande

³ Doutor, Universidade Federal de Campina Grande

⁴ Doutor, Universidade Federal de Campina Grande

⁵ Doutor, Instituto Biológico de São Paulo

⁶ Doutor, Universidade Federal de Campina Grande. E-mail: clebertja@uol.com.br