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ZOONOTIC RISKS AND TRANSMISSION-OF MYCOBACTERIA SPECIES FROM COWS' MILK AND SLAUGHTERED CATTLE TO MAN IN IBADAN: ROLE OF BUTCHERS

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ABSTRACT
To ascertain the zoonotic risks associated with the handling, processing and consumption of milk and meat products in respect to bovine tuberculosis in Ibadan. This study was conducted by simultaneous screening of 1 05 unpasteurised cows' milk samples and 587 slaughtered cattle some of which showed gross lesions suggestive of tuberculosis. Samples from the milk and suspected tuberculous lesions were cultured on Lowenstein-Jensen media while nitrate and niacin tests were carried out to classify the isolated *Mycobacteria* species. Prevalence rates of 5.7% and 4.3% were confirmed from the milk and cattle samples screened respectively. Based on the biochemical tests, three isolates of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis,* one of *M. bovis* and one of *M. africanum* were identified from the milk samples; while six *M. tuberculosis,* fourteen *M. bovis,* two *M. africanum* and three unclassified *Mycobacteria* species were obtained from the tuberculous cattle. The unhygienic handling and processing ofthese animal products by butchers may lead to the zoonotic transmission of *M. tuberculosis* complex to the public and a source of occupational exposures to the butchers.

Keyword
Zoonoses, Food-products, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis,* Butchers, Nigeria