**ReadMe File to support datasets:**

**Project title:** Prevalence of enterotoxigenic *Staphylococcus aureus* in raw ruminants’ milk: A systematic review

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This readme file aims to provide a guide how to use these data:

1. Excel sheet, Summary of Systematic review data\_V1\_MS\_13-7-2022, contains data extracted from the included studies in the systematic review in one sheet and another sheet showing the quality assessment of these studies. Extracted data were: citation information (authors’ names, year of publication, journal name, volume and pages); year of study; geographical data; number of farms and animal species from which the samples were collected; health status of animal (healthy or mastitis), and test(s) used for mastitis diagnosis (SCC = Somatic Cell Count, CMT = California Mastitis Test, TBC = total bacterial count); milk source (consumption level, which stands for bulk tank milk and/or milk available at retail, i.e., co-mingled milk; or host level, which stands for individual milk). Laboratory methods used for detection of *S. aureus* enterotoxin genes and/or enterotoxins were also extracted (PCR = polymerase chain reaction, RT-PCR = Real Time polymerase chain reaction, ELISA = Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay, RPLA = Reversed passive latex agglutination, ELFA = Enzyme-linked fluorescence assay). The total number of *S. aureus* enterotoxin-positive samples, and the number of *S. aureus* isolates and/or strains that were carrying enterotoxin genes and/or able to produce enterotoxins were extracted. Total number of samples, total number of *S. aureus* positive samples, and total number of enterotoxigenic *S. aureus* positive samples were recorded. Any missing data were recorded as not reported (NR). The quality of included studies was assessed following the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) critical appraisal checklist for prevalence studies ([Munn et al. 2015](#_ENREF_37)), and it was based on the following information: (1) sampling frame (i.e., sampling representation based on breed, herd or farm depending on the aim of each study), (2) sample quality: handling (disinfection before sample collection and use of sterile sampling containers) and transportation (use of insulated and cooled shipping containers), (3) sample size (milk volume, number of animals, number of samples and number of farms/collection centers), (4) description of study settings, in particular, health status of source animals (i.e., healthy and/or mastitis milk were included in the study), (5) analysis of data (i.e., if the data obtained from the collected samples were analysed in an appropriate way) and (6) validity of laboratory methods used (based on detection target, *S. aureus* enterotoxin genes and/or enterotoxins). Each study was given a score of 0 (negative answer) or 1 (positive answer), with a maximum score of 10, as some of the criteria included sub criteria, i.e., sample quality included handling and transportation. An overall assessment of high (score 8 or above), moderate (score between 5 and 8), or low (score 4 and below) quality was assigned to each article.
2. EndNote library includes the same studies included in the systematic review and exported to the Excel sheet for data extraction and quality assessment.