This article documents the cross-reactivity of proteins extracted from spiroplasma with scrapie associated fibril (SAF) proteins, which are definitive ultrastructural markers of TSE infection. It is noteworthy that spiroplasma contain within them fibril proteins morphologically identical to SAF suggesting that SAF are the tombstones of spiroplasma organisms in TSE tissues.

Fibrillar proteins seen within a protease-disrupted spiroplasma are morphology identical to SAF, which are definitive ultrastructural markers of TSE.

Dot blot shows cross-reactivity of hyperimmune rabbit sera specific for scrapie-specific proteins (SAF) shown in column B against spiroplasma fibrillar proteins derived from spiroplasma broth culture shown in column A.