INTRODUCTION

Leptospirosis affects most mammals throughout the world and is a common zoonotic disease and known as a global public health problem because of its increased mortality and morbidity in different countries. It causes financial loss to the cattle industry from decreased milk production, abortion, stillbirth, infertility and mortality (1, 14). The aspects of bovine leptospirosis are still inadequately defined, particularly in the cattle population of west of Iran, where published reports indicate widespread serological evidence of infection. Diagnosis of leptospirosis is based on laboratory confirmation because its clinical signs are nonspecific and may be mistaken with other febrile diseases (15). The carrier cows secrete leptospires in their urine without clinical signs of disease because of the tendency of bacteria to accumulate in kidneys. Therefore, they have an important role in the epidemiology of disease (3, 14). The earliest recognised report of leptospirosis in Iran is published by Rafyi and Magami (1968). Since then the most prevalent leptospira serovars reported in Iran includes: Grippotyphosa, Canicola, Hardjo, Pomona and Icterohaemorrhagia (1). More recent published data in Iran indicated that serovar Canicola is widely