

INTRODUCTION AND AIM OF THE WORK

Mycoplasma pneumoniae is a major cause of respiratory infections in school-aged children (Denny, 1987).

Above the age of 4 years, pneumococcus and *mycoplasma pneumoniae* are the most frequently identified organisms and viruses are of lesser importance (Murphy et al., 1981).

Mycoplasma pneumoniae is endemic with epidemics every few years (Miragliotta & Fumarola, 1988).

Unfortunately there are no comprehensive reports about *mycoplasma pneumoniae* in childhood. So the aim of this study is to clarify the incidence of *mycoplasma pneumoniae* among the Egyptian children with acute respiratory infection.