



# PARASITO2025

29º CONGRESSO BRASILEIRO DE PARASITOLOGIA

## SEROPREVALENCE OF TOXOPLASMOSIS IN RIVERSIDE POPULATIONS FROM TWO CITIES IN THE RECÔNCAVO OF BAHIA, BRAZIL

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### Abstract

Toxoplasmosis is a parasitic zoonosis with an impact on public health, especially in regions with unfavourable socioeconomic conditions. Riverside populations may be more exposed to infectious agents due to precarious environmental and sanitary conditions and low access to health services. This study aimed to investigate the frequency of IgG and IgM antibodies against *Toxoplasma gondii* in riverside populations of the Recôncavo da Bahia. A cross-sectional and descriptive study was carried out between April/2022 and August/2024, involving the population of the cities of Cabaceiras do Paraguaçu and Cachoeira, Bahia, Brazil. Sociodemographic data were collected and serological tests were performed to evaluate anti-*T. gondii* IgM and IgG. In Cabaceiras do Paraguaçu, 74 individuals were screened, with a mean age of 33.84 (± 20.92). The majority were female and over 31 years old, with an income lower than the minimum wage, self-declared black and working as family farmers. In Cachoeira, the mean age was 21.45 (± 13.78), with the majority within the 0-14 years age range and female, with an income lower than the minimum wage, students and self-declared black. In Cabaceiras do Paraguaçu, 40 (54.1%) presented reactive anti-*T. gondii* IgG, while one (1.4%) was reactive for IgM. In the city of Cachoeira, 80 (49.1%) were reactive for anti-*T. gondii* IgG, while 6 (3.7%) presented positivity for IgM. These data showed that approximately 49-54% of the individuals studied had previous or chronic infection by *T. gondii* and 7 cases suggestive of acute infection were identified. It is important to emphasize that the population of Cachoeira was composed mainly of young individuals. An assessment of the association of seroprevalence with sociodemographic factors will be further analysed. Assessing the seroprevalence of this zoonosis in the riverside regions of Recôncavo Baiano is essential to understand the level of exposure and guide targeted prevention and control measures.

**Supported by:** CAPES, CNPq, JOVEMPESQ/PRPPG/UFBA 007/2022.

**Keywords:** Toxoplasmosis, Riverside populations, Seroprevalence.

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