

Wild boars as a reservoir of parasites with zoonotic potential in the state of São Paulo, Brazil

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In this study, we investigated the occurrence of parasites with zoonotic potential in slaughtered wild boars in the northwest region of the state of São Paulo, Brazil. A total of 40 animals of different sexes and ages were examined. To investigate enteroparasites, fecal samples were collected directly from the rectal ampulla of all animals and submitted to coproparasitological techniques (Willis–Mollay, Faust and Hoffman Pons and Janer) and an aliquot was subjected to extraction of genetic material for molecular detection of *Cryptosporidium* spp. and *Giardia* spp. by nested PCR. Fragments of liver, spleen, heart, tongue and lymph nodes of the 40 animals were subjected to genomic DNA extraction and subsequently nested PCR and conventional PCR were performed for molecular detection of *Toxoplasma gondii* and *Leishmania infantum*, respectively. The epidermal region of 30 wild boars was also analyzed for ectoparasites. In our study, we observed an occurrence of 100% (40/40) and 43.33% (13/30) of endo and ectoparasites, respectively, with the identification of eggs of *Metastrongylus* spp. (15% [6/40]), *Strongyloides ransomi* (25% [10/40]), *Trichuris suis* (7.5% [3/40]) and nematodes of the order Strongylida (100% [40/40]), as well as oocysts of protozoan Eimeriidae (50% [20/40]). Infestations by ectoparasites were mainly by ixodids of the genus *Amblyomma* spp. (43.33% [13/30]) and by *Cochliomyia hominivorax* larvae (10% [3/30]). Regarding molecular detection, we identified *T. gondii*, *L. infantum* and *Cryptosporidium scrofarum*, respectively, in eight (20%), four (10%) and three (7.5%) of the 40 wild boars. Thus, several agents with zoonotic potential were identified in this study, such as *T. gondii*, *L. infantum*, *C. scrofarum* and infestations by *Amblyomma* spp. and *C. hominivorax*, agents with relevance in Public Health.

Palavras-chave: helminths, protozoosis, suids.