

Evaluation of natural infection by *Trypanosoma cruzi* in the Truká Indigenous land, in Pernambuco, Brazil

Kamila Érika Ribeiro Lopes¹, Luanderson Cardoso Pereira², Kívia Millana de Sousa³, Clarice de Freitas Bezerra³, Jessica Martins Sanches³, Lívia Fagundes Viana Bosnic³, Darlyane de Lima e Silva³, Karla Porpino de Araújo Ferreira Pinheiro⁴, Denis Dantas da Silva⁵, Andressa Noronha Barbosa⁶, Nathalie de Sena Pereira³

- 1- UNIVASF - Federal University of the São Francisco Valley, College of Pharmacy, Petrolina/PE.
- 2- UFMG – Federal University of Minas Gerais, Department of Parasitology, Belo Horizonte/MG.
- 3- UFRN – Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte, Department of Microbiology and Parasitology, Natal/RN.
- 4- UNINASSAU – Maurício de Nassau University, Biomedicine Undergraduate Program, Natal/RN.
- 5- UNP – Potiguar University, School of Health, Natal/RN.
- 6- UFRN - Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte, Department of Clinical and Toxicological Analysis, Natal/RN.

The state of Pernambuco, located in the Northeast region of Brazil, is considered endemic for Chagas disease and the presence of *Trypanosoma cruzi* vectors is frequently reported in households. In 2018 alone, the presence of infected triatomines was recorded in 40 municipalities. Recently, the epidemiological bulletin of Chagas disease showed the occurrence of acute cases in the Brazilian indigenous population, corresponding to 2.7% and 0.8% of reported chronic cases. Therefore, for better control and planning of actions in vulnerable regions, such as indigenous lands, the entomological investigation process must be associated with sustained environmental surveillance actions. Therefore, the objective of this study was to evaluate the natural infection by *T. cruzi* in triatomines captured in the Truká indigenous land, in the municipality of Cabrobó-PE. The collections were carried out in the peridomiciliary environment, between the years 2023-2024, and the captured insects were identified and examined for the detection of *T. cruzi* through direct examination and xenoculture. In addition, the data regarding the spontaneous demand for collection of triatomines provided by the local endemic agent between the years 2017-2019 were also analyzed. During this period, 97 triatomines were captured and identified as *Triatoma brasiliensis*, with a percentage of infection by *T. cruzi* corresponding to 6.2%. Among the active search, a total of 37 species were captured between the years 2023-2024, all of the subspecies *Triatoma brasiliensis macromelasoma*, belonging to the *Triatoma brasiliensis* species complex. Regarding infection, all specimens were negative for *T. cruzi*. These data demonstrate the need for constant epidemiological surveillance to prevent contact between infected triatomines and humans and the consequent transmission of *T. cruzi*, as well as the implementation of chemical control.

Supported by: Capes and CNPq.

Keywords: Truká indigenous land, Kissing bug, Chagas disease.