OCCURRENCE OF PARASITISM BY *Schistosoma mansoni* IN LIMNIC MOLLUSKS IN AN URBAN AREA IN THE INLAND OF SERGIPE

Marcondes Henrique de Sá Mendonça[1], Kaio Felipe Batista de Jesus[2], Sara Antônia Silva da Vitória[3], Ítalo Fernando Lisboa de Melo[4], Sidney Lourdes César Souza Sá[5], Luciene Barbosa[6].

[1]Postgraduate Program in Parasitic Biology, Federal University of Sergipe, São Cristóvão/SE, Brazil.

[2]Department of Biology, Federal University of Sergipe, São Cristóvão/SE, Brazil.

[3]Graduate in Nursing, Federal University of Sergipe, Aracaju/SE, Brazil.

[4]Master's Degree in Parasitic Biology, Federal University of Sergipe, São Cristóvão/SE, Brazil.

[5]Government of the State of Sergipe, State Department of Health, Department of Epidemiological Surveillance, Aracaju/SE, Brazil.

[6]Department of Morphology, Federal University of Sergipe, São Cristóvão/SE, Brazil.

Schistosomiasis mansoni is a neglected tropical disease affecting more than 200 million people in 78 countries. It is endemic in Brazil, mainly in coastal regions and the Northeast. Environmental factors, such as water bodies containing intermediate host mollusks and favorable climatic conditions, influence its prevalence. This research aimed to investigate the occurrence of parasitism by *Schistosoma mansoni* in mollusks of the genus *Biomphalaria* in an urban area in the municipality of Riachuelo/SE. The collections took place at a single point, distributed in three distinct periods: November 2023 (Collection 1), April 2024 (Collection 2) and July 2024 (Collection 3). The researchers collected the gastropods using tweezers and metal shells, then placed them in plastic bags and sent them to the Laboratory of Entomology and Tropical Parasitology (LEPaT) of the Federal University of Sergipe (UFS), where they counted, measured, and kept them in containers with non-chlorinated water. Evaluated the positivity of *S. manson*i by exposing the mollusks to artificial light for approximately one hour. We reexposed the mollusks that did not release cercariae to light weekly for forty days. The authors identified the released cercariae using dichotomous keys for classification. 260 mollusks were obtained, all belonging to the species *B. glabrata*. In Collection 1, 136 mollusks were found, of which eighteen (13%) were positive for *S. mansoni*. In Collection 2, 62 mollusks were captured, ten (16%) positive. In the last collection, 62 mollusks were obtained, of which five (8%) were positive. We concluded that the studied area presents a potential risk to the health of the local population due to the environmental conditions and the direct interaction of people with the foci of schistosomiasis transmission, which confirms the need to provide subsidies for the implementation of more targeted and effective public health measures in the battle against schistosomiasis in the region.

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