PREVALENCE OF INTESTINAL ENTEROPARASITOSIS IN A RURAL BRAZIL-BOLIVIA BORDER COMMUNITY

JONATAN TAPANACHE BACA[1], MARILENE APARECIDA MOREIRA[2], ROSILAYNE SURUBI FERNANDES[3], ANTONIO FRANCISCO MALHEIROS[4], LEILA VALDERES SOUZA GATTASS[5], KELLIS MARIA BATISTA[6], GABRIELA POLIANA AGUILAR TOSSUÉ[7], PEDRO MARIANO GARCIA ROJAS[8]

[1]UNIVERSIDADE DO ESTADO DE MATO (UNEMAT), MATO GROSSO, BRAZIL

In areas with poor basic sanitation, intestinal parasites continue to be a major public health problem. The aim of this study was to assess the prevalence of intestinal enteroparasitosis in the Vila Picada community, located in the district of Porto Esperidião – Mato Grosso, on the border with Bolivia. The quantitative descriptive study was carried out as part of a research project by the Parasitology Laboratory (LaBPar) of the State University of Mato Grosso (UNEMAT), approved by the Research Ethics Committee (CEP – 6.447.376). Thirty-six fecal samples from individuals of different age groups were collected and analyzed using the Hoffman method. Of the total number of samples analyzed (36), 18 showed parasites, resulting in na overall prevalence of 50% (18 samples positive for parasites/36 total samples × 100). The positive samples identified the following parasites: *Blastocystis sp.* (22.22%), *Endolimax nana* (13.89%), *Entamoeba coli* (5.56%), *Entamoeba dispar* (2.78%), *Giardia lamblia* (2.78%) and *Entamoeba histolytica* (2.78%). Half of the positive samples were dominated by *Blastocystos sp*. And *Endolimax nana*, suggesting that these two species may be the most prevalent in the community and possibly the main culprits of the intestinal infections observed in the region. On the other hand, 24 samples showed no parasites, probably due to a low parasite load or adequate hygiene practices. It can be concluded that the absence of parasites can be attributed to factors such as effective sanitation measures and a reduction in the parasite load in the population. The presence of parasites in half of the positive samples reveals that parasitic infections continue to be a public health problem. Thus, preventive actions and improvements in basic sanitation are essential for controlling parasites, and continued surveillance is fundamental to guaranteeing the health of the local population.

Supoported by: FAPEMAT.

Keywords: Intestinal enteroparasitosis, prevalence, public health