MEDICINAL PLANTS IN THE ANTHELMINTIC CONTROL OF SMALL RUMINANTS IN THE SEMI-ARID REGION OF BAHIA: THE VISION OF SMALL PRODUCERS

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Abstract:

Medicinal plants have been used empirically for years by different traditions due to their bioactive and chemical nature. Herbal medicines are widely used in veterinary medicine because of their anthelmintic properties, which can replace industrialized drugs and delay parasite resistance, a current challenge in the fight against gastrointestinal parasites in small ruminants.

This research aims to understand the use of medicinal plants by small farmers in the treatment of worms in goats and sheep in the semi-arid region of Bahia. To this end, a survey was carried out of the main plants used by small ruminant producers in the rural area of the municipality of Buritirama, Bahia, using a questionnaire containing 19 questions about the use of plants in animal health, forms of administration, processing and collection. The study was approved by the CEP-UFOB. Fifteen farmers were interviewed, 93.3% of whom confirmed that they use plants as anthelmintic alternatives, the most commonly cited being: Mastruz (66.6%), Neem (33.3%) and Batata de Pulga (26.6%).

Other plants mentioned to a lesser extent were: Babosa, Papaconha and Caatinga de Porco. The popular names were kept, as no plant has yet been collected to identify the species. Around 76.9% of the participants reported using these plants to control infections in general and 50% used them mainly for worms, especially in sheep and goats. All the interviewees learned about the use of the plants through family tradition and administer them orally, mixed with feed or water.

Previous studies have evaluated the anthelmintic efficacy of most of the plants mentioned, but with divergent results depending on the part of the plant evaluated, processing and form of use. Most of the farmers interviewed have used medicinal plants orally to control anthelmintic infections in small ruminants, and their use is based on popular knowledge, with plants that are easily accessible in the region and based on family tradition.

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