

SURVEY OF THE OCCURRENCE OF ENTERIC PARASITES IN FREE-LIVING ROBUST CAPUCHIN MONKEYS (*Sapajus nigritus*)

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Parasitic diseases in wild animals are of great relevance in the One Health context, especially in non-human primates, which can act as reservoirs for several parasites with zoonotic potential. However, investigations of endoparasites in these animals are scarce. Thus, this study aimed to investigate the occurrence of enteric parasites in free-living robust capuchin monkeys (*Sapajus nigritus*) that inhabit the university campus of the UNESP, School of Dentistry, Araçatuba, São Paulo, Brazil. A total of 44 animals were investigated in this research. Fecal samples were collected directly from the soil after spontaneous defecation, bottled in universal collection pots and sent for processing. Enteric parasites were detected by coproparasitological techniques (Willis–Mollay, Faust and Hoffman Pons and Janer). Of the animals investigated, 43 were positive by at least one technique, identifying Ancylostomatidae eggs (41/44 [93.18%]), *Strongyloides stercoralis* eggs and larvae (34/44 [77.27%]), Spiruridae eggs (8/44 [18.18%]) and *Hymenolepis diminuta* eggs (10/44 [22.72%]). Regarding the positive animals, 86.04% presented polyparasitism, 48.83% (21/43) were infected with Ancylostomatidae and *S. stercoralis*, 16.27% (7/43) with Ancylostomatidae, *S. stercoralis* and *H. diminuta*, 11.62% (5/43) with Ancylostomatidae, *S. stercoralis* and Spiruridae, 4.65% (2/43) with Ancylostomatidae and *H. diminuta*, 2.32% (1/43) with Ancylostomatidae and Spiruridae and 2.32% (1/43) with Ancylostomatidae, Spiruridae and *H. diminuta*. Thus, we can identify the occurrence of enteric parasites in 97.72% of the capuchin monkeys investigated in this study, with the identification mainly of Ancylostomatidae eggs and *S. stercoralis* larvae.

Keywords: helminths, primates, zoonosis.