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**CARACTERIZAÇÃO FENOTÍPICA E DETECÇÃO MOLECULAR DE *Salmonella* sp.  
NAS FASES DE CRIA, RECRIA E PRODUÇÃO EM LOTE DE POEDEIRAS  
COMERCIAIS**

**PHENOTYPICAL CHARACTERIZATION AND MOLECULAR DETECTION OF  
*Salmonella* IN SAMPLES IN STARTER, GROWER AND EGG PRODUCTION  
PHASES IN COMMERCIAL LAYING HENS**

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**ABSTRACT:** This present study was developed with the objective of detecting *Salmonella* sp. by conventional bacteriology and real time PCR techniques in samples of transport crate's flooring material (meconium), of raising environment (swab of cages and drinking fountains), swab of cloaca, food and insects from the growing, laying and production periods in a lot of commercial laying hens. Of the 864 samples were collected, among whom 248 samples originated from growing, 392 from laying and 224 from production. Of the 864 samples, 2,8% where positives in bacteriologic technique and 15,3% in real time PCR. The contamination was higher in the periods of growing and laying and declined in the period of production. Twenty four isolations of *Salmonella* where typified as *Salmonella* Agona (41,7%), *Salmonella* Livingstone (33,3%), *Salmonella* Cerro (16,7%), *Salmonella* Senftenberg (4,2%) and *Salmonella* Schwarzengrund (4,2%). At the period of growing *Salmonella* Livingstone was identified. This findings suggest vertical contamination in the lot. At the periods of laying and production, isolated material belong to serovars Agona, Cerro, Senftenberg and Schwarzengrund, pointing to horizontal contamination. It is possible to conclude with this study that both vertical and horizontal contaminations are important during the cycle of commercial egg production and contamination in laying period is higher than growing and production periods.

**Keywords:** *Alphitobius diaperinus*, environment, cage flooring.