

Cryptosporidium spp. infection in goats kids

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INTRODUCTION

The parasites of the genus *Cryptosporidium* parasitize the intestinal tract of a great range of vertebrates. The transmission of the coccidium occurs directly by ingestion of infective oocysts and are considered of the major causes of diarrhea in goat kids (De Graaf et al., 1999). The present study aimed to determine the occurrence of infection by *Cryptosporidium* spp. in goats kids of the Quixadá, Ceará, Brazil.

METHODS

The study included 143 goats kids, aged three and 360 days, of both sexes, with and without defined breed, originating from nine farms distributed in three circuits. Stool were registered in accordance with the appearance and color, distributed in tubes such as eppendorf is frozen in natura at -20°C until the moment of extraction of genomic DNA from parasite with the aid of a commercial kit. For amplification of fragments of the 18S subunit of ribosomal RNA (rRNA) was used to Nested-PCR followed protocol Xiao et al. (2000).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The occurrence of *Cryptosporidium* spp. in goats kids of the Quixadá was 8.39% (12/143). Statistically significant difference was observed when the circuits were

compared ($\chi^2=6.89$). Positive samples were identified in 44.44% (4/9) of the studied properties ($\chi^2=30.76$, $P<0.05$). Not was observed statistically significant difference in age ($\chi^2=5.90$), race ($\chi^2=0.16$), sex ($\chi^2=0.73$), appearance ($\chi^2=0.91$) and color ($\chi^2=1.53$) of the stool. This is the first study of the occurrence of cryptosporidiosis in goats kids from Ceará, Brazil.

CONCLUSION

Parasites of the genus *Cryptosporidium* are infecting goats from farms Quixadá, Ceará, Brazil.

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