

081 - DETECTION OF *Babesia bovis* AND *Babesia bigemina*
NATURAL INFECTION BY PCR-BASED METHODS IN
Boophilus microplus AND CATTLE IN SÃO PAULO STATE,
BRAZIL

Oliveira, M.C.S.¹, Oliveira-Sequeira², T.C.G.; Araujo JR², J.P.,
Amarante, A.F.T.²

¹ Embrapa – CPPSE; ² UNESP - Botucatu

PCR and Nested-PCR methods were used to assess the frequency of *Babesia bovis* and *Babesia bigemina* infection in engorged females and in eggs of *Boophilus microplus* and in blood collected from 27 calves and 25 crossbred cows naturally infested with ticks. *B. bovis* infection was detected in 23 (85.2%) calves and in 25 (100%) cows and *B. bigemina* infection was detected in 25 (92.6%) calves and in 21 (84%) cows ($P > 0.05$). Mixed infections with the both *Babesia* species were identified in 42 animals, 21 in each age category. In *B. microplus* females engorged on calves, infections with *B. bigemina* (56.2%) were significantly more frequent than infections with *B. bovis* (4.7%). Most of the females engorged on cows (60.8%) did not show *Babesia* spp. infection and the frequency of *B. bovis* infection (15.9%) was similar ($P > 0.05$) to the frequency of *B. bigemina* (17.6%) infection. Five engorged females infected with *B. bovis*, produced 26 egg samples infected (47,3%), while 184 engorged females infected with *B. bigemina* produced 141 egg samples infected (76,6%).