

Seasonal Helminth Parasitism in Goats in the Sertão of Inhamuns, Ceará
Brazil.

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The present study was conducted on a private ranch in Tauá county, Ceará, Brazil, from January 1982 until December 1983. Of the 5-6 goats sacrificed and necropsied monthly, 2-3 were born on the ranch (resident) where they remained without any antihelminthic treatment until necropsy at approximately 12 months of age. The other 2-3 were transported to the area already nematode free (introduced) and necropsied after a 30 day grazing period on the ranch's pastures. The helminths identified in the resident animals and their mean prevalencies and infection levels respectively were: Haemonchus contortus 98% and 168.7; Trichostrongylus colubriformes 95% and 72.7; Strongyloides papillosus 86% and 43.8; Oesophagostomum columbianum 81% and 17.6; Taenia hydatigena 71% and 1.68; Trichostrongylus axei 65% and 17.3; Trichuris sp 46% and 1.5; Skrjabinema sp 37% and 13.7; Moniezia expansa 12.7% and 0.44; Trichuris globulosa 6% and 0.29; Moniezia sp 3.2% and 0.1; Cooperia punctata 1.6% and 0.02. The nematode species identified in the introduced animals were: H. contortus, T. colubriformis, S. papillosus, O. columbianum, T. axei, Skrjabinema sp, Trichuris sp e C. pectinata. It can be concluded from the results obtained from the resident animals that nematodal parasitism of the gastrointestinal tract of goats occurred throughout the year. However, based on the data from the introduced goats, the period of transmission is restricted only to the rainy season.