Leishmaniasis is a zoonotic infection affecting 12 million people worldwide in 88 countries. The annual incidence is 2 million, with 1.5 million presenting the cutaneous form and 0.5 million the visceral form. In Brazil, American cutaneous leishmaniasis (ACL) is a widespread disease (Marzochi & Marzochi 1994). Since the beginning of the last century to nowadays, changes on the environment of the state of São Paulo have altered the epidemiological pattern of ACL from an epidemic to an endemic one (Tolezano 1994). Contrary to some predictions, deforestation would lead to eradication of the disease (Marcondes 1996). Previous entomological surveys carried out in Paulista Plateau showed instead of L. (Viannia) braziliensis described both species, adopting the genus Nyssomyia instead of Lutzomyia according to Galati (1995). Previous sand fly surveys carried out in Paulista Plateau showed that L. intermedia is strongly associated with gallery forest located at the edges of the rivers (Gomes et al. 1989). Further clinical and epidemiological studies are neces-

**SHORT COMMUNICATION**

**Isolation and isoenzyme characterization of Leishmania (Viannia) braziliensis from a case of human cutaneous leishmaniasis in northeast centre of the state of São Paulo**

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The diagnosis of human cutaneous leishmaniasis in small towns is sometimes made without the species identification of the Leishmania, even in areas without previous epidemiological surveys. Here we report the isolation of a Leishmania strain from a patient of Rincão, state of São Paulo, that was identified by isoenzyme characterization as L. (Viannia) braziliensis. Sand fly collections were made in the area where the patient live in order to investigate the likely vector species.

Key words: *Leishmania braziliensis* - isolation - Brazil

Leishmaniasis is a zoonotic infection affecting 12 million people worldwide in 88 countries. The annual incidence is 2 million, with 1.5 million presenting the cutaneous form and 0.5 million the visceral form. In Brazil, American cutaneous leishmaniasis (ACL) is a widespread disease (Marzochi & Marzochi 1994). Since the beginning of the last century to nowadays, changes on the environment of the state of São Paulo have altered the epidemiological pattern of ACL from an epidemic to an endemic one (Tolezano 1994). Contrary to some predictions, deforestation would lead to eradication of the disease (Sampaio 1951); new cases continue to be registered. A total of 5193 new cases were notified from 1998 to 2004 in the state of São Paulo (CVE 2005). So far, L. (V.) braziliensis is considered the main etiological agent in the state, although other controversial studies have pointed out the presence of other species belonging to the subgenus L. (Leishmania) (Grimaldi et al. 1989, Tolezano 1994). During the medical routine of health centres in small towns the diagnosis of ACL suspects is carried out by standard tests such as Montenegro’s skin test and histopathological analysis, without the species identification. However, the species and the strain identification is important for eco-epidemiological evaluations and to monitor the entrance of new likely vector species.

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sary to evaluate incidence in the human population, and the presence of *Leishmania* in wild and domestic animals and the vectors present in the present study area.

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REFERENCES


