

CUTANEOUS LEISHMANIASIS IN A HORSE (*EQUUS CABALLUS*) FROM ENDEMIC AREA IN THE STATE OF ESPIRITO SANTO, BRAZIL

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The first case of naturally acquired american cutaneous leishmaniasis in the horse was recorded by Mazza (1927, *Bol. Inst. Clin. Quir.*, 3 :462-464) in Argentina. The second record of equine leishmaniasis was reported by Alencar (1959, In: XIV Congresso Brasileiro de Higiene, Niterói, RJ), who found an infected donkey in Ceará state, Brazil. Studies performed by Pons & Londres (1968, *Kasmera*, 3 (1) :5-59), Bonfante-Garrido et al. (1981, *Trans. R. Soc. Trop. Med. Hyg.*, 75 :471) and Aguilar et al. (1984, *Mem. Inst. Oswaldo Cruz*, 79 :181-195) in endemic areas of cutaneous leishmaniasis in Venezuela, showed that the infection was common among equines. Recently, cutaneous leishmaniasis in equines was once more recorded in Bahia state, Brazil, by Vexenat et al. (1986, *Mem. Inst. Oswaldo Cruz*, 81 :237-238) and in

Rio de Janeiro state by Aguilar et al. (1986, *Mem. Inst. Oswaldo Cruz*, 81 :471-472).

In the present investigation we examined 14 equines from Mangaraí, an endemic area of mucocutaneous leishmaniasis in the municipality of Santa Leopoldina, Espírito Santo state. Three horses had skin lesions consistent with cutaneous leishmaniasis. Imprints were prepared from biopsies of the lesions and stained with Giemsa. One horse had two cutaneous ulcers on the muzzle and imprints from each lesion had amastigotes of *Leishmania*. Imprints from a single ulcer on the pinna of the second horse and the back of the third horse were negative.

In hamsters, the parasite isolated from the first horse caused slow growing, non-metastasizing cutaneous lesions, consistent with infections caused by the parasites of the *Leishmania braziliensis* complex.