

## LEISHMANIA MEXICANA IN DIDELPHIS MARSUPIALIS AURITA IN SÃO PAULO STATE, BRAZIL

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A leishmania parasite was isolated from *Didelphis marsupialis aurita* trapped in the municipality of Conchas in the state of São Paulo (YOSHIDA et al. 1979, *Rev. Inst. Med. trop. São Paulo* 21 (2): 110-113). This isolate has now been analysed at the genotypic and phenotypic levels. Zymodeme analysis using agarose gel electrophoresis and 6 enzymes (ALAT, ASAT, MDH, G6PDH, GPI & PGM) showed that the isolate was similar to a reference strains of *L.m. mexicana* from Belize. Serodeme analysis using a panel of *L.m. mexicana* species and subspecies specific monoclonal antibodies in a radioimmune binding assay confirmed this parasite as a member of the *L. mexicana* complex. However for the first time subspecies specific monoclonal antibodies of both *L.m. mexicana* and *L.m. amazonensis* crossreacted with the isolate. In view of this result we decided to investigate the isolate using schizodeme analysis. The restriction enzyme profile the endonucleases MspI and BspRI showed a profile intermediate

between those produced by reference strains of *L.m. mexicana* and *L.m. amazonensis*. Furthermore using radioactive DNA probes of these two subspecies and the bidirectional Southern blot technique some hybridization was shown with the *L.m. mexicana* DNA indicating a degree of homology. We therefore provisionally designate the identity of the parasite as *L. mexicana* ssp.

### RESUMO

*Leishmania mexicana* em *Didelphis marsupialis aurita* no Estado de São Paulo, Brasil

Foi identificada pela primeira vez a presença de *L. mexicana* em *Didelphis marsupialis aurita*, no Estado de São Paulo — Município de Conchas, através de caracterização bioquímica.

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