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COMUNICAÇÃO

OCCURRENCE OF TRIATOMINE INFESTATION WITHOUT *TRYPANOSOMA CRUZI* TRANSMISSION IN TRES BRAÇOS, BAHIA-BRAZIL

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We have reported in part our epidemiological studies on human infection with *Leishmania viannia braziliensis* (Lvb) in the farms surrounding the hamlet of Tres Braços, Bahia, Brazil[1]. This community is still surrounded by one of the few surviving pieces of littoral forest. Since the begining of our studies 15 years ago we have utilised serology to help in the diagnosis of Lvb infection in our patients and as an indicator of leishmanial activity after treatment. The fact that no *T. cruzi* transmission occurred in the area helped in the interpretation of such serology (IFAT, Elisa) since *T. cruzi* and Leishmania cross react in these tests. Here we report the detection of domiciliated *Panstrongylus megistus* in the farm Piabanha which is under longitudinal study. Of 24 houses visited in the farm 7 had evidence of triatomine infestation on the walls and in two live bugs were captured. All the ten adults and 4 juvenile stages captured were negative for *T. cruzi* and measures to spray affected houses are being implemented. It is possible that this domicilary invasion by *P. megistus* is from a sylvatic focus although to date no such focus has been detected. Years of work in São Felipe, Bahia where *T. cruzi* transmission by *P. megistus* was common failed to reveal *P. megistus* of sylvatic origin[2]. It is also possible that *P. megistus* was introduced into Piabanha by an infested visitor although no evidence of this event was recorded.

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