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A preliminar study on *Brucella* spp. seroprevalence in wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) in Portugal

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Various species of the genus *Brucella* are highly virulent zoonotic agents. *Brucella melitensis*, *B. abortus*, and *B. suis* are broadly spread worldwide and animal brucellosis has a significant economic impact. This zoonotic disease affects both domestic pigs and wild pigs such as wild boar (*Sus scrofa*).

In order to investigate the importance of wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) in the epidemiology of *Brucella* infection in Portugal, a serological survey was performed on samples from 184 wild boar from the Centre region of Portugal. Specific antibodies to *Brucella* spp. were detected with a commercial enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) (IDVet[®], Montpellier, France). *Brucella*-specific antibodies were detected in sera from 74 of 184 wild boar (40.2%; 95% CI: 33.4-47.4%). Wild boar from the Centre of Portugal is exposed to *Brucella* spp. The risk of transmission of swine brucellosis to humans is regarded as minor due to low zoonotic potential, considerable awareness, and biosafety measures, but it should not be underestimated.

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