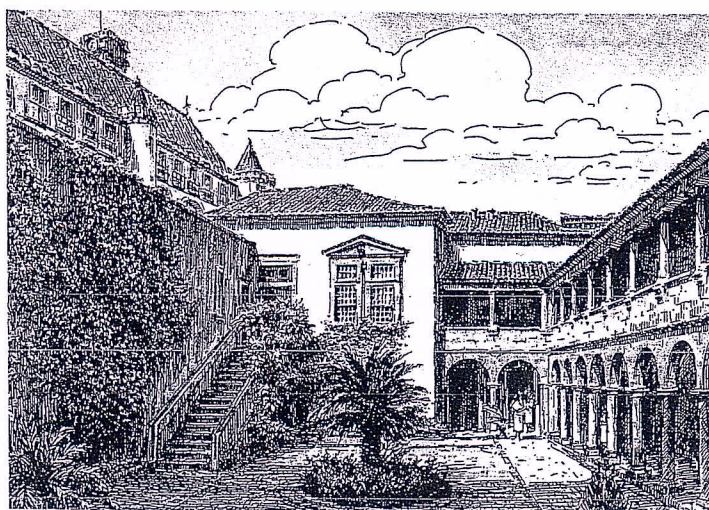


ACTA PARASITOLÓGICA PORTUGUESA



FACULDADE DE FARMÁCIA DE COIMBRA – 30 ANOS DE ENSINO DA PARASITOLOGIA

REVISTA DA

*Sociedade Portuguesa
de Parasitologia*

SERO-EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY OF CANINE LEISHMANIOSIS IN THE COVA DA BEIRA REGION

SUSANA COELHO¹; ANA MATOS¹; LUIS CARDOSO²; HUGO BRANCAL³;
MANUEL MARTINS¹

¹ Escola Superior Agrária de Castelo Branco.

² CEVAC - Departamento de ciências Veterinárias, UTAD, Vila Real.

³ Clínica Veterinária da Covilhã.

Canine leishmaniosis caused by *Leishmania infantum* is a severe systemic disease, frequently fatal if untreated, which occurs in the Mediterranean basin including Portugal.

In the Cova da Beira region (municipalities of Belmonte, Covilhã and Fundão) 568 dogs were analysed, by means of the direct agglutination test (DAT), 71 of which were seropositive. The sero-prevalence was of 12,5 %, suggesting the existence of an additional endemic region in Portugal.

Forty-seven (70,15 %) of the 67 parishes that constitute the Cova da Beira region were studied and cases of infection were detected in 24 (35,82 %) parishes.

No statistically significant differences ($p > 0,05$) were observed between male (14,29 %) and female (10,16 %) seroprevalences, neither regarding the fur type (short, medium and long hair). The highest seroprevalence was recorded in dogs of 5 and 6 years of age (30,23 % and 19,05 %, respectively).

Risk factors for canine infection were age (5 and 6 years), the breeds Rotweiller and Epagneul Breton and the presence of symptomatology. Only 28,17 % of the sero-positive animals had clinical signs of canine leishmaniosis.

Protection factors for infection were age (up to 2 years old) and animals those more time kept at home.

KEYWORDS

Leishmania; Canine leishmaniosis; Direct agglutination test (DAT); Epidemiology; Prevalence.

REFERENCES

- Cabrera, M. A. A. 1999. *Ciclo Enzoótico de Transmissão da Leishmania (Leishmania) chagasi no Ecótopo Peridoméstico em Barra de Guaratiba, Rio de Janeiro*. Fundação Oswaldo Cruz, Rio de Janeiro. Campillo M. C.; Vázquez, F. A. R. 1999. *Parasitologia Veterinária*. McGraw-hill, Espanha; Cardoso, L.; Rodrigues, M.; Santos, H.; Schoone, G. J.; Carreta, P.; Varejão, E.; Benhem, B.; Afonso, M. O.; Alves-Pires, C.; Semião-Santos, S. J.; Rodrigues, J.; Schalling H. D. F. H. 2004. Sero-epidemiological study of canine *Leishmania* spp. Infection in the municipality of Alijó (Alto Douro, Portugal). *Veterinary Parasitology*. **121**: 21-32.; Davies, C. R.; Kaye, P.; Croft, L. Shyam S. 2003. Leishmaniasis: new approaches to disease control. *Clinical Review*. Vol. 326. pp: 377-382.; Maia, C. A. S. 2005. Diagnóstico Laboratorial da Leishmaniose Canina. *Veterinária Técnica*. Ano II. pp: 34-37.; Pereira de Carvalho, S.; Pereira da Fonseca, I. M. S.; Madeira de Carvalho, L. M. 1990. Diagnóstico da Leishmaniose Canina. *Medicina Veterinária*. **37**: 51-54.; Roze, M. 2005. Canine Leishmaniasis. A spreading disease. Diagnosis and treatment. *The European Journal of Companion Animal Practice*. Vol. 15 (1): 39-52. ; Schalling, H. D. F. H.; Schoone, G. J.; Beijer, E. G. M.; Kroon, C. C. M.; Hommers, M.; Özbek, Y.; Özensoy S.; Silva E. S.; Cardoso, L. M.; Silva, E. D. 2002. Development of a fast agglutination screening test (FAST) for the detection of anti-*Leishmania* antibodies in dogs. *Veterinary Parasitology*. **109**: 1-8.