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***Brucella* spp. seroprevalence in wild ungulates in Portugal**

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The genus *Brucella* comprises highly virulent zoonotic agents, with *Brucella melitensis*, *B. abortus* and *B. suis* being widely prevalent across the globe. The occurrence of animal brucellosis caused by these pathogens has a considerable impact on the economy and public health. To assess the potential role of red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) and wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) in the epidemiology of *Brucella* infections in Portugal, a serological survey was performed on samples from 648 wild ungulates from the Centre of Portugal. Specific antibodies to *Brucella* spp. were detected with a commercial enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) (IDVet®, Montpellier, France).

The overall seroprevalence of *Brucella* spp. in wild ungulates was 14.2% (95% confidence interval [CI]: 11.6-17.1%). *Brucella*-specific antibodies were detected in sera from 18 of 276 (6.5%; 95% CI: 4.2-10.1%) red deer and in sera from 74 of 184 wild boar (40.2%; 95% CI: 33.4-47.4%).

Wild boar and red deer from the Centre of Portugal are exposed to *Brucella* spp. The risk of transmission of brucellosis from wildlife to ruminants and 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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