

RESUMO - HELMINTOLOGIA

INVOLVEMENT OF MACROPHAGES IN THE ABOMASAL IMMUNE RESPONSE OF LAMBS UNDERGOING SUPPRESSIVE AND SELECTIVE TREATMENTS FOR THE CONTROL OF HAEMONCHUS CONTORTUS

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The IBA-1 molecule, an ionized calcium-binding adaptor, is a protein widely used as a marker for identifying macrophages in various tissues. In the context of sheep parasitic diseases, quantifying these cells in the abomasum the primary site of infection by *Haemonchus contortus* is essential for understanding the local cellular immune response and its relationship to host resistance or susceptibility. Thus, the objective of this study was to compare the presence of macrophages between animals of the Santa Inês (SI) and Ile de France (IF) breeds naturally infected with *H. contortus*, under suppressive and selective anthelmintic treatment protocols. The study included 38 uncastrated, three-month-old male lambs, divided into two treatment groups receiving monepantel (2.5 mg/kg): 1) Selective Treatment (ST), with 10 SI and 9 IF, treated only when

the globular volume (GV) was = 20%; and 2) Suppressive Treatment (SUP), with 9 SI and 10 IF, treated every 14 days. The experiment lasted five months. After slaughter, sections of the abomasum were cut to a thickness of 5 μ m and examined using immunohistochemistry with the IBA-1 antibody to label macrophages. Cell counts were performed in ten random fields using a light microscope at 400x magnification and a reticle. Although SI animals had higher counts of this cell (70.61 ± 1.67) compared to IF animals (66.80 ± 2.60), no significant effect ($p = 0.1991$) of breed or treatment ($p = 0.2279$) was observed on the density of IBA-1 cells in the abomasum. Under the conditions evaluated, neither breed nor treatment had an effect, indicating that the recruitment and presence of these cells in response to *H. contortus* infection are minimally influenced by these factors, which may reflect a relatively consistent cellular response pattern to the infection.

Palavras-chave: cell recruitment; immunohistochemistry; small ruminants.