

RESUMO - PROTOZOOLOGIA E PATÓGENOS TRANSMITIDOS POR
VETORES

**DIVERSITY OF HEMOPARASITES IN SNAKES AND LIZARDS IN BRAZIL: A
PRELIMINARY CHECKLIST**

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Hemoparasites of reptiles comprise a diverse group of organisms with broad geographic distribution and ecological relevance, commonly associated with various taxa of snakes and lizards. Brazil harbors the third highest reptile diversity in the world, with 856 recorded species, including 39 Testudines, 6 Crocodylia, and 811 Squamata (81 amphisbaenians, 295 lizards, and 435 snakes). Despite this high diversity, knowledge regarding the occurrence and diversity of these parasites remains fragmented. The present study aims to compile a checklist to map hemoparasites associated with Brazilian

herpetofauna. Data were obtained through an extensive literature review, including checklists, books, and scientific articles. The dataset was further complemented with information from relevant publications to ensure reliability. The survey revealed representatives of multiple taxonomic groups, including *Hepatozoon* (Apicomplexa: Adeleorina), *Trypanosoma* (Kinetoplastida), *Plasmodium* (Apicomplexa: Haemosporida), and *Lankesterella* (Apicomplexa: Eimeriorina). Among these, *Hepatozoon* was the most frequently reported genus, with several species parasitizing snakes such as *Crotalus durissus*, *Bothrops* spp., *Boa constrictor*, and several species of Colubridae. Records of *Trypanosoma* were also identified in different hosts, including *C. durissus*, *B. constrictor*, *Spilotes pullatus*, and *Erythrolamprus aesculapii*. Additionally, the occurrence of *Pirhemocytos* and *Toddia* (intraerythrocytic iridovirus-like virions) was documented in snakes from Brazil. In lizards, species of the genus *Hepatozoon* are particularly prominent, especially in association with teiid hosts such as *Ameiva ameiva*. Overall, the compiled data indicate a high diversity of hemoparasites in Brazilian reptiles. However, limitations remain, including taxonomic inconsistencies, incomplete locality data in historical records, and significant knowledge gaps that warrant further investigation.

Palavras-chave: herpetofauna; host-parasite interactions; taxonomic diversity.