

Prevalence of intestinal parasites among residents in the Salgadinho de Baixo Village, Paripiranga/BA, Brazil

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It is usual to witness the high rates of parasitic diseases in rural areas, especially because to lack of hygiene, contact with animals/vectors and/or even in an innocent way, when eating foods such as vegetables and even water from tanks, dams, ponds, weirs, etc, which are usually places favorable to the development of parasites that can cause diseases. Currently, about 2 billion people are infected with some kind of intestinal parasite, these organisms are acquired through the mouth when ingesting water or food contaminated by feces or by direct oral-fecal contact, which can result from simple reactions to cases more serious that can lead to death. The present work had as objective to analyze data about the prevalence of intestinal parasites among residents of the village of Salgadinho de Baixo in the city of Paripiranga/BA, Brazil. A total of 35 families were interviewed. The study covered an applied method of dealing with problems involving local community interests, with a descriptive and qualitative approach, since it was necessary to obtain more information than could be achieved singly. After the application of the questionnaires and collected data from the local endemic area, it was found in the questionnaires that the most prevalent parasites in the village were *Entamoeba* (43%), which causes amebiasis and *Schistosoma* (11%), which causes schistosomiasis. In the endemic data, the only parasite found is *Schistosoma*. The living habits of local residents together with irregular basic sanitation directly influence the contamination and spread of parasites, conditions such as incorrect disposal of waste, lack of water treatment and direct contact with the earth favor parasites. Thus, it is evident that action by the municipal departments is necessary, such as the health department acting in the direct work of controlling and eradicating parasites, in addition to basic sanitation issues; and the secretary of education in the introduction of prevention projects that allow the insertion of the school in the community.

KEYWORDS: *Entamoeba*. *Schistosoma*. Intestinal parasites. Parasitoses. Basic sanitation.

