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Diversity of gastrointestinal parasites in Portuguese cattle breed Minhota - preliminary study

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Abstract

Portuguese cattle breed Minhota is produced mainly in the northwest of Portugal and represent an important economic support for many breeders. Gastrointestinal parasites can have serious effects on the health and economy of a farm. The aim of this study is to survey the type and degree of gastrointestinal parasitism in cattle breed Minhota in northwestern Portugal. We collected 48 stool specimens of this breed of cattle in 12 Counties in northwest Portugal and analyzed by parasitological coprology. Parasitic forms were identified in 40 samples, most of them (45%) with multiple infections, and at least 6 distinct parasite forms. Animals produced in intensive system apparently have higher frequency of positivity. It is necessary to awareness breeders to the need for deworming animals and run a successful management of the hygienic sanitary conditions.