

COATIS (*NASUA NASUA*) AS RESERVOIRS AND AMPLIFIERS PATHOGENS TRANSMITTED BY TICKS

Barbara Guimarães Csordas^{1*}, Robson Ferreira Cavalcante de Almeida², Marlon Cesar Cominetti², Rodrigo Casquero Cunha³, Marcos Valério Garcia⁴, Renato Andreotti⁵

¹Mestranda, Curso de Doenças Infecciosas e Parasitárias (DIP), UFMS; Laboratório de Sanidade Animal, Embrapa Gado de Corte, Campo Grande, MS, *barbara_csordas@yahoo.com.br

²Doutorando, DIP/UFMS; Laboratório de Sanidade Animal, Embrapa Gado de Corte.

³Doutorando, Ciência Animal da UFMS; Laboratório de Sanidade Animal, Embrapa Gado de Corte.

⁴Pós-Doutorando, bolsista CNPq; Laboratório de Sanidade Animal, Embrapa Gado de Corte.

⁴Pós-Doutorando, CNPq; Lab. San. Animal, Embrapa Gado de Corte, Campo Grande, MS.

⁵Pesquisador da Embrapa Gado de Corte, Campo Grande, MS.

Coatis (*Nasua nasua*) are able to adapt to different environments, including urban forests, and move between urbanized areas and native forests. This large distribution has led to an increase in their population within anthropic areas, which can subsequently facilitate the transmission of biological agents to domestic animals and human beings. In coatis, a variety of ticks vectors of pathogens, have been reported, including *Amblyomma cajennense* and *A. ovale*. With the objective of identifying the presence of *Ehrlichia* spp., *Anaplasma* spp. and *Babesia* spp., 55 blood samples of coati's free living were collected by jugular venipuncture. The animals were captured in Tomahawk-style traps with authorization (no. 29430-1) by the Department of the Environment, and were sedated using a combination of tiletamine and zolazepam (Zoletil®) according to the manufacturer's recommendations. DNA was extracted the blood e analyzed by PCR using primers ECC/ECB for *Ehrlichia* spp., ANA F/ANA R for *Anaplasma* spp. and KB 16/KB 17 for *Babesia* spp. Of the 55 samples analyzed 6 were positives to *Ehrlichia* spp., 18 to *Anaplasma* spp. and 2 were positive for *Babesia* spp. These samples will be processed using specific primers and positive samples will be sequenced, however, these initial results serve as a warning to importance of these animals as reservoirs and amplifiers of pathogens of importance in Veterinary Medicine and Public Health.

Palavras-chave: *Nasua nasua*; tick borne diseases; ticks; wildlife animals.

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