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## The prevalence of gastrointestinal helminth infections in pigs in Kenya

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## Abstract

The prevalence of helminth infection, species spectrum and worm burdens in Kenyan pigs was examined. A total of 115 gastrointestinal tracts (GIT) from 61 growers and 54 adult pigs were examined between February 2005 and January 2006. Seventy eight (67.8%) had one or more helminth parasites, of which thirty six (31.3%) were mixed infection. Ten types of helminth parasites encountered in descending order of prevalence were,

*Oesophagostomum dentatum*

(39.1%),

*Trichuris suis*

(32.2%),

*Ascaris suum*

(28.7%),

*Oesophagostomum quadrispinulatum*

(14.8%),

*Trichostrongylus colubriformis*

(10.4%),

*Trichostrongylus axei*

(4.3%),

*Strongyloides ransomi*

(4.3%),

*Hyostrongylus rubidus*

(1.7%),

*Ascarops strongylina*

(1.7%) and

*Physocephalus sexalutus*

(0.9%).

*Oesophagostomum dentatum*

was the most prevalent species (51.9%) in the adult pigs, while

*Trichuris suis*

was the most prevalent species (44.3%) in growers. The highest worm counts were recorded in

the out door production system.

*Oesophagostomum quadrispinulatum*

,

*Trichostrongylus colubriformis*

,

*Trichostrongylus axei*

,

*Hyostrongylus rubidus*

,

*Ascarops strongylina*

and

*Physocephalus sexalutus*

were recorded in Kenya for the first time. The high prevalence and wide spectrum observed in the present study suggests that helminth infection may be a constraint to economic pig production in the country and there is need to institute control measures.

### **Keywords**

Helminths - Kenya - Pigs - Prevalence - Spectrum

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