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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

Oui