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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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