

Occurrence of endoparasites in fecal samples of the ruddy ground dove (*Columbina talpacoti*)(Aves: Columbidae) collected at the Catuaba Experimental Farm in eastern Acre, Brazil

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The ruddy ground dove (*Columbina talpacoti*, Temminck, 1810) is widely distributed in Central and South America, between Mexico and Argentina. In the context of the current process of urbanization, the ongoing modification of ecosystems, and the increasing scarcity of resources, this dove has gradually adapted to life in urban environments, and is now abundant in many major cities. The study area was the Catuaba Experimental Farm (CEF) in the municipality of Senador Guiomard, Acre, Brazil, which has a total area of 1200 ha. The vegetation is formed by a mosaic of open tropical *terra firme* forest with bamboo and palms, dense forest, secondary forest at varying stages of regeneration, pastures, and orchards. The anthropogenic matrix surrounding the CEF is typical of the region, with residential buildings, roads, patches of forest, pastures, and plantations. The present study identified the principal species of endoparasites found in the *Columbina talpacoti* population of the CEF. The doves were captured in mist-nets between September 2016 and February 2017 set along a number of transects located within the CEF. Captured doves were placed in cloth bags containing absorbent paper and left until they defecated or for a maximum of 15 minutes. All the captured birds were identified and banded following the recommendations of CEMAVE to avoid false-positive sampling during subsequent recaptures. The fecal samples were stored in vessels containing MIF preservative liquid and taken to the Wildlife Research Clinic Laboratory at the Mario Alves Ribeiro Veterinary Medicine Teaching and Research Unit at UFAC, where they were processed using the Willis method, under an optical microscope. A total of 39 specimens of *C. talpacoti* were captured, of which, 23 (58.98%) provided fecal samples, including 13 (56.5%) females and 10 (43.5%) males. Parasites were observed in 19 (82.60%) of the fecal samples analyzed, with 14 endoparasite species being identified, including oocysts of the coccidians *Eimeria* sp. (21.05%) and *Isospora belli* (10.52%), and the sarcodines *Entamoeba coli* (10.52%), *Entamoeba histolytica* (15.78%), and *Iodamoeba butschlii* (15.78%), as well as eggs of the nematodes *Ancylostoma* sp. (5.27%), *Ascaridia galli* (42.1%), *Enterobius vermicularis* (10.52%), *Heterakis gallinarum* (10.52%), *Syngamus trachea* (5.27%), and *Trichuris trichiura* (15.78%), the trematodes *Echinostoma revolutum* (5.27%), and *Microphallus* sp. (26.31%), and the cestode, *Raillietina* sp. (21.05%). The 12 (92.30%) parasitized females were infested with all 14 endoparasite species, whereas the males were infested with only seven: *Entamoeba histolytica*, *Iodamoeba butschlii*, *Ascaridia galli*, *Enterobius vermicularis*, *Heterakis gallinarum*, *Microphallus* sp., and *Raillietina* sp. The elevated incidence of parasitism in *C. talpacoti* indicates that the adaptation of these wild birds to an urban lifestyle, together with the ongoing anthropogenic modification of the study region, have contributed to the transfer of endoparasites to new hosts. In this context, the bird fauna may represent an important bioindicator for the evaluation of local environmental conditions, given the susceptibility of these animals to variations in ecosystem structure.