

Prevalence of larva *migrans* in parks and squares in the city of Aparecida de Goiânia, Goiás.

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Diseases caused by parasites are frequent in the Brazilian population, especially in economically disadvantaged regions due to lack of basic sanitation, good nutritional conditions and quality education. Among the many zoonoses, some are found in recreational areas such as squares and public parks, and the main parasites are Ancylostomidae and *Toxocara* sp., responsible for cutaneous larva *migrans* (CLM), visceral larva *migrans* (VLM) and ocular larva *migrans* (OLM). The objective of the research was to analyze the sand or earth of 30 parks or squares in the city of Aparecida de Goiânia in order to identify eggs or larvae of the parasites responsible for causing larva *migrans*. Three samples, consisting of approximately 500g of sand, were collected from each square. Totalizing 90 samples. They were stored in plastic bags, identified and maintained in refrigerator until analysis. The processing and analysis of the samples were performed in the laboratory of Instituto de Patologia Tropical e Saúde Pública of Universidade Federal de Goiás – Goiânia, using the Willis-Mollay technique to identify eggs and larvae using the flotation principle through high density solutions. Each sample was stained with lugol and observed under an optical microscope in increments of 100x to 400x. The sample was considered positive when it was visualized at least one evolutionary stage of the larva *migrans* parasites, independently of the quantity found. It was found that among the 30 squares evaluated, 11 (36.66%) were contaminated with eggs or larvae responsible for causing larva *migrans*. A total of 90 samples were evaluated and 14 presented positive results. In relation to the parasites, eggs and larvae of both *Toxocara* sp. and Ancylostomidae were found. It is true that parks and public squares become centers of transmission of zoonoses when dogs and cats evacuate in recreational areas. The animals parasitized by Ancylostomidae eliminate eggs in their feces that hatch and allow infective larvae to penetrate actively into the human skin and migrate through the subcutaneous tissue. The lesion causes pruritus, inflammatory reaction and allows secondary bacterial infections. Likewise, infective eggs and larvae of *Toxocara* sp. in the soil, in contaminated objects or in dirty hands can be ingested causing VLM or OLM, more frequent in children by playing with earth and sand. VLM can affect brain, liver or lungs for example, and OLM may cause eye inflammation or even vision loss. The results found are a warning about the need to implement prophylactic measures such as the installation of fences in the squares, treatment of domestic animals with anthelmintics, control of the population of street animals, and salinization of parks's sand in order to reduce the prevalence of these parasites.

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