

from bovine clinical samples. **Methods:** *Leptospira* strains belonging to Sejroe serogroup were studied: *L. interrogans* serovar (sv) Hardjo; *L. borgpetersenii* sv Hardjo; *L. santarosai* sv Guaricura (BOVG); and *L. santarosai* sv Guaricura (U140). Two culture media were used: EMJH (using enrichment compounds separately - Rabbit Serum; Bovine Albumin and; Sodium Pyruvate) and T80/40LH. In addition, three cocktails of selective agents were chosen: STAFF, A5 and CHID. Combinations between medium, enrichment additives and antimicrobial cocktails resulted in 20 different formulae that were tested individually. Evaluation was done by manual counting in Neubauer chamber every 48 hours for 16 days. **Results:** The most notable outcome was the poor performance of *L. borgpetersenii* in EMJH, even when enrichment additives were used. The inability of this medium on supporting this strain growth possibly represents a bias on culturing those strains from clinical bovine samples. In the present study, T80/40LH was the most efficient medium for culturing *L. borgpetersenii*. **Conclusion:** Although there are no studies employing T80/40LH added to STAFF cocktail, the outcomes of the present study suggested that this combination is a good choice for obtaining a higher number of *L. borgpetersenii* strains from bovine origin. **CEUA:** Not applicable. **Funding:** This study was financed in part by the Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior – Brasil (Capes) – Finance Code 001 and Faperj.

## 52. WILD BOARS (*SUS SCROFA*) ARE RESERVOIRS OF *LEPTOSPIRA INTERROGANS* IN URUGUAY

Javalis (*Sus scrofa*) são reservatórios de *Leptospira interrogans* no Uruguai

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**Introduction:** Zoonotic pathogens from wildlife represent the most significant source of emerging infectious diseases. The population of wild boars, an invasive and destructive species, has increased substantially in Uruguay over the last decades, and recreational hunting of these animals is allowed since 1996. Wild boars are susceptible to leptospirosis; however it is not known whether they act as *Leptospira* spp. reservoirs in Uruguay. **Objective:** The aim of this study was to assess the infection of wild boars by pathogenic species of *Leptospira* in Uruguay. **Methods:** Thirty-four wild boar carcasses obtained at a recreational hunting festival, were the source of kidney samples, which were processed by qPCR for the *lipL32* gene of pathogenic *Leptospira* spp., *rrs* sequence genotyping and bacterial culture. *Leptospira* isolates were typed by molecular and serologic approaches. Six qPCR-positive and three qPCR-negative kidneys were fixed in formalin and processed for histopathology and immunohistochemistry (IHC) for the detection of *Leptospira* antigen. **Results:** Six of the 34 animals (17.6%) were positive by *lipL32* qPCR. All six animals were infected by the species *L. interrogans*, as determined by *rrs* sequence genotyping. *Leptospira interrogans* serogroup Pomona, serovar Kennewicki was isolated from one sample. Histopathologic examination revealed cortical interstitial or tubulointerstitial nephritis in 7/9 animals. Abundant intralésional *Leptospira* antigen was detected by IHC in 2/7 animals with renal lesions, that had also tested positive by qPCR. **Conclusion:** Wild boars in Uruguay are reservoirs of pathogenic *Leptospira interrogans* serovar Kennewicki, which has also been isolated from cattle, sheep and human cases in this country. Wild boars are thus implicated in the sylvatic epidemiologic cycle of leptospirosis and could represent a risk for animal and public health. **CEUA:** Not applicable. **Funding:** ANII, INIA and Institut Pasteur of Montevideo.