

LEISHMANIA MEXICANA IN DIDELPHIS MARSUPIALIS AURITA IN SÃO PAULO STATE, BRAZIL

E. L. A. YOSHIDA (1), F. M. A. CORRÊA (1), R. S. PACHECO (2), H. MOMEN (2) and
G. GRIMALDI Jr. (3)

A leishmania parasite was isolated from *Didelphis marsupialis aurita* trapped in the municipality of Conchas in the state of São Paulo (YOSHIDA et al. 1979, *Rev. Inst. Med. trop. São Paulo* 21 (2): 110-113). This isolate has now been analysed at the genotypic and phenotypic levels. Zymodeme analysis using agarose gel electrophoresis and 6 enzymes (ALAT, ASAT, MDH, G6PDH, GPI & PGM) showed that the isolate was similar to a reference strains of *L.m. mexicana* from Belize. Serodeme analysis using a panel of *L.m. mexicana* species and subspecies specific monoclonal antibodies in a radioimmune binding assay confirmed this parasite as a member of the *L. mexicana* complex. However for the first time subspecies specific monoclonal antibodies of both *L.m. mexicana* and *L.m. amazonensis* crossreacted with the isolate. In view of this result we decided to investigate the isolate using schizodeme analysis. The restriction enzyme profile the endonucleases MspI and BspRI showed a profile intermediate

between those produced by reference strains of *L.m. mexicana* and *L.m. amazonensis*. Furthermore using radioactive DNA probes of these two subspecies and the bidirectional Southern blot technique some hybridization was shown with the *L.m. mexicana* DNA indicating a degree of homology. We therefore provisionally designate the identity of the parasite as *L. mexicana* ssp.

RESUMO

Leishmania mexicana em Didelphis marsupialis aurita no Estado de São Paulo, Brasil

Foi identificada pela primeira vez a presença de *L. mexicana* em *Didelphis marsupialis aurita*, no Estado de São Paulo — Município de Conchas, através de caracterização bioquímica.

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(1) Departamento de Parasitologia — IBBMA, UNESP, Botucatu, SP, Brasil
(2) Departamento de Bioquímica e Biologia Molecular — FIOCRUZ, RJ
(3) Centro de Microscopia Eletrônica — FIOCRUZ, RJ