

**DETECTION OF TRANSMISSIBLE FORMS OF ENTEROPARASITES IN COMMERCIAL
VEGETABLES IN LAVRAS, MINAS GERAIS**

*(OCORRÊNCIA DE ENTEROPARASITOS EM HORTALIÇAS COMERCIALIZADAS EM LAVRAS,
MINAS GERAIS)*

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Intestinal parasites are a major public health problem, often related to poor sanitary conditions of the population. Therefore, the vegetables consumed raw are an important route of transmission of pathogens. Vegetables are contaminated mainly via water containing human or animal faecal material. The present study aimed to verify the occurrence of parasites in vegetables sold in Lavras, Minas Gerais. A total of 100 samples were collected, among them watercress (*Nasturtium officinale*), arugula (*Eruca sativa*) and lettuce (*Lactuca sativa*) of smooth and crisp varieties in stores that sell them to the consumer. The samples were sent to the Laboratory of Parasite Biology of the Universidade Federal de Lavras. The samples underwent the extraction process with 200 mL of amino acetic acid (1M) for three minutes, stirring lightly. The recovered solution was subjected to spontaneous sedimentation and Sheather techniques. Four slides of each sample were observed under ordinary optical microscope, and the parasites present were identified based on morphological characters. Of the total samples analyzed, 81% had some type of contaminant (arthropods, helminths or protozoa). Parasites of medical or veterinary importance were observed in 39% of the samples. The parasites observed were: non-sporulated oocysts in 30 samples; cyst *Entamoeba* sp. in 6; *Giardia* sp. in 2; Strongylidaeggs in 9; eggs of the Taeniidae and Anoplocephalidae families in 1 sample each. The results of this study indicate that at some point in the production process, these vegetables suffer some kind of contamination due to poor sanitary conditions.

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