## COLONIC EPITHELIAL NODULAR HYPERPLASIA ASSOCIATED WITH STRONGYLOIDOSIS IN CATS IN THE AMAZON REGION, PARÁ, BRAZIL

(HIPERPLASIA EPITELIAL NODULAR NO CÓLON DE FELINOS ASSOCIADA À ESTRONGILOIDOSE NA REGIÃO AMAZÔNICA, PARÁ, BRASIL)

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Strongyloides spp. is an intestinal parasite that affects several animal species. Four species of this genus have been described in domestic cats: S. felis, S. planiceps, S. stercoralis and S. tumefaciens. The adult of the first three species is found in the small intestine. The adults of S. tumefaciens are found in the nodes of the large intestine; however, there are no reports of this species in Brazil. There are a few reports of infection by S. stercoralis in domestic cats in this country. This study aims to describe the pathological aspects of parasitism by Strongyloides spp. in two cats in the Amazon region, Pará. During the autopsy of the two cats, numerous whitish nodules measuring about 0.2 cm in diameter were observed in the large intestine. The nodules were prominent in the colonic mucosa and displayed a punctiform orifice facing the central lumen. Microscopically, the nodules were formed by projections of the epithelium from the mucosa to the submucosa, forming tubules lined by a single layer of columnar epithelium with high cellularity and rare goblet cells, characterizing epithelial hyperplasia of the crypts. The adults and eggs, observed in the lumen of the tubules, were morphologically compatible with Strongyloides spp. Numerous larvae were also observed in the interstitium adjacent to the nodule. There was mild lymphocytic infiltration weaving and bordering the hyperplastic nodules. The observed histological changes are consistent with those described in infection by S. tumefaciens (Bowman et al. 2002). Although the specific identification in this case is still in progress, this pattern of tissue response has not been described in infection by other Strongyloides species in domestic cats. The data from this study indicate that the possibility of infection by this species in cats in Brazil should be investigated.

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