

Received date: 11-08-2023 | Accepted Date: 17-08-2023 | Published Date: 16-10-2023

Prevalence and Risk Factors of Toxoplasmosis in traditional pig farms in South-Eastern of Côte d'Ivoire

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Toxoplasmosis is a cosmopolitan anthrozoosis caused by *Toxoplasma gondii*, which has long been the subject of numerous studies. In order to gain a better understanding of the epidemiology of human infection in Côte d'Ivoire, it is essential to estimate the prevalence of the parasite in meat intended for human consumption.

As pork is the second most commonly consumed meat in Côte d'Ivoire, a cross-sectional study was undertaken in 2019 among pigs reared in the south of the country to determine seroprevalence and associated risk factors. In the course of these surveys, 331 serum samples were collected from a population of 2,485 pigs in the departments of Agboville, Aboisso and Dabou and proportionally distributed. Specific antibodies were titrated using the modified agglutination test (MAT), the reference test for domestic animals and the OIE-validated test for pigs, and risk factors were assessed in relation to factors such as age, sex, breed and geographical origin (1,2). An overall seroprevalence of 44.1% (95% CI= [38.73%; 49.48%]) at dilution titre $\geq 1/20$, which is the highest in West Africa in pigs (3,4,5,6). Females (47.56%) and adults over one year old (56.25%) were found to be more infected. This could be explained by the fact that sows are used for breeding for a long time (4,6). In addition, there is no possibility of eliminating the parasite once the sow is infected (7,8). However, there was a wide variation in seroprevalence between the departments of Agboville (49.69%), Aboisso (46.99%) and Dabou (31.03%). A causal link was established in the univariate analysis ($p < 5\%$) between *Toxoplasma gondii* seropositivity and factors such as sex, age and sampling area (department).

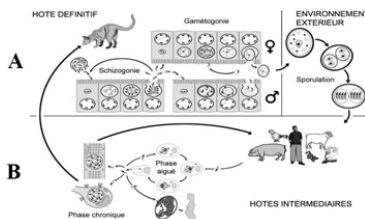


Figure 1: Cycle évolutif de *Toxoplasma gondii*

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Biography

Gbohounou Fabrice GNALI, is a young veterinary surgeon who is slowly embarking on a research career in the animal resource management unit at the Institut Pasteur de Côte d'Ivoire, where he assists the head of the unit. Courageous and eager to learn with an open mind to science, he is also a member of GLOBAL SOUTH BAT, an organisation that campaigns for the preservation of wildlife biodiversity, in this case bats. He is a volunteer at Abidjan National Zoo, where he helps to diagnose and care for the institution's animals.

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