Seroprevalence of *Toxoplasma gondii* infection in animals slaughtered for public consumption in Democratic Republic of S. Tomé and Principe

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To evaluate the prevalence of *Toxoplasma gondii* infection in domestic animals used for public consumption in Democratic Republic of S. Tomé and Principe, an antitoxoplasma-antiboby detection was done between May and December 2001. A total of 224 pigs, fowls, sheep and goats serums from different country locations were analysed with a commercial kit for IgG detection by direct aglutination. Dilutions of 1/40 and 1/4000 were used for negative, positive and positive-limit reaction.

The animals were from the North, Centre and South of S. Tomé Island (97 pigs and 33 goats), Principe Island (18 pigs and 10 fowls) and from Central Slaughterhouse of S. Tomé city (30 pigs, 16 goats, 9 sheep and 10 fowls).

The prevalence of positive cases (97%, 89%, 65% and 59% for goats, sheep, fowls and pigs, respectively) inhance the potential importance of this zoonosis in Public Health.

The prevalences of toxoplasmosis in pigs (22,2%) and fowls (50%) of Principe Island, were lower than those found in S. Tomé Island (68,4% and 80%, respectively).

The results show a high human infection risk as well as a association with small ruminant meat consumption in S. Tomé Island while in Principe Island, the risk was lower and seams to be related with fowls consumption.

Descriptive statistic methods and variance analysis were used to evaluate the association between regions and animal species with human infection risk by the ingestion of contaminated meat.