

Coccidial infections of goats in Selangor, Peninsular Malaysia

ABSTRACT

Coccidial infections were studied in goats in the state of Selangor (peninsular Malaysia) during a 12-month period. The study included 10 smallholder farms on which kids were monitored for faecal oocyst counts from birth until 1-year old. *Eimeria* oocysts were found in 725 (89%) of 815 faecal samples examined. Nine species of *Eimeria* were identified. The most prevalent were *E. arloingi*, found in 71% of the samples, *E. ninakohlyakimovae* (67%), *E. christenseni* (63%) and *E. alijevi* (61%). The other species found were, *E. hirci*, *E. jolchijevi*, *E. caprovina*, *E. caprina* and *E. pallida*, present in 34, 22, 12, 9 and 4% of the samples, respectively. Oocyst counts were significantly higher in animals of less than 4-months old ($P < 0.05$). High oocyst counts were mainly caused by non-pathogenic species. Poor hygienic conditions were found to be associated with a higher intensity of coccidial infections. Mortality rates in kids could not be related to the intensity of coccidial infections.

Keyword: *Eimeria* spp, Goat, Malaysia