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TOPICS : PARASITOLOGY
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TITLE SEROPREVALENCE OF TRYPANOSOMA EVANSI IN DROMEDARIES IN CANARY ISLANDS
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ABSTRACT :

Background. Trypanosomiasis caused by *T. evansi* is the main disease of the dromedary camel. The disease has been reported in many countries included Spain. The disease was diagnosed in the Canary Islands in 1998 in a camel which presented the chronic and terminal stage. The camel population in the Canary Islands ranges between 1000 and 1200. Thus, the purpose of this study was to investigate the prevalence of the disease on camel population using a serological method and a direct detection of parasite in peripheral blood.

Materials and methods. Animals: 745 dromedaries (483 females and 262 males) from several Islands and zones were investigated for the survey and classified by Islands, sex, age, serologically positive and negative and parasitemics. Parasitologic investigation: microcentrifugation for PCV, buffy coat and smear stained by Giemsa, lymph nodes aspiration and inoculation in mice. Serological test: Direct serological card agglutination test (CATT)

Results. Parasitological investigation and CATT: 702 negative animals, 7 parasitemics and 36 serologically positive. PCV results in relation to CATT and parasitological investigation: mean values, 27.41% in negative animals, 23.06% in the weakly positive, 21.23% in the strongly positive and 20.57% in the parasitemics. Results by Islands: Gran Canaria, Tenerife, Lanzarote and Fuerteventura, n: 241, 119, 267, 118; CATT positive: 15, 0, 19, 2; parasitemics: 4, 0, 2, 1, respectively. CATT results expressed by age groups: 0-2 years old (63, negative), 2-4 (143 negative, 2 positive), 5-10 (370 negative, 22 positive), 11-15 (123 negative, 9 positive), >15 years (10 negative, 3 positive)

Conclusions: Camel trypanosomiasis caused by *T. evansi* seems to have a low prevalence in the Canary Islands. However, no trypanocide has been registered in Spain and it is very difficult to acquire the drug to treat the positive animals. This fact could increase the prevalence of the disease in the next years.