

## The Trypanosomosis in the Goat. Current status.

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Trypanosomosis is a major constraint on ruminant livestock production in Africa, South American and Asia. The principal host species affected varies geographically, but buffalo, cattle, camels and horses are particularly sensitive.

Natural infections with *Trypanosoma congolense*, *T. vivax*, *T. brucei*, and *T. evansi* have been described in goats. Experimental trypanosomosis has also been performed in goats using *T. brucei rhodesiense* and *T. cruzi*. Trypanosomosis in goats produces acute, subacute, chronic or subclinical forms, being *T. vivax*, *T. congolense* and *T. evansi* the most invasive trypanosomes for goats. However, the role of the goats in the epidemiology of trypanosomosis is largely discussed and not well understood. Thus, it has commonly been assumed that trypanosomosis presents a subclinical course and that goats do not play an important role in the epidemiology of the disease. This can partially be due to parasitemia caused by trypanosomes has been considered low in goats. However, this assumption is currently undergoing a critical reappraisal because of goats may also serve as a reservoir of trypanosome infection for other species, including the human beings in the case of *T. brucei rhodesiense*.

Given that all efforts on trypanosomosis research have been focused on highly sensitive species, only a little information about goat trypanosomosis is available in the literature. Thus, pathogenesis of the different trypanosomes and strains has not been well described, diagnostic methods are not validated for this specie and treatment applied to affected goats are normally extrapolated from other species.

The present article describes the current status of the goat trypanosomosis in Africa, Asia and South America. Pathogenesis, clinical features, diagnosis and treatment of the different trypanosomes are also described. The possible role in the epidemiology of the disease in the different areas is also discussed.