

Smart Diaspora 2023

Revoluții și evoluții ale științelor omice în epoca postgenomică

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Eveniment aflat sub înaltul patronaj
al Președintelui României



Epidemiology and Genetic Diversity of *Toxoplasma gondii* in Animals in Romania



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INTRODUCTION

- ❖ *Toxoplasmosis* is a widespread zoonotic diseases, qualifies as a **One health disease**, produced by a coccidian parasite from Sarcocystidae Family - ***Toxoplasma gondii***.
- ❖ *Toxoplasmosis* represents a significant public health problem worldwide.
- ❖ The purpose of this study is to report the increased prevalence of *T. gondii* in both domestic and wild animals, as well as to point out that the consumption of raw/undercooked meat represents a real risk of human contamination.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Domestic animals

- Sheep
- Goats
- Pigs
- Horses

Wild animals

- Wild boars
- Red foxes



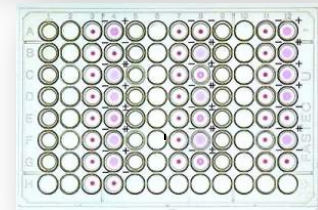
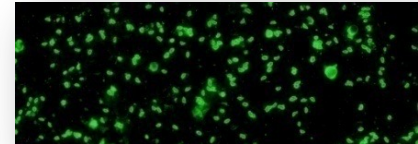
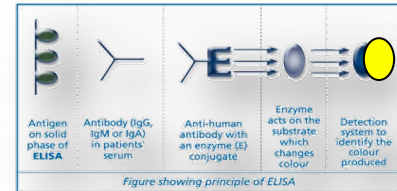
MATERIALS AND METHODS

Epidemiology

- ELISA
- IFAT
- MAT

Genetic diversity

- PCR
- Bioassay on mice
- Genotyping analysis – microsatellites markers



RESULTS - SHEEP

- 2650 sheep (2067 adults and 583 lambs) – ELISA
- 328 pairs of diaphragmatic muscle-serum
- samples were collected from lambs aged between 2 and 4 months – MAT;
- bioassayed in mice; genotyped using 15 microsatellites markers
- 76 sheep abortions (brain and heart samples) – PCR.



RESULTS - SHEEP

- 53.5% of the tested sheep were *T. gondii* seropositive adults 61.1% in adults and 26.4% in lambs
- Seroprevalence - slaughtered lambs (MAT) was 37.5%
- 56 diaphragmatic tissues were bioassayed in mice
- 18 *T. gondii* strains were isolated
- 6 strains were genotyped using 15 microsatellite markers and belonged to genotype II
- *T. gondii* DNA was detected in 11.8% (9/76) of sheep abortions

RESULTS - PIGS

- 94 pairs of blood and heart samples
- samples were collected from backyard pigs, home slaughtered for private consumption – IFAT;
- heart samples - PCR
- bioassayed in mice; genotyped using 15 microsatellites markers

RESULTS - PIGS

- seroprevalence - backyard pigs (IFAT) was 46.8%
- PCR – 26.6%
- 44 heart samples were bioassayed in mice.
- 3 *T. gondii* strains were isolated
- 3 strains were genotyped using 15 microsatellite markers and belonged to genotype II

RESULTS - GOATS

- 181 pairs of blood and diaphragm samples
- samples were collected from 3- to 4-mo-old goat-kids slaughtered for human consumption during Easter – ELISA;
- diaphragm samples - PCR
- bioassayed in mice; genotyped using 15 microsatellites markers

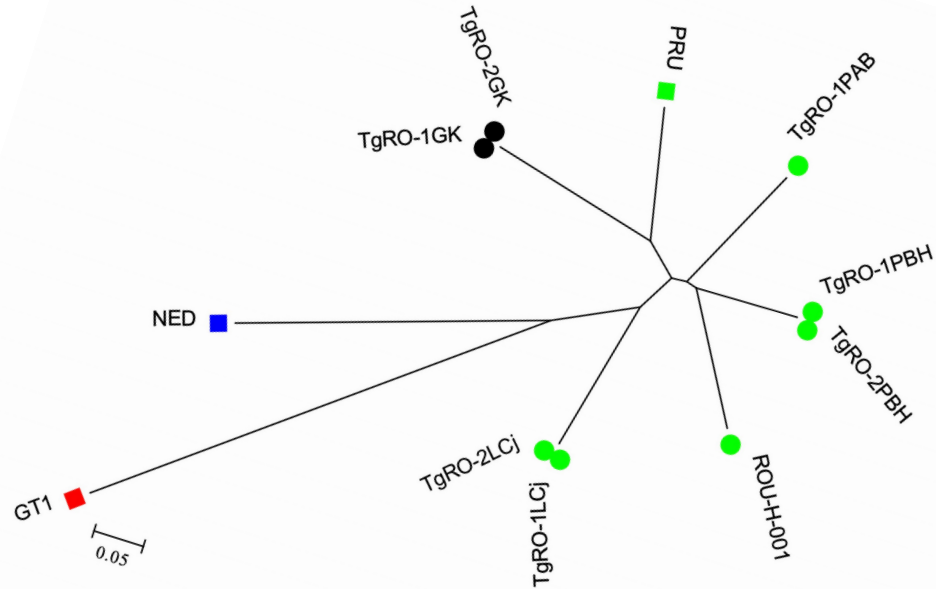
RESULTS - GOATS

- seroprevalence - goat-kids (ELISA) was 33.1%
- PCR – 6.1%
- 32 diaphragm samples were bioassayed in mice
- 2 *T. gondii* strains were isolated
- 2 strains were genotyped using 15 microsatellite markers and belonged to genotype II

RESULTS

Genotype	Microsatellite markers																	
	Isolate ID	Origin	Host species	TUB2	W35	TgM-A	B18	B17	M33	IV.1	XI.1	M48	M102	N60	N82	AA	N61	N83
II	TgRO-1LCj	Romania	Lamb	289	242	207	158	336	169	274	356	221	174	138	111	277	91	312
II	TgRO-2LCj	Romania	Lamb	289	242	207	158	336	169	274	356	221	174	138	111	277	91	312
II (11/15)	TgRO-3LCj	Romania	Lamb	289	NA	207	158	NA	169	274	356	221	174	138	111	277	NA	NA
II (14/15)	TgRO-4LCj	Romania	Lamb	289	242	207	158	336	169	274	356	NA	174	138	111	277	91	312
II (13/15)	TgRO-5LCj	Romania	Lamb	289	242	207	158	336	169	274	NA	221	174	NA	NA	277	91	312
II (14/15)	TgRO-6LCj	Romania	Lamb	289	242	207	158	336	169	NA	356	221	174	138	111	277	91	312
II	TgRO-1PAB	Romania	Pig	289	242	207	158	336	169	274	356	225	176	142	113	259	95	312
II	TgRO-1PBH	Romania	Pig	289	242	207	158	336	169	274	356	217	176	142	125	277	93	312
II	TgRO-2PBH	Romania	Pig	289	242	207	158	336	169	274	356	217	176	142	125	277	93	312
II	ROU-H-001	Romania	Human	289	242	207	158	336	169	274	356	231	176	138	109	273	93	312
II	TgRO-1GK	Romania	Goat	289	242	207	158	336	169	274	356	235	176	140	115	275	115	310
II	TgRO-2GK	Romania	Goat	289	242	207	158	336	169	274	356	235	176	140	115	275	115	310
Reference strains*																		
I	GT1	SUA	Sheep	291	248	209	160	342	169	274	358	209	168	145	119	265	87	306
II	PRU	France	Human	289	242	207	158	336	169	274	356	209	176	142	117	265	123	310
III	NED	France	Human	289	242	205	160	336	165	278	356	209	190	147	111	267	91	312

RESULTS



RESULTS - HORSE

- 82 pairs of blood and heart samples
- samples were collected from slaughtered horses for human consumption during Easter – ELISA; MAT
- heart samples - PCR
- bioassayed in mice

RESULTS - HORSE

- seroprevalence – horses: 39% (ELISA); 37,8% (MAT)
- PCR – 0%
- 10 heart samples were bioassayed in mice
- 2 *T. gondii* strains were isolated



Short communication

Toxoplasma gondii in horse meat intended for human consumption in Romania

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RESULTS – WILD ANIMALS

- 150 wild boars – serum samples
- IFAT – 16%

- 182 red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) – brain samples
- PCR – 6%

Parasitol Res
DOI 10.1007/s00436-013-3353-z
SHORT COMMUNICATION

In Romania, exposure to *Toxoplasma gondii* occurs twice as often in swine raised for familial consumption as in hunted wild boar, but occurs rarely, if ever, among fattening pigs raised in confinement

Anamaria Ioana Paștiu · Adriana Györke · Rada Blaga · Vasile Mireasa · Benjamin Martin Rosenthal · Vasile Cozma

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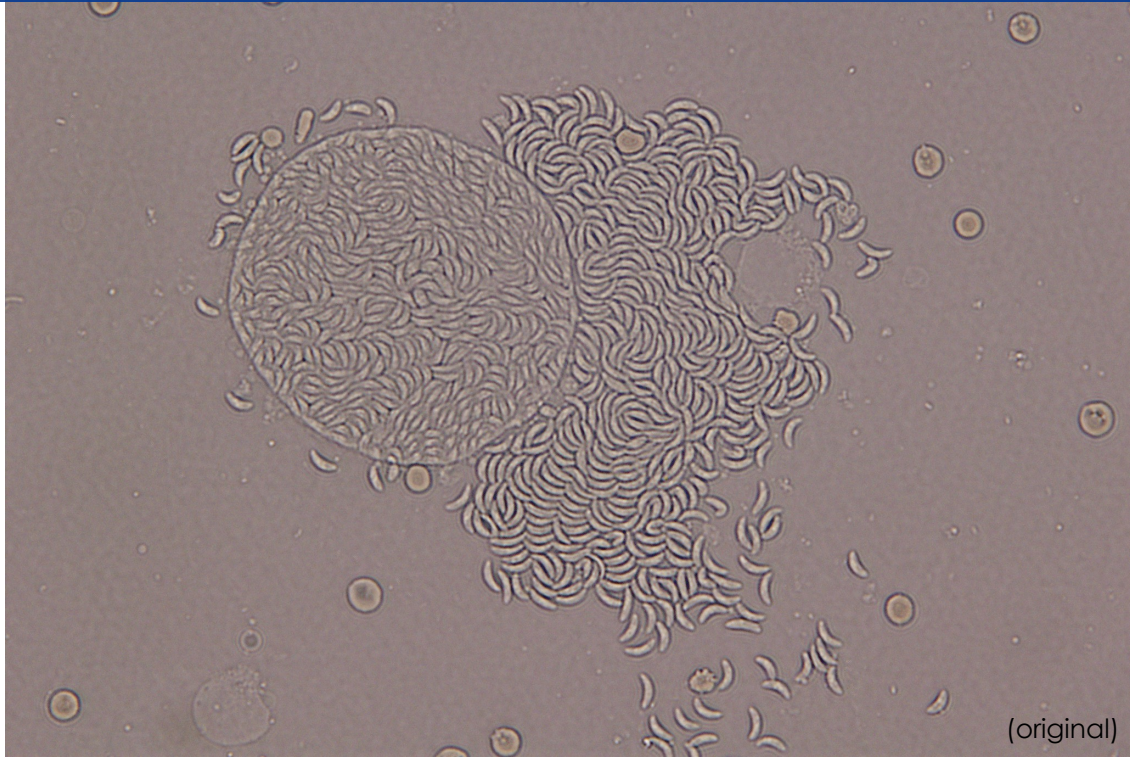
Red Foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) in Romania are Carriers of *Toxoplasma gondii* but not *Neospora caninum*

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CON-CLUJ-IONS

- ❖ *Toxoplasma gondii* remains a challenge for both human and veterinary medicine.
- ❖ All the knowledge related to the parasite biology, its genetic diversity, risk factors, immune response and epidemiology should be used to reduce the contamination of the environment as well as the transmission of the parasite.
- ❖ The present review highlights a high prevalence of *T. gondii* infection in sheep/ lambs, goats/goat-kids, backyard pigs, horses and in wild animals.
- ❖ Consumption of raw or undercooked meat can be a potential source of human infection.
- ❖ The study also emphasizes that the role of *T. gondii* as etiological agent associated with abortion and stillbirth in sheep should not be forgotten.

THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION !!!!



(original)