

Prevalence and factors associated with bovine gastrointestinal parasitosis in the municipality of Mapastepec, Chiapas

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To quote this article:

León Velasco, H., Cruz Pérez, L. P., Zavala López, G., Ramírez Barrios, H., & Bautista Trujillo, G. U. Prevalencia y factores asociados a la parasitosis gastrointestinal bovina en el municipio de Mapastepec, Chiapas. *Espacio I+D, Innovación más Desarrollo*, 14(41). <https://doi.org/10.31644/IMASD.41.2025.a01>

— Abstract —

The objective of this research was to determine the prevalence and factors associated with gastrointestinal nematodosis in cattle in the municipality of Mapastepec, Chiapas. Gastrointestinal nematodosis in cattle affects livestock health and productivity, causing great economic losses that impact the profitability of the production system. The research was descriptive and transversal. The coprological analysis of 420 samples of cattle was carried out during September - October (2023), using the flotation and McMaster technique. Non-probabilistic convenience sampling, 2x2 contingency tables, and the Chi Square test ($P < 0.05$) of the SPSS IBM Statistics version 25 software were used. During this investigation, the following genera of nematodes were identified: *Trichostrongylus* spp., *Ostertagia* spp., *Cooperia* spp., *Chabertia* spp., *Haemonchus* spp., *Strongylus* spp, and *Trichuris* spp. Concerning the number of animals sampled, a prevalence of nematodes of 62% was found. Regarding the age groups, young cattle had a greater parasitic infestation (70.7%); *Cooperia* spp., being the genus with the greatest presence in young and adult animals, while in old cattle, the nematode *Trichostrongylus* spp was identified. The degree of parasitosis infestation in young animals was 378.3 ± 73.3 HPGH, and in adults, 219.5 ± 58.1 HPGH, being a moderate parasitosis, and in old animals, this disease was mild with 153.6 ± 10.3 HPGH. The factors associated with significant gastrointestinal nematodes in this study were: geographical area, exploitation system, breed, age, body condition, sex, animals in coexistence, and food ($P < 0.05$), provided on the ranches.

Keywords:

Prevalence; gastrointestinal parasites; associated factors.

Gastrointestinal nematodosis in cattle is a multi-etiological disease caused by different genera of parasites such as *Trichostrongylus* spp., *Haemonchus* spp., *Ostertagia* spp., *Cooperia* spp., *Trichuris* spp., *Chabertia* spp., and *Strongylus* spp., which are worms that inhabit the digestive tract and are characterized by the following clinical signs: inappetence, anemia, edema, diarrhea, decreased production, and even death of the animal. It should be noted that the frequency of these parasites depends on various factors such as climate, management system, age, race, and nutritional status (Angulo, 2005; Quiroz, 2011).

In Mexico, the economic impact of the presence of gastrointestinal nematodes in cattle has reached economic losses of up to \$445.10 million (Reyes-Guerrero et al., 2021). In this sense, cattle farming in Chiapas develops in 83.4% of the territory, and considering that cattle is one of the animal species with the greatest susceptibility to gastrointestinal parasites, it is important to study parasitosis in this municipality because this disease could cause great economic losses (González & Santiz, 2010; CEIEG, 2018).

Currently, gastrointestinal parasitosis in cattle is one of the main animal health problems in the country. Therefore, it is necessary to carry out preventive medicine programs that control these conditions that have an impact on the productive efficiency of the livestock herd. Therefore, the collection of this information in the state is relevant, mainly in the municipality of Mapastepec, Chiapas, where livestock is the main socio-economic activity, so it is necessary to know the degree of infestation of these parasites in cattle.

Therefore, the objective of this study was to determine the prevalence and factors associated with gastrointestinal nematodosis in cattle in the municipality of Mapastepec, Chiapas.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research area

This research work was carried out in the municipality of Mapastepec, Chiapas, located in region IX, known as Isthmus-Coast, in southern Chiapas, Mexico. The total area of this municipality is 1,085.60 km², with a warm and humid climate from January to September and semi-warm from October to December. Rainfall occurs in September and October with a monthly average of 450 mm. Its economic activity is based on extensive and intensive cattle farming; it exports cattle on a large scale, which generates important income for the municipality, among other activities (Cardoso-Vázquez et al., 2006; Becerra, 2009; INEGI, 2010).

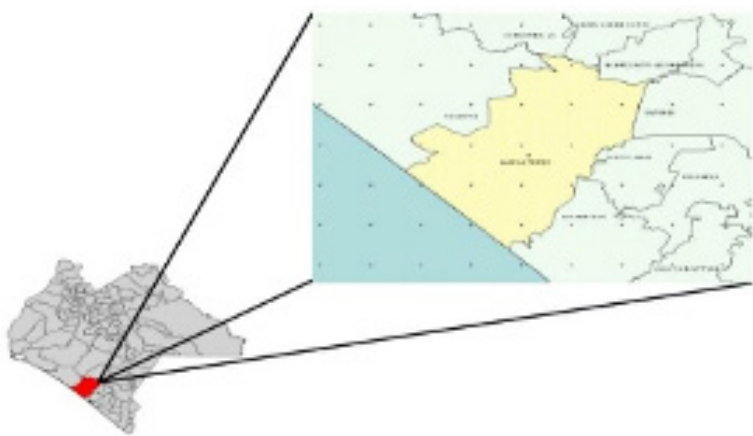


Figure 1. Localización geográfica del municipio de Mapastepec, Chiapas.
Source: Cardoso et al., 2006; GADM, 2018.

METHODOLOGY

This is a descriptive-cross-sectional research design that analyzes and describes the prevalence of gastrointestinal parasites, taking into account the variables: race, age, sex, and body condition.

A coprological sampling was carried out in the municipality of Mapastepec, Chiapas, taking into account the national livestock register, reported in 2021, which shows the existence of 2,290 livestock production units (UPP) with a livestock inventory of 158,330 head of cattle distributed in the different areas of this municipality.

For the determination of the samples, convenience sampling was used in 21 UPPs belonging to the Local Livestock Association of this municipality and cooperating producers. To carry out the determination of the finite sample size, the formula described by Aguilar (2005) was used.

$$n = \frac{N Z^2 p q}{d^2 (N - 1) + Z^2 p q}$$

n = sample size

N= 158,330 - population size

Z= 1.96 - confidence level

d= 0.05 - absolute accuracy level

p= 0.5 - proportion of the phenomenon under study in the population

q= 1 - p - proportion of the reference population that does not present the phenomenon under study

To obtain the sample size, a probability of occurrence of the phenomenon studied (p) of 50% was taken into account with a confidence level (Z) of 95% and absolute accuracy level (d) of 5% (Aguilar, 2005), resulting in 383 cattle. In this sense, due to the participation of cooperating producers, the number of samples was increased to 420 cattle from 21 UPPs. For this purpose, the number of animals that were sampled per ranch was 20 cattle, which it was divided into three age groups: young (35.7%), adult (24.8%), and old (39.5%).

Determination of prevalence

The Pinedo formula (2020) was taken as a reference to calculate the prevalence of gastrointestinal parasitosis.

$$P = \frac{\text{Number of animals positive for gastrointestinal parasites}}{\text{Total number of animals sampled}} \times 100$$

Inclusion criteria

- Age of cattle: young (0 to 12 months), adult (13 months to 24 months), and old (≥ 25 months)
- Body condition of cattle with scale 1.0 to 9.0. (1.0= very thin and 9.0= obese) This scale was taken into consideration as dual-purpose cattle (milk and meat) (Herd & Sprott, 1986)
- Health status (healthy)
- Cattle breed (all breeds)
- Sex of cattle (females and males)

Exclusion criteria:

- Freshly dewormed cattle
- Pregnant cattle
- Sick cattle

Elimination criteria

- Contaminated samples
- Loss of cold chain

Ethical and bioethical aspects in animal research:

During the development of this work, we took into account the considerations that mark the legislation and standards in the Law of Livestock Development and Sanitation for the State of Chiapas, the Official Mexican Standard NOM-062-ZOO-1999.

Interpretation of the results:

Morales et al. (2012) classify the degree of infestation of gastrointestinal parasites in large ruminants by Eggs Per Gram of Feces (HPGH):

- Mild infestation: 50-200 HPGH (+)
- Moderate infestation: >200-800 HPGH (++)
- High infestation: >800 HPGH (+++)

Statistical analysis

For the calculation of statistical significance, a 2x2 contingency table was used, using the Square Chi test ($P < 0.05$). Simultaneously, the ratio of moments with a 95% confidence interval was calculated. Bivariate analysis was performed with the SPSS IBM Statistics version 25 software. (IBM Corp. © Copyright IBM Corporation 25.2017 version).

RESULTS

Prevalence of parasite infestation in the UPPs of Mapastepec, Chiapas.

Table 1 shows the prevalence results obtained concerning the determination of gastrointestinal nematodes, where 420 cattle were sampled, of which 262 animals (62%) were positive for gastrointestinal parasites and 158 (38%) animals were negative.

Table 1
Overall prevalence of gastrointestinal nematodes

Cases	Samples	Population	%
Positive	n	262	62
Negative	n	158	38
Sampled animals	n	420	100

Note: Own elaboration.

Of the gastrointestinal nematode positive cases by age group, 150 young animals were sampled, of which 70.7% (n=106) were bovine positive and 29.3% (n=44) were negative cases, while in the group of adult animals 104 animals were evaluated, resulting in 56.7% (n=59) of bovine positive and 43.3% (n=45) negative animals; finally, of 166 older animals 58.4% (n=97) were positive and 41.6% negative cases (n=69).

During this research, the classification of gastrointestinal nematodes was carried out in the 21 UPP evaluated, where the following genera were detected in 20 UPP: *Trichostrongylus* spp., *Ostertagia* spp., *Cooperia* spp., and *Chabertia* spp., with these four genera having the highest frequency (95.2%). The genus *Haemonchus* spp. was present in 19 UPP (90.5%), and the least frequent were the genera *Strongylus* spp. in 10 UPP (47.6%), and *Trichuris* spp. with six positive cases (28.6%).

According to the classification by age group, seven genera of parasites were detected in young cattle (Figure 2), of which the *Cooperia* spp genus represented the highest frequency (30.55%) and the *Trichuris* spp genus the lowest frequency (3.49%) of positive cases.

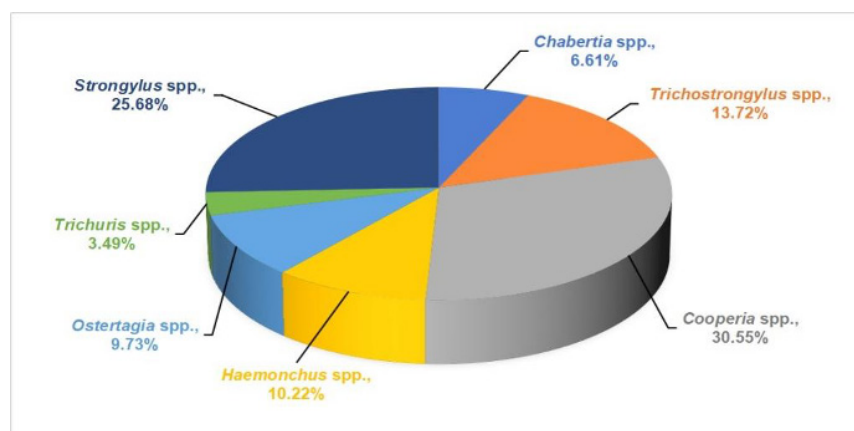


Figure 2. Gastrointestinal nematodes identified in young cattle

Figure 3 shows that the group of adult cattle presented infestations with the following genera: *Cooperia* spp (36%), *Trichostrongylus* spp. (17%), *Strongylus* spp. (15%), *Haemonchus* spp. (13%), *Ostertagia* spp. (10%), *Chabertia* spp (7%), and the genus *Trichuris* spp (2%) were the ones with the lowest presence of positive cases.

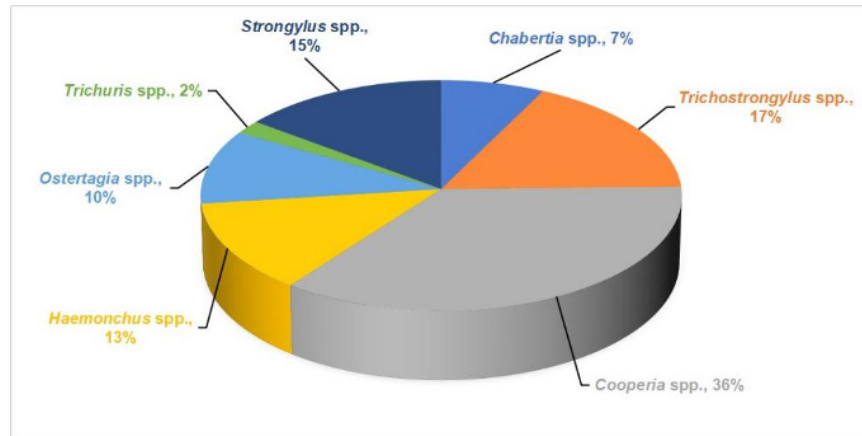


Figure 3. Gastrointestinal nematodes identified in adult cattle

With reference to old animals, the seven genera of nematodes above were identified. However, the genus *Trichostrongylus* spp. is the one with the highest presence, with 20.5%, in this population; on the other hand, the genus *Trichuris* spp. is the one with the lowest frequency, with 0.3% of positive cases (Figure 4).

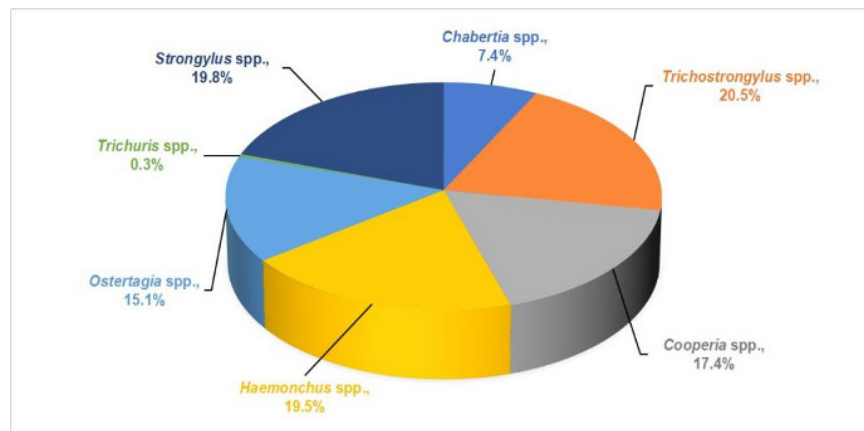


Figure 4. Gastrointestinal nematodes detected in old cattle

The results obtained according to the degree of infestation showed that young animals (378.3 ± 73.3 HPGH) and adults (219.5 ± 58.1 HPGH) presented a moderate degree of infestation, while old animals (153.6 ± 10.3 HPGH) presented mild cases. Therefore, the general average of the evaluated population manifested a moderate parasitosis of 250.50 ± 66.69 HPGH.

Regarding the sex of the animals, it was found that the 193 females evaluated showed a degree of mild infestation, while in the males, the infestation was moderate in 69 animals.

The overall result of positive animals was 262 for parasitosis. However, when classifying it by body condition of 1.0 ($n=112$), an infestation of 331.7 ± 72.9 HPGH was observed, while in the body condition of 3.0, there were 110 animals, both of which had a moderate infestation (212.3 ± 20.5 HPGH). In contrast, animals with a body condition of 5.0 ($n=40$) had a mild (182.5 ± 25.0 HPGH) presence of parasitosis.

As for the nine analyzed breeds of the sampled animals, the highest parasitic load was the Brahman breed (1950 HPGH) with an infestation considered as high; in contrast, the lowest parasitic load was the cross of Cebu x Cebu (62.5 HPGH) with an infestation considered as mild.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH GASTROINTESTINAL PARASITOSIS IN CATTLE

In Table 2, the factors associated with the presence of gastrointestinal nematodes in cattle are mentioned. Regarding the Centro-Dulce location area of the municipality of Mapastepec, Chiapas, the genus *Haemonchus* spp reflected a value of 0.372 of Momios Ratio (RM), while in the Baja-Marítima area, the genus *Ascaris* spp showed a result of 0.454 RM ($P<0.01$). This represents a remarkable relationship in both variables with these gastrointestinal nematodes. On the other hand, the semi-intensive exploitation system detected the genus *Ascaris* spp, and in the extensive exploitation system, the genus *Strongylus* spp ($P<0.01$) with values of 0.375 RM and 0.305 RM, respectively.

Regarding the breed or cross, they manifested a significant association with the presence of parasitosis, reflected as follows: Cebu x Swiss with the presence of the genus *Strongylus* spp., (2.650 RM), and the Simbrah cattle breed had a relationship with the parasites *Trichostrongylus* spp (4.299 RM) and *Trichuris* spp (7.960 RM) ($P<0.01$). However, the cattle embedded between the Cebu x Cebu breeds presented the genus *Cooperia* spp (0.129 RM), ($P<0.01$). For its part, the Swiss American breed was associated with the nematode *Strongylus* spp with a value of 2.546 RM ($P<0.05$) and *Ascaris* spp of 21.500 RM ($P<0.01$). Finally, the Holando x Cebu cattle breed manifested the association with the nematode *Haemonchus* spp (1.864 RM) ($P<0.05$). Breeds such as Gyr, Guzerat, Brahman, and Black Sardinian did not show a significant association with gastrointestinal parasitosis ($P>0.05$).

Regarding the age of the animals, their relationship with the condition of parasitosis found that young cattle had the presence of the following more relevant genera, such as: *Trichostrongylus* spp (2.070 RM), *Cooperia* spp (2.179 RM), *Chabertia* spp (2.718 RM), *Trichuris* spp (5.743 RM) ($P<0.01$), and for *Ascaris* spp nematodes (0.232 RM), *Haemonchus* spp (1.644 RM) had lower values ($P<0.05$). The second age group was old animals, and a

relationship was found with the following genera: *Cooperia* spp (0.449 RM), *Ascaris* spp (7.706 RM) ($P<0.01$), and *Trichuris* spp (0.134 RM), *Chabertia* spp (0.508 RM) ($P<0.05$). In contrast, adult cattle had no relationship with the parasites detected ($P>0.05$).

Table 2

Factors associated with the presence of parasitosis in cattle

Factor	Genus	RM	LCI	LCS	P Value
Geographical area					
Centro – Dulce	<i>Haemonchus</i> spp	0.372	0.219	0.631	$P<0.01$
Baja – Marítima	<i>Ascaris</i> spp	0.454	0.408	0.505	$P<0.01$
Exploitation system					
Extensive	<i>Strongylus</i> spp	0.375	0.198	0.710	$P<0.01$
Semi-intensive	<i>Ascaris</i> spp	0.305	0.263	0.354	$P<0.01$
Breed or crossbreed					
CxS	<i>Strongylus</i> spp	2.650	1.577	4.454	$P<0.01$
HxC	<i>Haemonchus</i> spp	1.864	0.999	3.478	$P<0.05$
SI	<i>Trichostrongylus</i> spp	4.299	1.350	13.691	$P<0.01$
	<i>Trichuris</i> spp	7.960	1.540	41.149	$P<0.01$
SA	<i>Strongylus</i> spp	2.546	1.046	6.196	$P<0.05$
	<i>Ascaris</i> spp	21.500	7.333	63.036	$P<0.01$
CxC	<i>Cooperia</i> spp	0.129	0.017	0.974	$P<0.01$
Age					
Young	<i>Haemonchus</i> spp	1.644	1.002	2.696	$P<0.05$
		2.070	1.271	3.370	$P<0.01$
		2.179	1.407	3.374	$P<0.01$
		5.743	1.530	21.552	$P<0.01$
		2.718	1.514	4.882	$P<0.01$
		0.232	0.052	1.030	$P<0.05$
Old	<i>Cooperia</i> spp	0.449	0.281	0.717	$P<0.01$
	<i>Trichuris</i> spp	0.134	0.017	1.047	$P<0.05$
	<i>Chabertia</i> spp	0.508	0.266	0.968	$P<0.05$
	<i>Ascaris</i> spp	7.706	2.179	27.252	$P<0.01$

Note: $P<0.01$ = Highly meaningful

$P<0.05$ = Meaningful

CxS: Cebú x Suizo, HxC: Holland x Cebu, SI: Simbrah, SA: American Swiss, CxC: Cebu x Cebu, RM: odds ratio, LCI: lower confidence limit, LCS: upper confidence limit

Table 3 shows the results of parasitosis related to the animals' body condition. An association was found with the parasite *Strongylus* spp, with a value of 2.226 RM ($P<0.01$) in the body condition of 1.0, and in the same case for the body condition of 3.0, the genus *Strongylus* spp reflected a value of 0.549 RM ($P<0.05$). Therefore, cattle with a body condition scale of 5.0 had no significant relationship with the genera of the parasites ($P>0.05$). According to the sex variable, females were associated with the manifestation of the following genera: *Cooperia* spp had a value of 0.557 RM ($P<0.01$), likewise, the genera *Ostertagia* spp with a value of 0.519 RM, and *Trichostrongylus* spp with 0.542 RM ($P<0.05$). However, male cattle showed no association with parasitosis ($P>0.05$).

Concerning cattle living with backyard hens, the genus *Ascaris* spp had a value of 0.355 RM ($P<0.01$), and in the case of sheep, the parasites *Strongylus* spp and *Chabertia* spp had values of 0.827 RM and 3.174 RM, respectively ($P<0.01$). As for pigs, the following genera were identified: *Ascaris* spp (0.057 RM), *Cooperia* spp (0.121 RM), *Ostertagia* spp (0.124 RM), *Trichostrongylus* spp (0.194 RM) ($P<0.01$), and *Chabertia* spp (0.162 RM) ($P<0.05$).

Finally, the variable of food supplementation by grains (corn) and poultry manure both showed a relationship with the same genera *Ascaris* spp having a value of 0.206 RM ($P<0.01$), *Haemonchus* spp with 0.505 RM and *Chabertia* spp of 0.371 RM ($P<0.05$), continuing with the corn cane the nematode *Chabertia* spp (2.217 RM) was visualized ($P<0.05$) and in the corn silage the parasite *Strongylus* spp (0.110 RM) and *Ascaris* spp (13.500 RM) ($P<0.01$) were observed.

Table 3
Associated factors and presentation of positive cases of parasitosis in cattle

Factor	Genus	RM	LCI	LCS	P Value
Body condition					
1.0	<i>Strongylus</i> spp	2.226	1.336	3.710	P<0.01
3.0	<i>Strongylus</i> spp	0.549	0.324	0.929	P<0.05
Sexo					
	<i>Trichostrongylus</i> spp	0.542	0.323	0.911	P<0.05
Female	<i>Ostertagia</i> spp	0.519	0.297	0.909	P<0.05
	<i>Cooperia</i> spp	0.557	0.348	0.892	P<0.01
Animals in cohabitation					
Backyard hens	<i>Ascaris</i> spp	0.355	0.311	0.405	P<0.01
	<i>Strongylus</i> spp	0.827	0.788	0.868	P<0.01
Sheep	<i>Chabertia</i> spp	3.174	1.631	6.177	P<0.01
	<i>Trichostrongylus</i> spp	0.194	0.046	0.822	P<0.01
	<i>Ostertagia</i> spp	0.124	0.017	0.921	P<0.01
Swine	<i>Cooperia</i> spp	0.121	0.029	0.511	P<0.01
	<i>Chabertia</i> spp	0.162	0.022	1.203	P<0.05
	<i>Ascaris</i> spp	0.057	0.038	0.085	P<0.01
Food					
	<i>Haemonchus</i> spp	0.505	0.261	0.978	P<0.05
Corn	<i>Chabertia</i> spp	0.371	0.154	0.895	P<0.05
	<i>Ascaris</i> spp	0.206	0.170	0.249	P<0.01
	<i>Haemonchus</i> spp	0.505	0.261	0.978	P<0.05
Poultry manure	<i>Chabertia</i> spp	0.371	0.154	0.895	P<0.05
	<i>Ascaris</i> spp	0.206	0.170	0.249	P<0.01
Corn cane	<i>Chabertia</i> spp	2.217	0.990	4.963	P<0.05
Corn silage	<i>Strongylus</i> spp	0.110	0.015	0.812	P<0.01
	<i>Ascaris</i> spp	13.500	4.866	37.45	P<0.01

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

In the present study, 62% of positive cases (n=262) were due to gastrointestinal nematodes, and 38% of negative cases (n=158) were found. This contrasts with the results of Marmolejo et al. (2023) in a study carried out in Villaflores, Chiapas, who sampled 384 cattle, of which they detected 33% positive for parasites and 67% negative for the presence of gastrointestinal nematodes. However, López and Sánchez (2009), who conducted a study of identification and prevalence of gastrointestinal nematodes in cattle from the municipality of Pijijiapan, Chiapas, with a population of 120 animals, detected 56.66% of positive cases (n=68) of gastrointestinal parasites. The

authors Marmolejo et al. (2023) and López and Sánchez (2009) have values lower than the positive cases of this study, with respect to the negative cases both values are higher than those of this research, probably attributed to the population of animals at the place of study, time of year (June), and the research's duration.

Regarding the degree of parasitosis by age group, in this study, it was found that 70.7% of young animals with positive cases of parasitosis (n=106) and 58.4% of old animals, possibly representing the age group most susceptible to this condition (n=97). These results contrast with those of the author Marmolejo et al. (2023), where they found results for young animals of 41.61% positive for gastrointestinal nematodes, and for old animals, 36.11% positive for parasitosis. For its part, Cruz's study (2009) reported a prevalence of gastrointestinal parasitosis in young cattle of 50% (n=21) and adult cattle of 16% (n=7) due to gastrointestinal nematodes. This study was conducted in the municipality of Raudales Malpaso, Chiapas. Both results show values below those found in the present study, possibly related to the size of the sample, time of year (June), and location of the study area.

In the research work, seven genera of gastrointestinal nematodes were identified; *Trichostrongylus* spp., *Ostertagia* spp., *Cooperia* spp., and *Chabertia* spp., being the ones with the highest presence, with 95.2% each, *Haemonchus* spp. was 90.5% and the ones with the lowest presence were *Strongylus* spp. (47.6%) and *Trichuris* (28.6%). On the other hand, Colina et al. (2013), who worked on the prevalence of gastrointestinal parasitosis in cattle in the Province of Chepén – Peru with a warm climate, identified *Oesophagostomum* spp (40.2%), *Cooperia* spp (32.8%), *Haemonchus* spp (28.1%), *Ostertagia* spp (26%), *Trichostrongylus* spp (24.3%), and *Trichuris* (1.8%). There is a coincidence of five nematode genera that have an impact on the productivity of bovine livestock.

In a study conducted by González and Santiz (2010) in Ocotepec, Chiapas, they found nine genera of gastrointestinal nematodes, coinciding with the genera: *Trichuris* spp., *Cooperia* spp., *Trichostrongylus* spp., *Chabertia* spp, and *Haemonchus* spp with this research. However, in this study, the parasite *Trichuris* spp has the most presence (60%) and *Chabertia* spp the least (0.77%).

There are differences between the studies presented, due to the variation in the population number of animals sampled, age, different geographical areas that are related to climatic conditions, time of year, and finally, an unnoticed preventive medicine protocol in each livestock production unit for the control of these endoparasites.

In this study, it was detected that we mostly worked with the following livestock crossbreeds: Cebu x Swiss (CxS), Holando x Cebu (HxC), Simbrah (SI), American Swiss (SA), and Cebu x Cebu (CxC), and the genera most

commonly found were: *Strongylus* spp., *Trichostrongylus* spp., *Trichuris* spp., *Ascaris* spp., *Cooperia* spp. ($P < 0.01$) and *Haemonchus* spp. ($P < 0.05$). In this sense, Pinedo (2020), when conducting research in which he compared the parasitic load between races: Girolando, Simmental x Holstein, and Brahman, where they only agreed with two genera of parasites: *Cooperia* spp and *Trichuris* spp, no association was detected between gender and breed of cattle ($P > 0.05$). On the other hand, García et al. (2018), when studying the prevalence and risk factors associated with gastrointestinal parasites relating to parasitosis and cattle breeds such as Holstein and Normandy, the only coincidence was with the following genera: *Trichuris* spp., *Chabertia* spp ($P > 0.05$), and *Ostertagia* spp ($P < 0.01$). There is a relationship with gastrointestinal nematodes, except for breeds that differ with the study conducted, region, study population number, and environmental temperature.

The sex factor is one of the factors that represented an association with bovine females with the following genera: *Trichostrongylus* spp., *Ostertagia* spp ($P < 0.05$), and with the genera *Cooperia* spp and *Ascaris* spp ($P < 0.01$). In contrast, Cornejo (2019) and Lagos and Lascano (2021) did not find any significant relationship between this factor. This may be due to the number of animals sampled, in this case, more females than males.

According to the results obtained, in this research, the age variable found a relationship in young animals (0-12 months) with parasites: *Trichostrongylus* spp., *Cooperia* spp., *Trichuris* spp., *Chabertia* spp ($P < 0.01$), and *Haemonchus* spp., *Ascaris* spp ($P < 0.05$), while in old animals (≥ 25 months) the following genera were found: *Cooperia* spp., *Ascaris* spp ($P < 0.01$), and *Trichuris* spp., *Chabertia* spp ($P < 0.05$). Pinedo (2020) found a relationship with age in six groups of productive stages: bull, cow, heifer, turkey, beef, and calf, where they did find an association with age ($P < 0.002$) and included the parasitic load of the genera found: *Eimeria* spp., *Monezia* spp., *Cooperia* sp., *Trichuris* sp., *Paramphistomidae*, and Protozoa.

In contrast, Armijos (2023) performed an age classification: calf, bull, heifer, and adult; however, they did not find an association with the identification of the following genera: *Eimeria* spp., *Haemonchus* spp., *Oesophagostomum* spp., *Cooperia* spp., *Moniezia benedeni*, and *Trichostrongylus* spp ($P > 0.05$).

In the present research, we detected an association of some parasites with the age factor; similar results were found by Pinedo (2020), and coincide at the same time of year and the sampling of the animals. While Armijos (2023) differs with the results of these works because the diagnosis of parasitism was in temperate weather.

As for the farming system factor, it was classified as extensive with the *Strongylus* spp genus and semi-intensive with the *Ascaris* spp genus ($P < 0.01$). Lagos and Lascano (2021) analyzed the extensive production

system, identifying the following genera: *Eimeria* spp., *Haemonchus contortus*, *Oesophagostomum* spp., *Ostertagia* spp., *Taenia* spp., *Trichuris* spp., and *Trichostrongylus* spp, where they showed a relation with the farming system ($P < 0.01$). Definitely, the farming system is a critical point in preventive medicine programs and, as a consequence, the health of the animals.

Ludeña (2023) in evaluating the comparison to extensive and intensive farming systems did not detect any association between the parasite loads of the genera *Entamoeba coli*, *Ancylostoma* spp., *Ascaris* spp., *Trichostrongylus* spp., *Lagochilascaris* spp., *Strongyloides* spp., and *Fasciola hepatica* in relation to farming system ($P > 0.05$).

According to Lagos and Lascano (2021), there was only a relationship with the extensive system in the present research since both coincide with the warm-humid climate, although they do not have the same genera identified. While Ludeña (2023) did not observe any association between this factor, detecting only the genus *Ascaris* spp, although they do not belong to the same cattle exploitation system.

Regarding the factor of cohabiting animals, an association with cases of parasites was found with backyard chickens with the parasite *Ascaris* spp ($P < 0.01$), sheep with the genera *Strongylus* spp and *Chabertia* spp ($P < 0.01$), and swine with the parasites *Trichostrongylus* spp., *Ostertagia* spp., *Cooperia* spp., *Ascaris* spp ($P < 0.01$), and *Chabertia* spp ($P < 0.05$). As opposed to Cornejo (2019) and Armijos (2023), who mention that there is no relationship to the presence of gastrointestinal parasites. Perhaps the differences between the two studies were that in the present research, there is a close interrelationship in the animals' pens, water, feed, and common spaces in the production units.

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