

Coexistence of *Trypanosoma cruzi* genotypes in wild and peridomestic mammals in Chile

Rozas, Marlene

Botto-Mahan, Carezza

Coronado, Ximena

Ortiz, Sylvia

Cattan, Pedro E.

Solari, Aldo

Epidemiologic evidence suggests a preferential association of *Trypanosoma cruzi* genotypes TCI and TCII with marsupials and placental mammals, respectively. We identify *T. cruzi* genotypes from 117 infected mammals. Minicircle DNA amplified by polymerase chain reaction and hybridization with a panel of four specific probes showed frequencies for the *T. cruzi* genotypes TCI, TCIIb, TCIIc, and TCIIe of 38%, 41%, 26%, and 9%, respectively, in wild mammals. In peridomestic mammals, frequencies for the same clones were 29%, 33%, 43%, and 14%, respectively. As a whole, mixed infections are found in more than 31% of the cases, which indicates the coexistence of multiclonal strains circulating in nature, and the absence of specific associations between *T. cruzi* genotypes and reservoir hosts, including marsupials. The direct characterization of parasite genotypes emphasizes the importance of obtaining unbiased epidemiologic information from parasite-endemic areas. Results are discussed in the cont