

Microsatellite marker analysis shows differentiation among *Trypanosoma cruzi* populations of peripheral blood and dejections of *Triatoma infestans* fed on the same chronic chagasic patients : Microsatellite marker analysis and *T. cruzi*

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To investigate whether *Trypanosoma cruzi* populations found in chagasic cardiopathic and non-cardiopathic patients are genetically differentiated, three molecular microsatellite markers were analysed. This analysis was also applied to compare *T. cruzi* samples from peripheral blood or dejections of *Triatoma infestans* fed on the blood of the same patients. In order to obtain the first objective, analyses of predominant *T. cruzi* genotypes were conducted using three approaches: a locus-by-locus analysis; a Fisher method across three loci; and analysis of molecular variance by Genepop and Arlequin programs. Only with one locus and on the blood samples was a significant differentiation detected among non-cardiopathic and cardiopathic groups, which was not confirmed by the other two methods. On the contrary, with the three approaches, it was found that *T. cruzi* clones present in the blood of patients are genetically differentiated from those detected in dejections of *T. infestans* fed on the sa