

Initial stage of development and migratory behavior of *Toxocara canis* larvae in BALB/c mouse experimental model

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ABSTRACT. In the present study, the initial developmental stage of *Toxocara canis* eggs and larvae, and number of recovered larvae from BALB/c mouse-infected organs are described. *In vitro* culture of *T. canis* detects the frequencies of interphasic, mitotic and embryonated eggs only within a 7-day period. Analysis by egg counting was carried out for 32 days. The results showed that at 7 days after cultivation, the frequency of larvae was 50.4% and that this frequency reached 52.8% in 32 days. In the experimental infection of BALB/c mice with *T. canis*, the number of recovered larvae statistically increased in the brain and liver, with doses of approximately 200 and 1000 eggs. After 7 days of infection, a larger number of larvae were obtained in the lung and liver, although a maximum amount was found in the brain after a 15- or 30-day post-infection period.

Key words: *Toxocara canis*; BALB/c mice; Larval recovery; Visceral larva migrans; Infection