

Preliminary findings from an experimental study of caprine besnoitiosis in Kenya

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Date: 1993

Abstract:

Inoculation of cystozoites obtained from natural, chronic cases of caprine besnoitiosis produced clinical disease in goats but not in rabbits, mice, guinea pigs, hamsters, rats or cattle. Histological examination of tissue sections from the experimental animals showed *Besnoitia* cysts only in goats. This, together with field observations that cattle reared together with goats having besnoitiosis do not contract the disease, suggests that the *Besnoitia* species that infects goats in Kenya is host-specific and is not *Besnoitia besnoiti*. We suggest that the name *Besnoitia caprae* be adopted for the caprine pathogen.