

ABSTRACT

A sero-epidemiological study of *Taenia saginata* cysticercosis was carried out to determine the prevalence and distribution of the infection in three provinces of Kenya. Serum samples and meat inspection records were collected from cattle at slaughter at export and district abattoirs. Cattle origin and the presence of *T. saginata* cysticerci were noted as was the prevalence of other helminths such as *Echinococcus granulosus* and *Fasciola gigantica*. Serum samples were screened for circulating parasite antigen using a monoclonal antibody-based enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (Ag-ELISA) and for ante-parasite antibody by indirect ELISA (Ab-ELISA). Eighty per cent of the sera were collected cattle from the Rift Valley Province of Kenya. The prevalence of *T. saginata* cysticercosis and the other helminth infections varied between districts and was particularly high in Narok. Animal husbandry practices in arid areas such as Narok may be particularly conducive to transmission. The potential value of the Ag-ELISA for use in sero-epidemiological studies was verified by this study. It detected at least twice as many cases as *T. saginata* cysticercosis as meat inspection and, of the three methods investigated, was considered the most valuable.