

ABSTRACT:

Gastro-intestinal Parasites of Local Chicken in Dschang, West Province, Cameroon.\*

We carried out a study to determine the prevalence of gastro-intestinal parasites of scavenging chicken in Dschang, West Province, Cameroon, parallel to a survey on the sanitary conditions of the poultry and animals kept in contact with them. The results of the survey carried out on a total of 202 chickens (*Gallus gallus*) from six poultry farms showed the presence of six gastrointestinal parasitic species of the genus *Eimeria* and three nematode species. Sixty-three percent of the chickens harbored endoparasites. There was no evidence of ectoparasites or large gastrointestinal parasites like tapeworms.

The most prevalent parasites identified were *Eimeria mitis* (45.5%), *Eimeria acervulina* (26.2%) and *Eimeria tenella* (12.9%). Parasitic loads of  $1.39 \times 10^4$  eggs per gram (epg) for *Eimeria acervulina* and  $2.46 \times 10^4$  epg for *Eimeria tenella* caused the chickens to be sick.

Overall, the results indicate poor sanitary conditions for the farms and a heavy disease pressure on the chickens. We cannot ignore the impact on livestock production and productivity.

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