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GASTROINTESTINAL PARASITES OF INDIGENOUS PIGS (SUS DOMESTICUS) IN OBEAGU - UNO OF ENUGU SOUTH ENUGU STATE

Ubanwa, E. D.

Applied Biology and Biotechnology, Enugu state University of Science and Technology

Keywords:

Gastrointestinal
Parasites, Prevalence,
Prevention of Zoonotic
Helminthiasis and
Obeagu Uno.

Abstracts: Intestinal parasites have a significant impact on productivity of pigs. Additionally, presence of zoonotic parasites in pig faeces used as fertilizer and ingestion of raw or undercooked pork products originated from parasite-infested pigs pose a risk to human health. The parasite challenges in pig production in Nigeria causes substantial reproductive losses, poor reproductive performance and production in swine industry. The study was to estimate the prevalence and diversity of gastrointestinal parasites of pigs at Obeagu Uno. About 164 faecal samples of pigs were collected, samples collected were evaluated microscopically for different prevalence of gastro intestinal parasites in pigs. A prevalence of 51.2 % was observed as overall species prevalence in the fecal samples analysed. Ascaris suum 13.4%, Trichuris spp 5.48%; Balantidium spp 10.4%; Blastocystis spp 6.70%, Strongyloides spp 8.53% and Oesophagostomum spp 6.70%. there is a need for combined efforts to control parasites infections for optimum production of pigs and prevention of zoonotic helminthiasis, hence, pigs harbour a higher prevalence and greater diversity of gastrointestinal parasites.

Introduction

Pigs *Sus Scrofa* popularly called pork meat serve as meat and sources of protein in different parts of the world. Pigs (*Sus scrofa domesticus*) have been domesticated and lived in the proximity of humans around 9000 years (Patra *et al.*, 2019). In most region eating of pork meat is considered a taboo, while some region eat pork meat. Pork is consumed more than any other meat in the world (Nwafor *et al.*, 2019). Pigs are omnivores,

scavengers and have been known to eat any kind of food, including dead insects, plants bark, rotting carcasses, garbage and even other pigs in the wild. Occasionally in captivity, pigs may eat their own young, often if they become very severely stressed (Nwafor *et al.*, 2019). In other to fulfill dietary requirement to preserve fitness life, the rearing of pigs, and other different livestock to meet up with increase demand of

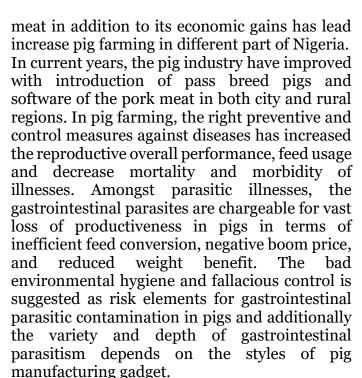
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Pigs are one of the most common livestock raised in Nigeria with much potential or economic development (Sowemimo et al., 2012). It is also one of the fastest growing livestock farming in South East. Pig production alleviates animal protein deficiency and considered a tool to fight poverty in the tropics (Ismail et al., 2010). Porcine production has a high potential to contribute to economic gains as pigs have high fecundity, high feed conversion efficiency, early gestation maturing, short period, also multiparous and relatively small space requirement for piggery (. Rekwot et al., 2003). Gastrointestinal parasites have been noted as one of the major constraint to swine production. These parasites are found within the gastro intestinal tract (GIT) of the animals (Uysal et al.,



2009). The three major groups of parasites which affect the gastro-intestinal tract of pigs are nematodes, trematodes and the intestinal protozoan (Sowemimo, et al., 2012). Extensive production system of pigs for commercial purpose is widely practiced in Africa, because of availability of cost free feeds (house hold municipal garbage) and possibilities for the animals to get better nutrition through scavenging (Petersen et al., 2015). Poor Environmental hygiene coupled with extensive management is reported as risk factors of infection of pigs with gastrointestinal parasites. The internal parasites is also known to injure some vital organs which play key role in metabolic activities (Nissen, et al., 2010). The consequences are anorexia, poor growth rate, anaemia, emaciation, infertility condemnation of affected organs after slaughter (Nsoso et al., 2000). Severe case of helminthiasis in young pigs has been reported and is commonly associated with diarrhea, loss of electrolytes and death (Stewart and Hoyt 2006). High morbidity and mortality associated with infection compromised helminthes productivity and reproductive performance of pigs in Africa. (Nissen et al., 2011). Some of this intestinal helminthes like nematode leaves in the intestines feeding on the gut lining and ingesting particulate and liquid digester therefore competing nutritional intake with pig. With this competition, adult parasite can lead to hemorrhagic gastroenteritis and anemia, larval migration through tissues of the pig results in the spread of infectious organisms from the gut as well as extensive tissue damage compromising organ function.

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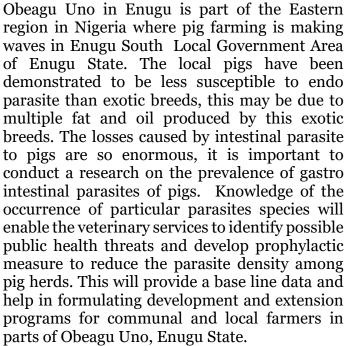
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MATERIALS AND METHODS Description of the Study Area

This study was carried out in Obeagu-Uno, Awkunanaw Enugu South L.G.A, Enugu State Nigeria. Obeagu Uno, in Akunanaw is situated at the middle of Nkanu land. According to 2016 census, Obeagu Uno, Awkunanaw in Enugu South L.G.A has an area of 67km² and a population of 267, 300 with population density of 2,827km². It has a Longitude of 7°30E and latitude of 6°24N. Majority of the population are Igbo ethnic group, Igbo and English are the major language in Enugu South.

Sample collection and Processing.

A visit was done at Obeagu Uno pig farm to make preliminary arrangement towards collection of the samples. Fecal samples were collected as early as 6:00-8:00 am weekly during the study



period. The size, sex, age, and breed of the samples from the animals were properly recorded.

One hundred and sixty four (164) faecal samples were collected from pigs kept under different systems of management. The pigs were restrained and faecal samples were collected through the rectum by rectal palpation. Using clean disposable hand gloves, two fingers were inserted gently into the rectum to collect feces and were transferred into a clean sample container which was labeled in order. Indices of the pigs were done such as identification of exotic breed or local breed.

Macroscopic

The faecal samples were examined macroscopically for their consistency (water content) as watery, loose, and soft formed and then categorized as either diarrheic or non-diarrheic.

Parasitological Examination

The samples were well labeled and transported to ESUT parasitology laboratory for analysis within 24hrs. The samples were analyse using formal-ether concentration technique.

Formal-ether concentration technique

About 1g of stool sample was emulsified with 4ml of 10% formal saline in a test tube. The mixture was filtered into a centrifuge tube using a cloth gauge and 3-4ml diethylether was added, shaker vigorously and allowed to stand for two minutes. The mixture was then centrifuged at 1000 revolutions per minutes (1000 rpm) for 3minutes. Using a glass rod, the faecal debris from the side of the tube was loosened and the tube inverted to pour off the supernatants. The tube was returned to its original upright position

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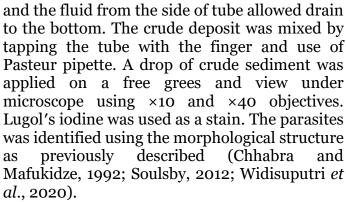
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Statistical Analysis

The data obtained were expressed in percentages and presented in tables. Using Chi square test, with 95% confidence intervals (CI) was used to determine the significant difference in the gastrointestinal parasites and the level of significant is at p< 0.05.

RESULTS

A prevalence of 51.2 % was observed in the 164 fecal samples of pig analysed for intestinal parasite. Of this prevalence *Ascaris suum* 22 (13.4%), *Trichuriss* spp 9 (5.48%), *Balantidium* spp 17 (10.4%), *Blastocystis* spp 11 (6.70%),

Strongyloides (8.53%)and spp 14 Oesophagostomum spp 11 (6.70%). The distribution of parasite in pigs in both sexes is shown in Table 2. Of the total number of 164 faecal samples examined, 84 (51.2%) were positive for different parasites infection, out of which 48 (57.1%) were males and 36 (42.8%) were females. The distribution of eggs of parasites found across the male in this study were those of Ascaris spp. (54.5%), Trichuris spp. (44.4%), Balantidium spp. (58.8%), Blastocystis spp. (6.36%), Strongyloides spp. (50.0%) and Oesophagostomum spp. (72.7%), while in female the highest was *Trichuris* spp (55.5%), Ascaris spp (45.4%), Balantidium spp (41.1%), Blastocystis spp (36.3%), Strongyloides spp, (50.0%) and Oesophagostomum spp (27.2%). The distribution of parasite in the pigs across the breed examined in this study is presented in Table 3. Of the total positive cases of 84 (51.2%) samples, 59 (70.2%) were from exotic breed, 7 (8.33%) were local indigenous breed, while 18 (21.4%) were of crosses breed.

Table 1: Overall prevalence of intestinal parasite of pigs at Obeagu

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Parasite	No. Exam	No. +ve	infection %				
encountered							
Ascaris suum		22	13.4				
Trichuris spp		9	5.48				
Balantidium spp		17	10.4				
Blastocystis spp		11	6.70				
Strongyloides spp		14	8.53				
Oesophagostomum spp.		11	6.70				
Total	164	84	51.2	•			

Table 2: Distribution of parasite eggs of pigs in both sexes in ObeaguParasite
Sex

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	Male	Female
Ascaris suum	12 (54.5)	10 (45.4)
<i>Trichuris</i> spp	4 (44.4)	5 (55.5)
<i>Balantidium</i> spp	10 (58.8)	7 (41.1)
<i>Blastocystis</i> spp	7 (6.36)	4 (36.3)
Strongyloides spp	7 (50.0)	7 (50.0)
Oesophagostomum spp	8 (72.7)	3 (27.2)
Total	48 (57.1)	36 (42.8)

Table 3: Parasite distribution across the breed of pigs in Obeagu Uno

	100		
]	<u>Breed</u>	
Parasite	Exotic	Local	Crosses
Ascaris suum	16 (72.7)	2 (9.09)	4 (18.18)
<i>Trichuris</i> spp	6 (66.6)	1 (11.1)	2 (44.4)
Balantidium spp	13 (76.4)	1 (5.88)	3 (17.6)
Blastocystis spp	7 (63.4)	0 (00.0)	4 (36.4)
Strongyloides spp	8 (57.1)	2 (14.2)	4 (28.5)
Oesophagostomum spp	9 (72.7)	1 (9.09)	1 (9.09)
Total	59 (70.2)	7 (8.33)	18 (21.4)

DISCUSSION

The present study investigated the prevalence and diversity of gastro intestinal parasites of pigs at Obeagu Uno. Our findings of 51.2% overall prevalence of gastrointestinal parasites in the pigs is not in concordance with the findings from Burkina Faso and Uganda who recorded above 50% 91% Tamboura et al., 2006; Nissen et al., 2010), with much higher than that of the reports from Indonesia 100% (Widisuputri et al., 2020), Bangladesh 96.4% (Dey et al., 2014), Brazil 93.1% (Barbosa et al., 2015). In contrast, the study had a result higher than the reports from Kenya 48% – 44.2% (Kagira *et al.*, 2012; Obonyo et al., 2013), Tanzania 33% (Nonga & Paulo, 2015), South Africa 49.2% (Nwafor et al., 2019) and Korea 33.5% (Ismail et al., 2010). The

difference in the prevalence of parasites in these studies can be attributed to many factors such as variation in sample size, sampling season, sex and breeds of the pigs and their immune system, the diversity in the climate and husbandry practices. One of the reasons for the higher prevalence of intestinal parasites in this study could be due to the poor rearing condition and unaware of danger of intestinal parasite of the pigs. Many farmers in the study area have little or no information of effective pig rearing and farm management practices. In Obegau, the farmers usually do not pay much attention on standard practice of pig farming or they rather commission it out to labourer who may not have interest in maximizing the opportunity of pig farming. Some or most of pigs sampled were fed

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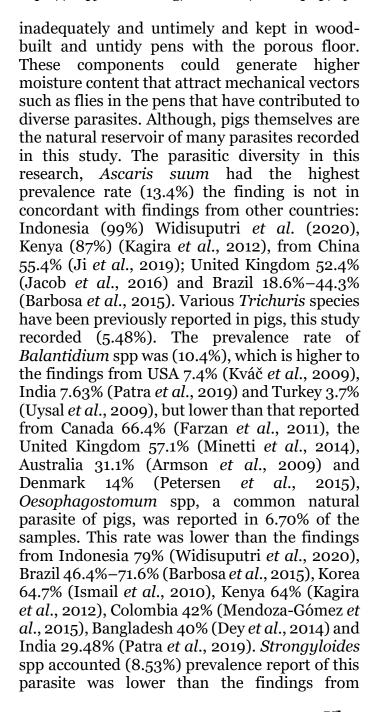
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Uganda 89% (Nissen et al., 2010), Kenya 75% (Obonyo et al., 2013), Tanzania 52% (Nonga & Paulo, 2015) and Brazil 46.6% (Barbosa et al., 2015) but higher than the findings from Ghana 7% (Atawalna *et al.*, 2016) and India 8.1% (Patra et al., 2019). Exotic breeds also naturally possess a high gastrointestinal parasitic rate (Murthy et al., 2016), possibly contributing to a high prevalence rate in the faecal samples studied. Male accounted the highest parasitic prevalence (57.1%), and the lowest (42.8%) in female pigs. Similar results were also reported from Tanzania (Nonga & Paulo, 2015) and India (Sharma et al., 2020). This findings of a higher prevalence of intestinal parasites in males is in agreement with other published reports (Dey et al., 2014; Sharma et al., 2020; Sowemimo et al., 2012). The lower prevalence parasitism on females in this study could be due to deworming practice performed by few farmers (field source) for adult pregnant pigs in pre-farrowing condition (2 before farrowing). Additionally, weeks testosterone hormone, which acts as immunosuppressant (Salvador et al., 1996), could have contributed to the higher prevalence of parasites in male pigs.

CONCLUSIONS

This study revealed parasitic infection as threat to pig production in Obeagu Uno in Enugu state, infected pigs in the area may saver as risk factor for spreading of the disease among humans and animals. In their community pig farming remains one of the major sources of income, therefore there is need to combat the menace of gastro intestinal parasites infection. The maintenance of pigs under traditional rearing system in Obeagu had a higher prevalence

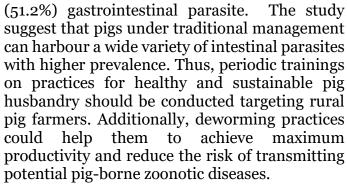
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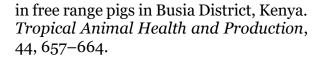
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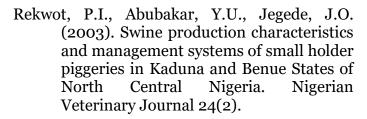
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