**Leishmania (Vianna) braziliensis** type 2 as probable etiological agent of canine cutaneous leishmaniasis in Brazilian Amazon

Andrea Fernandes Brilhante‡, Luciana Lima§, Ricardo Andrade Zampieri‡, Vânia Lúcia Brandão Nunes‡, Maria Elizabeth Cavalheiro Dorval‡, Patrícia Fernandes Nunes da Silva Malavazi‡, Leonardo Augusto Kohara Melchior‡, Edna Aoba Yassui Ishikawa‡, Cristiane de Oliveira Cardoso‡, Lucile Maria Floeter-Winter‡, Marta Maria Geraldes Teixeira‡, Eunice Aparecida Bianchi Galati‡

1 Faculty of Public Health, University of São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil, 2 Federal University of Acre, Rio Branco, Acre, Brazil, 3 Institute of Biomedical Sciences, University of São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil, 4 Institute of Biosciences, University of São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil, 5 Laboratory of Parasitology, Anhanguera-Uniderp University, Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil, 6 Laboratory of Clinical Analysis, Federal University of Mato Grosso do Sul, Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil, 7 Nucleus of Tropical Medicine, Federal University of Pará, Belém, Pará, Brazil

‡ These authors contributed equally to this work.  
§ These authors also contributed equally to this work.  
* brilhanteaf@usp.br

**Abstract**

Canine cutaneous leishmaniasis (CCL) is a zoonosis of public health interest, and in the Americas, *Leishmania (Vianna) braziliensis* has been identified as the main etiological agent. The present study sought to investigate *Leishmania* spp. infection in domestic dogs from a rural area of the Xapuri municipality, Acre state, Brazilian Amazonia. For this purpose, visits were carried out to domiciles where the human cases of American cutaneous leishmaniasis (ACL) occurred, followed by the clinical evaluation of the animals in search of clinical signs suggestive of CCL. Blood samples were collected from 40 dogs, 13 of which had lesions suggestive of CCL, and biopsies of these lesions were performed. The methods used were Neal, Novy, and Nicolle’s (NNN) medium cultures and direct parasitological examination. Further, to detect and characterize *Leishmania* DNA some molecular techniques were performed such as conventional polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and sequencing targeting SSU rDNA and ITS1, restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP) and high resolution melting (HRM) analysis targeting hsp70. The investigation revealed that the results obtained from the parasitological methods were negative. In PCR by ITS1 and network topology sequences, six strains from dogs, isolated from the Peruvian Andes, appeared identical to *Leishmania (Vianna) braziliensis* type 2 (99–100%). By other molecular methods these samples turned out to be positive to *Leishmania (Vianna)* spp.. The diagnosis of *Leishmania* in domestic dogs from Acre state showed a high proportion of infected animals, and the occurrence of *L. braziliensis* type 2 in Brazil for the first time. This new report suggests that *L. braziliensis* type 2 is both trans- and cis-Andean. However, more studies are needed regarding the clinical and diagnostic aspects of this species of *Leishmania*. 
Introduction

In Brazil, there are different etiological agents involved in the dermatropic forms of the disease, with *Leishmania (Viannia) braziliensis* and *Leishmania (Leishmania) amazonensis* presenting the greatest geographical distribution. The largest numbers of cases of the disease have been reported in the northern region which possesses the highest diversity of *Leishmania* species, in addition to reservoirs and proven or incriminated vectors [1, 2].

The domestic dog plays a significant role in the transmission cycle of *Leishmania (Leishmania) infantum*, the agent of American visceral leishmaniasis (AVL) in the Americas [3] and frequently canine cases precede the occurrence of the disease in humans [4]. However, the role of the dog in the transmission cycle of etiological agents of ACL is not well understood, whereas canine cases have generally been found in association with *L. (V.) braziliensis* in several regions of Brazil [5–7].

In recent years, the state of Acre has been considered to present one of the highest prevalences in the Brazilian Amazonian region and also in Brazil as a whole [8]. The municipality of Xapuri, where this study was carried out, is one of those with the highest reported number of cases and which contributes significantly to the increase of the prevalence of the disease in the state as a whole [9]. Exactly as with humans, domestic dogs can be affected by ACL. However, no studies have been undertaken in the region to evaluate the relationship of these animals to *Leishmania* spp. Therefore, the present report describes canine cases of ACL from the Xapuri municipality, Brazilian Amazon, attributed to *Leishmania (Viannia) braziliensis* type 2, a distinct species from *L. (V.) braziliensis* type 1 that has no documented clinical records, and has previously been found only in the Peruvian Andes.

Methods

Study area and sampling

The study was carried out in a rural, forested area in Xapuri municipality about 175 km from Rio Branco, the Acre state capital, where human and canine cases of ACL have been reported. The primitive vegetation of Xapuri is typical of the Amazonian biome, characterized by a tropical climate with abundant rainfall from October to April and a dry season from May to September. The average annual temperature is 27˚C, and the human population consists of about 17,000 inhabitants. The local economy mainly depends on latex, Brazil nut extractivism [10, 11].

According to information obtained from the Xapuri Health Surveillance Office regarding the occurrence of human cases of ACL, visits to the patients’ homes were carried out between July and October 2014, in areas of the municipality, composed of small properties such as farms and forests used for rubber extraction.

After the owners’ authorization had been obtained, their dogs were clinically examined for the purpose of identifying manifestations suggestive of leishmaniasis. Approximately 5.0 ml of venous blood was collected by jugular or cephalic vein puncture and stored in plastic tubes with and without anticoagulant (ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid; EDTA) for molecular tests.

The animals that presented lesions suggestive of ACL were anaesthetized to collect fragments of the lesion in tubes containing absolute ethanol and antibiotic saline solution (Gentamicin). These fragments were submitted to parasitological and molecular techniques to confirm the infection and to identify *Leishmania* spp.

Parasitological tests

The smears were prepared by apposition from the fragments of the lesions, which after fixation with methyl alcohol were stained with Giemsa and examined for amastigote forms of
Leishmania spp. For the isolation of the parasite, parts of the fragments of the lesions were immersed in saline solution with gentamicin sulfate for 24 hours at 4°C, followed by the seeding of the blood samples in NNN culture medium. The cultures were kept in a BOD (Biochemical Oxygen Demand) incubator at 25°C and examined weekly for 60 days.

Molecular assays

**DNA extraction and Leishmania spp. detection.** Blood samples and the fragments of the lesions were submitted to the DNA extraction protocol described by Adams *et al.* [12]. For the molecular diagnosis, various techniques and primers were utilized, as follows.

**Nested-PCR SSU rRNA and PCR-RFLP hsp70C.** Nested-PCR was performed on the samples of total blood and tissues of the animals, according to the technique described by Savani *et al.* [13], which amplifies a region of the SSU rRNA gene of trypanosomatids. Also were produced hsp70C fragments according to the description given by Graça *et al.* (2012) [14], using the pre-amplification products described in High Resolution Melting (HRM) analysis as a template.

**Internal transcribed spacer 1 (ITS1).** This PCR was carried out targeting the internal transcribed spacer 1 (ITS1) using the primers LITSR—Forward (5′-CTG GAT CAT TTT CCG ATG-3′) and L5.8S—Reverse (5′-TGA TAC CAC TTA TCG CAC TT-3′) to detect the infection caused by *Leishmania* spp. The PCR conditions were fulfilled according to the details outlined by Schönian *et al.* (2003) [15]. PCR products obtained were cloned, followed by the sequencing of 2 to 4 clones from each isolate.

The ITS1 sequences were aligned using Clustal X [16] and manually refined. Network genealogy was inferred by SplitsTree v4.11.3 using the neighbor-net method [17]. Internode supports were estimated, by performing 100 bootstrap replicates using the parameters which were optimized for network inferences.

**High resolution melting (HRM) analysis targeting hsp70.** A pre-amplification PCR step was performed using primers hsp70-preamp-F: 5′-GGCATCCTGAACGTGTCCG-3′ and hsp70-preamp-R: 5′-ATCTTGGTCTGATCGGTTG-3′. Thousand-fold dilutions from the pre-amplification reactions were used as a template in HRM tests described by Zampieri *et al.* (2016) [18]. An additional target, called Amplicon 3 using the primer hsp70-F3: 5′-GTCGACGCTGAACAAGGAGATCGA-3′ and hsp70C reverse, described by Graça *et al.* (2012), was used [14]. Genomic DNA samples from reference-strains of *L. (L.) infantum*, *L. (L.) amazonensis*, *L. (L.) mexicana*, *L. (V.) lainsoni*, *L. (V.) braziliensis*, *L. (V.) guyanensis*, *L. (V.) naiffi* and *L. (V.) shawi* were used as standards in all the HRM tests. All reactions were performed in a StepOne Real-Time PCR System, and data analysis was undertaken using High-Resolution Melt Software v3.0.1 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Walthan, MA, USA).

**Ethical considerations**

The biopsies and blood sampling from dogs were performed by professional veterinarians, respecting international recommendations for animal welfare, with the approval of the Ethics Committee for the Use of Animals for Experimentation of the Federal University of Acre (Comite de Ética no Uso de Animais para Experimentação da Universidade Federal do Acre–CEUA-UFAC) under opinion number 23107.019254 / 2013–31 and according to national law n° 11794/2008 by the National Council for the Control of Animal Experimentation (Conselho Nacional de Controle de Experimentação Animal–CONCEA).

**Results**

A total of 40 dogs (33 males and 7 females) were investigated, of which 13 presented lesions suggestive of ACL. In eight of them, the lesions were simple. In the other five there were lesions
on the mucosa and/or muzzle. Three animals had cutaneous lesions in the scrotum, two of which also had mucosal lesions on the muzzle, and one animal had ulcerative lesions on the ear, muzzle and scrotum (Fig 1).

None of the cultures obtained from the fragments of the lesions and blood samples of these animals presented promastigote forms during the period of 60 days after sowing. The Giemsa slides obtained from the fragments of the lesions were negative.

Table 1 illustrates the result of the molecular analyses and the markers used. The blood samples were negative by all the molecular techniques. Moreover, of the 13 animals from which a biopsy of cutaneous lesion was obtained, eight showed the presence of *Leishmania* spp. with Nested-PCR S17/S18.

All the eight new isolates from dogs showed identical sequences and BLAST analysis demonstrated that they were closest to *Leishmania* spp. of the *Viannia* subgenus. The sequences were aligned using Clustal X and manually refined. Moreover, alignment was created, in the present study, by aligning the SSU rRNA sequences (~436 bp) of the novel samples with those of other species available in the GenBank (Fig 2).

In analysis of ITS1, six biopsies were found to be positive for *Leishmania* spp. Further, an alignment was created with new isolates and the representative species of the subgenus *Viannia*; i.e. *L. (V.) braziliensis* (type 1 and 2), *L. (V.) peruviana*, *L. (V.) guyanensis*, *L. (V.) naiffi*, and *L. (V.) lainsoni*. *L. (L.) amazonensis* and *L. (L.) mexicana* were also included. Apart from this, the representative sequences of new isolates have been submitted in the GenBank database under accession numbers MH382106; MH382107 and MH382106 (S1 Table).

On the other hand, the network topology of ITS1 sequences separated all *Leishmania* species from the subgenus *Viannia* and *Leishmania*, and showed that the isolates characterized in this study are identical with or very similar to *L. (V.) braziliensis* type 2 described in a dog (MCAN / PE / 91 / LEM2222) and man (MHOM / PE / 03 / LH2511) from Peru (Fig 3).

In HRM analysis, 14 samples (12 animals) were examined, of which 11 samples showed positive results in hsp70 real-time PCR (Table 2). The HRM analysis was performed on all the
positive samples using three different amplicons, each of them with a different power of discrimination. Further, a difference of 0.25°C was used as a cut-off for a sample to be identified in comparison with the standards.

Amplicon 1 was able to group the standard species, based on melting temperature values, in four clusters, as shown in Fig 4A. Using this amplicon as a target for identification, seven samples presented the same Tm value as the L. (V.) guyanensis standard; one sample presented Tm value overlapping the L. (V.) braziliensis and L. (V.) guyanensis standards; and three samples presented values distinct from all the standards and were further classified as "variant". In the Amplicon 2, groups of species from the subgenus L. (Viannia) were grouped in two clusters, with all the positive samples presenting Tm values similar to the standards of L. (V.) braziliensis and L. (V.) naiffi (Fig 4B). The Amplicon 3 was able to group the standard in four clusters. One sample presented a Tm value similar to that of L. (L.) infantum, L. (V.) braziliensis, and L. (V.) guyanensis, and all other samples presented Tm values similar to the standards of L. (L.) mexicana, L. (V.) naiffi, and L. (V.) shawi (Fig 4C).

The simultaneous analyses of the 3 amplicons, with the results identified, as well as taking into consideration the fact that Amplicon 2 is subgenus L. (Viannia)-specific, only one sample was recognized, as L. (V.) braziliensis (Dog 05 –Help) while all the other positive samples were identified as “L. (Viannia) variants” since they all presented intermediate profiles as compared to the standards (Fig 4 and Table 2).

In PCR-RFLP hsp70C analysis, 11 of 14 tested samples gave positive results in hsp70C nested PCR (Fig 5A). HaeIII digestions of all hsp70C positive samples produced profiles
similar to L. (V.) braziliensis and L. (V.) naiffi standards. Further, as MboI and BstUI digestions can differentiate these two species, the simultaneous analysis of the three polymorphism profiles was able to classify all the positive samples as L. (V.) braziliensis (Fig 5B).

### Discussion

The *Leishmania braziliensis* complex is the main etiological agent of the dermotropic forms of leishmaniasis in the Americas, with different clinical and epidemiological implications. Currently, this complex comprises two closely related species, (1) *L. peruviana* which is limited to the Andean regions, and (2) *L. braziliensis*, which is widely distributed in South America, with the highest occurrence in the Amazon region [19–21].

In the present study, a high rate of infection by *Leishmania* with clinical manifestation for ACL in domestic dogs was detected, with the parasite identified being very close to a variety of *L. (V.) braziliensis*, isolated from human and canine cases from Peru [22], the authors suggest that this parasites are genetically atypical, belonging to a distinct subgroup, further
denominated as *L. (V.) braziliensis* type 2. On a similar note, a previous AFLP analysis of the genome clearly demonstrated that the group was an entity distinct from *L. braziliensis*. The authors also report that although the parasites belonging to this group have been isolated from mucosal lesions, the clinical relevance of *L. braziliensis* type 2 is not yet recognized nor documented [22–24]. However, the present investigation demonstrates that the lesions found in dogs mostly occur in the cutaneous form, but in some animals, in mucocutaneous form. Therefore, reinforcing the hypothesis that *L. braziliensis* type 2 may cause the mucocutaneous clinical form.

Interestingly, the isolates from Peru were from the Department of Huanuco, located at 1800 meters altitude on the eastern slopes of the Andes, and with this new report, it is suggested that *L. braziliensis* type 2 is both trans and cis-Andean. Moreover, phlebotomine species from Andean regions have also been found in the Acre state [25], which also reinforces the hypothesis that the Andean region gave rise to American leishmaniasis [26].

Table 2. The table presents the hsp70 amplicons 1, 2, and 3 of DNA, from each sample, submitted to HRM analysis.

| Samples            | Amplicon 1 | Amplicon 2 | Amplicon 3 |
|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Dog 01 –Chorinho   | GUY        | BRA NAI    | MEX NAI SHA|
| Dog 02 –Hulk       | negative   | negative   | negative   |
| Dog 03 –Halley     | variant    | BRA NAI    | MEX NAI SHA|
| Dog 05 –Help       | BRA GUY    | BRA NAI    | INF BRA GUY|
| Dog 06 –Negão      | variant    | BRA NAI    | MEX NAI SHA|
| Dog 11 –Valente    | negative   | negative   | negative   |
| Dog 15 –LN-Xapuri  | GUY        | BRA NAI    | MEX NAI SHA|
| Dog 15 –LP-Xapuri  | negative   | negative   | negative   |
| Dog 26 –LN-Marmaduque | GUY   | BRA NAI    | MEX NAI SHA|
| Dog 26 –LP-Marmaduque | GUY  | BRA NAI    | MEX NAI SHA|
| Dog 37 –Xorinho 1  | GUY        | BRA NAI    | MEX NAI SHA|
| Dog 39 –Pantera    | GUY        | BRA NAI    | MEX NAI SHA|
| Dog 40 –Bethoven   | GUY        | BRA NAI    | MEX NAI SHA|
| Dog 41 –Xorinho 3  | variant    | BRA NAI    | MEX NAI SHA|

GUY: *L. (V.) guyanensis*; BRA: *L. (V.) braziliensis*; NAI: *L. (V.) naiffi*; SHA: *L. (V.) shawi*; MEX: *L. (L.) mexicana*; INF: *L. (L.) infantum*

Canine cutaneous leishmaniasis in Amazon

Fig 4. The figure presents the melting temperatures (Tm) for Amplicons 1 (Fig 4A), 2 (Fig 4B), 3 (Fig 4C), and standard species. The plots show the average Tm values. Each species and sample was tested in duplicate. INF: *L. (L.) infantum*; AMA: *L. (L.) amazonensis*; MEX: *L. (L.) mexicana*; LAI: *L. (V.) lainsoni*; BRA: *L. (V.) braziliensis*; GUY: *L. (V.) guyanensis*; NAI: *L. (V.) naiffi*; SHA: *L. (V.) shawi*. (1) Dog 01 –Chorinho; (2) Dog 02 –Hulk; (3) Dog 03 –Halley; (4) Dog 05 –Help; (5) Dog 06 –Negão; (6) Dog 11 –Valente; (7) Dog 15 –LN–Xapuri; (8) Dog 15 –LP–Xapuri; (9) Dog 26 –LN–Marmaduque; (10) Dog 26 –LP–Marmaduque; (11) Dog 37 –Xorinho 1; (12) Dog 39 –Pantera; (13) Dog 40 –Bethoven; (14) Dog 41 –Xorinho 3.
The state of Acre has a high diversity of *Leishmania* species causing human cases of ACL [27, 28], and sandflies have been found naturally infected with *L. braziliensis* and *L. guyanensis* [29, 30]. Upon carrying out studies on natural infection by *Leishmania* of the phlebotomine fauna conducted by Ávila *et al.* [30] in Rio Branco municipality, ITS1 sequences with 99% and 100% identity with *L. braziliensis*, were deposited in Genbank, differing from *L. braziliensis* type 1 and the *L. braziliensis* type 2 found in Xapuri and Peru, revealing that different populations of *L. braziliensis* circulate in the state of Acre. Furthermore, several human cases of ACL associated with strains genetically related to *L. braziliensis* have been reported in circumscribed areas of Amazonia [31].

The absence of *Leishmania* DNA diagnosed by PCR or flagellate forms in cultures of animal blood samples is in accordance with the observations of some authors who have also used biological samples in the diagnosis of ACL. The low sensitivity of the tests and few circulating parasites may explain these negative results [8, 32, 33] or by the fact that the hematogenic spread of the disease has been controlled by the immune system of these animals [34].

Fig 5. The figure displays the hsp70C nested PCR and hsp70C-RFLP profiles. PCR products (A) and RFLP products (B) were separated in a 3% agarose gel electrophoresis, stained with ethidium bromide and visualised under UV light. INF: *L. (L.) infantum*; AMA: *L. (L.) amazonensis*; MEX: *L. (L.) mexicana*; LAI: *L. (V.) lainsoni*; BRA: *L. (V.) braziliensis*; GUY: *L. (V.) guyanensis*; NAI: *L. (V.) naiif*; SHA: *L. (V.) shawi*. ND undigested fragment; NC: negative control (NTC from preamplification reaction used as template in the nested PCR); NTC: Non template control. (1) Dog 01 –Chorinho; (2) Dog 02 –Hulk; (3) Dog 03 –Halley; (4) Dog 05 –Help; (5) Dog 06 –Nego; (6) Dog 11 –Valente; (7) Dog 15 –LN–Xapuri; (8) Dog 15 –LP–Xapuri; (9) Dog 26 –LN–Marmaduque; (10) Dog 26 –LP–Marmaduque; (11) Dog 37 –Xorinho 1; (12) Dog 39 –Pantera; (13) Dog 40 –Bethoven; (14) Dog 41 –Xorinho 3.

https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0216291.g005
High rates of infection in dogs by *Leishmania*, generally attributed to *L. braziliensis*, in areas where human ACL occurs, have been reported in several parts of Brazil [6–8, 35] and also in other Latin American countries [36, 37]. However, some discussion has begun with the major emphasis on elucidating the role of the dog as a possible reservoir of this etiological agent [3, 38, 39]. Apart from this, one also observed that in the study area, the animals live close to the forest, with the presence of reservoirs, in addition to, proven and suspected *Leishmania* vectors. Thus, these populations, both human and canine, are exposed to two cycles of transmission of *Leishmania*, a sylvatic one due to predatory activities, and a peridomestic one, because the residences are close to forest environments and frequented by vectors from the sylvatic cycle, making it possible for these dogs to acquire leishmaniosis, these transmission profiles in dogs have also been reported in other regions of Brazil [35, 40, 41].

The presence of *L. braziliensis* type 2 in canine and human cases (unpublished work) is an indication that its occurrence is more widespread out than that of the Peruvian Andes where it was first isolated. Its connectivity with the Amazon Biome was also established. This finding shows the need for further studies on more sensitive methods of diagnosis to detect *L. braziliensis* type 2 infection and its accurate identification, in order to know the epidemiological profile of the human and canine population infected by this parasite and also its reservoirs and vectors. Furthermore, new studies regarding the role of domestic dogs in the transmission cycle of ACL etiological agents, as well as their interaction with vectors to better understand their epidemiological involvement is urgently needed.

**Supporting information**

S1 Table. *Leishmania* spp. and their respective sequences from genes determined in this study (bold) and retrieved from Genebank.

(DOCX)

**Acknowledgments**

The authors thank Carmelinda Gonçalves and Thayna Souza of the Health Department of the State of Acre (SESACRE) for their logistic support. The authors also express their gratitude to the veterinarians Daniela Brandão Nunes, Ethiene Cristiana and Raimunda Ferreira for their assistance in the field work, to Jailson Ferreira de Souza of the Xapuri Endemic Management for his indication of residences with leishmaniasis canine cases and assistance in the field work, and to the technician Geucira Cristaldo for her support in lab work.

**Author Contributions**

Conceptualization: Andreia Fernandes Brilhante, Cristiane de Oliveira Cardoso, Eunice Aparecida Bianchi Galati.

Formal analysis: Andreia Fernandes Brilhante, Luciana Lima, Ricardo Andrade Zampieri, Eunice Aparecida Bianchi Galati.

Funding acquisition: Andreia Fernandes Brilhante, Cristiane de Oliveira Cardoso.

Investigation: Andreia Fernandes Brilhante, Vânia Lúcia Brandão Nunes, Maria Elizabeth Cavalheiros Dorval, Patrícia Fernandes Nunes da Silva Malavazi, Leonardo Augusto Kohara Melchior, Edna Aoba Yassui Ishikawa, Cristiane de Oliveira Cardoso, Lucile Maria Floeter-Winter, Marta Maria Geraldes Teixeira, Eunice Aparecida Bianchi Galati.

Methodology: Andreia Fernandes Brilhante, Luciana Lima, Ricardo Andrade Zampieri, Vânia Lúcia Brandão Nunes, Maria Elizabeth Cavalheiros Dorval, Patrícia Fernandes Nunes da
Silva Malavazi, Leonardo Augusto Kohara Melchior, Edna Aoba Yassui Ishikawa, Lucile Maria Floeter-Winter, Marta Maria Geraldes Teixeira.

**Project administration:** Andreia Fernandes Brilhante, Cristiane de Oliveira Cardoso.

**Supervision:** Eunice Aparecida Bianchi Galati.

**Validation:** Andreia Fernandes Brilhante, Luciana Lima.

**Visualization:** Andreia Fernandes Brilhante, Ricardo Andrade Zampieri, Cristiane de Oliveira Cardoso, Lucile Maria Floeter-Winter, Marta Maria Geraldes Teixeira, Eunice Aparecida Bianchi Galati.

**Writing – original draft:** Andreia Fernandes Brilhante.

**Writing – review & editing:** Andreia Fernandes Brilhante, Luciana Lima, Ricardo Andrade Zampieri, Va辈a Lucio Brandaо Nunes, Maria Elizabeth Cavalheiros Dorval, Patr‰cia Fernandes Nunes da Silva Malavazi, Leonardo Augusto Kohara Melchior, Cristiane de Oliveira Cardoso, Lucile Maria Floeter-Winter, Marta Maria Geraldes Teixeira, Eunice Aparecida Bianchi Galati.

**References**

1. Brasil. Manual de Vigilância da Leishmaniose Tegumentar Americana. 2ª ed. Brasilia: Ministério da Saúde; 2013.

2. Lainson R, Shaw JJ. New World Leishmaniases. In: Cox FEG, Kreir JP, Wakelin D editors. Microbiology and Microbial Infections, Parasitology. Topley& Wilson’s, Arnold, Sydney. Auckland; 2005. pp. 313–349.

3. Dantas-Torres F. The role of dogs as reservoirs of Leishmania parasites, with emphasis on *Leishmania (Leishmania) infantum* and *Leishmania (Viannia) braziliensis*. Vet Parasitol. 2007; 149(3–4):139–46. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vetpar.2007.07.007 PMID: 17703890

4. Gontijo CMF, Cruz FO, Melo MN, Cruz FO. Visceral Leishmaniases in Brazil: current status, challenges and prospects. Rev Bras Epidemiol. 2004; 7(3):338–49.

5. Castro EA, Thomaz-Soccoll V, Augur C, Luz E. *Leishmania (Viannia) braziliensis*: epidemiology of canine cutaneous leishmaniasis in the State of Parana (Brazil). Exp Parasitol. 2007; 117(1):13–21. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.exppara.2007.03.003 PMID: 17449032

6. Figueiredo LA, Paiva-Cavalcanti M, Almeida EL, Brandao-Filho SP, Dantas-Torres F. Clinical and hematological findings in *Leishmania braziliensis*-infected dogs from Pernambuco, Brazil. Rev Bras Parasitol Vet. 2012; 21(4):418–20. PMID: 23207982

7. Leça Junior NF, Guedes PE, Santana LN, Almeida VA, Carvalho FS, Albuquerque GR, et al. Epidemiology of canine leishmaniasis in southern Bahia, Brazil. Acta Trop. 2015; 148:115–9. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.actatropica.2015.04.008 PMID: 25917715

8. Melchior LAK, Brilhante AF, Chiaravalloti-Neto F. Spatial and temporal distribution of American cutaneous leishmaniasis in Acre state, Brazil. Infect Dis Poverty. 2017; 6(1):99. https://doi.org/10.1186/s40249-017-0311-5 PMID: 28587683

9. Brilhante AF, Melchior LAK, Nunes VLB, Cardoso CO, Galati EAB. Epidemiological aspects of American cutaneous leishmaniasis (ACL) in an endemic area of forest extractivist culture in western Brazilian Amazonia. Rev Inst Med Trop Sao Paulo. 2017; 59:e12. https://doi.org/10.1590/S1678-9946201759012 PMID: 28423087

10. Martins, E. Os municípios do Acre. 2018 [Cited 28 September 2018]. In: Portal do Governo do Acre [Internet]. Rio Branco: Governo do Estado do Acre; 2018. Available from: http://www.ac.gov.br/wps/portal/acre/Acre/estado-ac/municipios.

11. IBGE. Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística; 2018. [cited 2018 Sep 01]. Database: IBGE Cidades [Internet]. Available from: https://www.ibge.gov.br/.

12. Adams ER, Hamilton PB, Malele, II, Gibson WC. The identification, diversity and prevalence of trypanosomes in field caught tsetse in Tanzania using ITS-1 primers and fluorescent fragment length barcoding. Infect Genet Evol. 2008; 8(4):439–44. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.meegid.2007.07.013 PMID: 17826361
13. Savani ESMM Nunes VLB, Galati EAB Castilho TM, Araújo FS, IMN, et al. Occurrence of co-infection by *Leishmania (Leishmania)* chagasi and *Trypanosoma (Trypanozoon)* evansi in a dog in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil. Mem Inst Oswaldo Cruz. 2005; 100(7):739–41. PMID: 16410962

14. Graça GC, Volpini AC, Romero GA, Oliveira Neto MP, Hueb M, Porrozzi R, et al. Development and validation of PCR-based assays for diagnosis of American cutaneous leishmaniasis and identification of the parasite species. Mem Inst Oswaldo Cruz. 2012; 107(5):664–74. PMID: 22850958

15. Schonian G, Nasereddin A, Dinse N, Schwynoch C, Schallig HD, Presber W, et al. PCR diagnosis and characterization of *Leishmania* in local and imported clinical samples. Diagn Microbiol Infect Dis. 2003; 47(1):349–58. PMID: 12967749

16. Thompson JD, Gibson TJ, Plewniak F, Jeanmougin F, Higgins DG. The CLUSTAL_X windows interface: flexible strategies for multiple sequence alignment aided by quality analysis tools. Nucleic Acids Res. 1997; 25(24):4876–82. PMID: 9396791

17. Huson DH, Bryant D. Application of phylogenetic networks in evolutionary studies. Mol Biol Evol. 2006; 23(2):254–67. https://doi.org/10.1093/molbev/msj030 PMID: 16221886

18. Zampieri RA, Laranjeira-Silva MF, Muxiel SM, Lima ACS, Shaw JJ, Floeter-Winter LM. High Resolution Melting analysis targeting hsp70 as a fast and efficient method for the discrimination of *Leishmania* species. PLOS Negl Trop. Dis. 2016; 10(2):1–18.

19. Oddone R, Schwynoch C, Schonian G, de Sousa Cdos S, Cupolillo E, Espinosa D, et al. Development of a multilocus microsatellite typing approach for discriminating strains of *Leishmania* (Viannia) species. J Clin Microbiol. 2009; 47(9):2818–25. https://doi.org/10.1128/JCM.00645-09 PMID: 19587302

20. Valdivia HO, Reis-Cunha JL, Rodrigues-Luiz GF, Baptista RP, Baldeviano GC, Gerbasi RV, et al. Comparative genomic analysis of *Leishmania (Viannia) peruviana* and *Leishmania (Viannia) braziliensis*. BMC Genomics. 2015; 16:715. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12864-015-1928-z PMID: 26384787

21. Lucas CM, Franke ED, Cachay MI, Tejada A, Cruz ME, Kreutzer RD, et al. Geographic distribution and clinical description of leishmaniasis cases in Peru. Am J Trop Med Hyg. 1998; 59(2):312–7. PMID: 9715953

22. Van der Auwera G, Ravel C, Verweij JJ, Bart A, Schonian G, Felger I. Evaluation of four single-locus markers for *Leishmania* species discrimination by sequencing. J Clin Microbiol. 2014; 52(4):1098–104. https://doi.org/10.1128/JCM.02936-13 PMID: 24452158

23. Adaui V, Castilho D, Zimic M, Gutierrez A, Decuypere S, Vanaerschot M. et al. Comparative Gene Expression Analysis throughout the life cycle of *Leishmania braziliensis*: diversity of expression profiles among clinical isolates. Plos Negl Trop Dis. 2011; 5(5):e1021. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pntd.0001021 PMID: 21572980

24. Odiwuor S, Veland N, Maes I, Arévalo J, Dujardin JC, Van der Auwera G. Evolution of the *Leishmania braziliensis* species complex from amplified fragment length polymorphisms, and clinical implications. Infect Genet Evol. 2012; 12(8):1994–2002.

25. Ortiz DGS, Pinto MC, Cesario M, Galati EAB, Molina SMG, Borges DA. Three new records of the genus *Lutzomyia* of the subgenus *Helicocyrtomyia* (Diptera: Psychodidae: Phlebotominae) from Southwestern Brazilian Amazonia. Acta Trop. 2018 in press.

26. Tuon FF, Neto VA, Amato VS. *Leishmania* origin, evolution and future since the Precambrian. FEMS Immunol Med Microbiol. 2008; 54(2):158–66. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1574-695X.2008.00455.x PMID: 18631183

27. Tojal da Silva AC, Cupolillo E, Volpini AC, Almeida R, Romero GA. Species diversity causing human cutaneous leishmaniasis in Rio Branco, state of Acre, Brazil. Trop Med Int Health. 2006; 11(9):1388–98. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-3156.2006.01695.x PMID: 16930261

28. Teles CB, Medeiros JF, Santos AP, Freitas LA, Katsuuragawa TH, Cantanhede LM, et al. Molecular characterization of American Cutaneous Leishmaniasis in the triborder area of Assis Brasil, Acre State, Brazil. Rev Inst Med Trop Sao Paulo. 2015; 57(4):343–7. https://doi.org/10.1590/S0036-46652015000400012 PMID: 26422160

29. Teles CB, Santos AP, Freitas RA, Oliveira AF, Ogawa GM, Rodrigues MS, et al. Phlebotomine sandfly (Diptera: Psychodidae) diversity and their *Leishmania* DNA in a hot spot of American Cutaneous Leishmaniasis human cases along the Brazilian border with Peru and Bolivia. Mem Inst Oswaldo Cruz. 2016; 111(7):423–32.

30. Avila MM, Brilhante AF, de Souza CF, Bevilacqua PD, Galati EAB, Brazil RP. Ecology, feeding and natural infection by *Leishmania* spp. of phlebotomine sand flies in an area of high incidence of American tegumentary leishmaniasis in the municipality of Rio Branco, Acre, Brazil. Parasit Vectors. 2018; 11(1):64. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12868-017-2641-y PMID: 29373995

31. Martin-Blondel G, Iriart X, El Baidouri F, Simon S, Mills D, Demar M, et al. Outbreak of *Leishmania braziliensis* Cutaneous Leishmaniasis, Saúl, French Guiana. Emerg Infect Dis. 2015; 21(5):892–4. https://doi.org/10.3201/eid2105.141181 PMID: 25897573
32. Madeira MF, Schubach AO, Schubach TM, Serra CM, Pereira SA, Figueiredo FB, et al. Is *Leishmania* (*Viannia*) *braziliensis* preferentially restricted to the cutaneous lesions of naturally infected dogs? Parasitol Res. 2005; 97(1):73–6. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00436-005-1374-y PMID: 15986254

33. Reithinger R, Lambson BE, Barker DC, Davies CR. Use of PCR to detect *Leishmania* (*Viannia*) spp. in dog blood and bone marrow. J Clin Microbiol. 2000; 38(2):748–51. PMID: 10655379

34. Massunari GK, Voltarelli EM, Santos DR, Santos AR, Poiani LP, de Oliveira O, et al. A serological and molecular investigation of American cutaneous leishmaniasis in dogs, three years after an outbreak in the Northwest of Parana State, Brazil. Cad Saude Publica. 2009; 25(1):97–104. PMID: 19180291

35. Brilhante AF, Souza AI, Dorval MEC, França AO, Lima RB, Galati EAB, et al. Canine cutaneous leishmaniasis by *Leishmania* (*Viannia*) *braziliensis* in an agricultural settlement, endemic area for leishmaniasis. Arq Bras Med Vet Zootec. 2016; 68(4):927–30.

36. Travi BL, Tabares CJ, Cadena H. *Leishmania* (*Viannia*) *braziliensis* infection in two Colombian dogs: a note on infectivity for sand flies and response to treatment. Biomedica. 2006; 26 Suppl 1:249–53.

37. Aguilar CM, Rangel EF, Garcia L, Fernandez E, Momen H, Grimaldi Filho G, et al. Zoonotic cutaneous leishmaniasis due to *Leishmania* (*Viannia*) *braziliensis* associated with domestic animals in Venezuela and Brazil. Mem Inst Oswaldo Cruz. 1989; 84(1):19–28. PMID: 2319948

38. Falqueto A, Sessa PA, Varejao JB, Barros GC, Momen H, Grimaldi Junior G. Leishmaniasis due to *Leishmania braziliensis* in Espirito Santo State, Brazil. Further evidence on the role of dogs as a reservoir of infection for humans. Mem Inst Oswaldo Cruz. 1991; 86(4):499–500. PMID: 1842452

39. Reithinger R, Davies CR. Is the domestic dog (*Canis familiaris*) a reservoir host of American cutaneous leishmaniasis? A critical review of the current evidence. Am J Trop Med Hyg. 1999; 61(4):530–41. PMID: 10548285

40. Heusser Júnior A, Bellato V, Souza AP, Moura AB, Sartor AA, Santos EG, et al. Canine tegumentary leishmaniasis in the town of Balneario Camboriu in the State of Santa Catarina. Rev Soc Bras Med Trop. 2010; 43(6):713–8. PMID: 21181030

41. Mayrink W, Magalhaes PA, Melo MN, Dias M, da Costa CA, Michalick MS, et al. Canine cutaneous leishmaniasis in Manaus, Amazonas State, Brazil. Trans R Soc Trop Med Hyg. 1981; 75(5):757–8.