

## ORIGINAL PAPER

# The prevalence of gastrointestinal helminth infections in pigs in Kenya

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**Abstract** The prevalence of helminth infection, species spectrum and worm burdens in Kenyan pigs was examined. A total of 115 gastrointestinal tracts (GIT) from 61 growers and 54 adult pigs were examined between February 2005 and January 2006. Seventy eight (67.8%) had one or more helminth parasites, of which thirty six (31.3%) were mixed infection. Ten types of helminth parasites encountered in descending order of prevalence were, *Oesophagostomum dentatum* (39.1%), *Trichuris suis* (32.2%), *Ascaris suum* (28.7%), *Oesophagostomum quadrispinulatum* (14.8%), *Trichostrongylus colubriformis* (10.4%), *Trichostrongylus axei* (4.3%), *Strongyloides ransomi* (4.3%), *Hyostrongylus rubidus* (1.7%), *Ascarops strongylina* (1.7%) and *Physocephalus sexalutus* (0.9%). *Oesophagostomum dentatum* was the most prevalent species (51.9%) in the adult pigs, while *Trichuris suis* was the most prevalent species (44.3%) in growers. The highest worm counts were recorded in the out door production system. *Oesophagostomum quadrispinulatum*, *Trichostrongylus colubriformis*, *Trichostrongylus axei*, *Hyostrongylus rubidus*, *Ascarops strongylina* and *Physocephalus sexalutus* were recorded in Kenya for the first time. The high prevalence and wide spectrum observed in the present study suggests that helminth infection may be a constraint to economic pig production in the country and there is need to institute control measures.

**Keywords:** Helminths . Kenya . Pigs . Prevalence . Spectrum