

## RABIES: SURVEY IN BATS FROM THE STATE OF SAO PAULO, BRAZIL.

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Nowadays in Brazil, the human rabies is transmitted mainly through bites of rabid dogs, following by haematophagous bats *Desmodus rotundus*; they also participate actively in the transmission of the rabies to the domestic animals. The other species of animals, as cats, foxes and monkeys involved in the transmission of the rabies to humans have a small participation. The Instituto Pasteur of São Paulo, SP, Brazil, received 337 samples of bats, for rabies laboratory diagnosis, from counties of the state of São Paulo, from July 1996 to December 1997. The brains tissues and salivary glands were collected from 323 samples, for rabies diagnosis by direct immunofluorescence and mice inoculation tests for detection of the antigen and isolation of the rabies virus respectively: 14/337 (4,1%) samples were inappropriate for the diagnosis. In this period we found 4 rabid bats 4/323 (1,2%) and were identified as *Myotis nigricans*, *Nyctinomops macrotis* and *Artibeus lituratus*. Those species are not considered of great importance in the chain of rabies transmission. There were identified 268/323 (82,9%) bats, and 55/323 (17%) were not possible to identify the animals because of the bad conditions of the samples. Family Molossidae 130 (48,5%): *Eumops auripendulus* 6, *Eumops glaucinus* 8, *Eumops sp* 3, *Molossops planirostris temminckii* 3, *Molossus ater* 23, *Molossus molossus* 74, *Molossus sp* 4, *Nyctinomops laticaudatus* 3, *Nyctinomops macrotis* 3, *Tadarida brasiliensis* 2, family Molossidae 1. Family Vespertilionidae 35 (13%): *Eptesicus brasiliensis* 12, *Eptesicus sp* 3, *Histiotus velatus* 2, *Lasiurus borealis* 3, *Lasiurus sp* 1, *Myotis nigricans* 2, *Myotis sp* 5, family Vespertilionidae 1. Family Phyllostomidae 103 (38,4%): *Anoura caudifer* 11, *Artibeus lituratus* 4, *Artibeus sp* 5, *Carollia perspicillata* 2, *Carollia sp* 4, *Desmodus rotundus* 66, *Diphylla ecaudata* 1, *Glossophaga soricina* 4, *Micronycteris sp* 5, *Platyrrhinus lineatus* 1. The haematophagous bats *Desmodus rotundus* were from endemic areas with notification of animal rabies and they were negative to laboratory diagnosis. As the non haematophagous bats, were from counties without rabies notification, control measures were applied to avoid an outbreak.