Abstract:

A total of 620 bovine faecal samples collected from unselected animals brought for post-mortem to the Department of Veterinary Pathology and Microbiology or from animals in the Kabete (Kenya) practice area of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine were examined to determine the types and prevalence of Eimeria spp. present. Coccidian oocysts were detected in 67.4% of the samples and eight different species of Eimeria were recognized. The species detected (and their prevalence) were E. bovis (79.0%), E. zuernii (60.2%), E. ellipsoidalis (26.1%), E. cylindrica (13.4%), E. auburnensis (28.4%), E. alabamensis (10.3%), E. subspherica (5.0%) and E. wyomingensis (6.1%). E. bovis and E. zuernii led to few cases of clinical coccidiosis and the greatest number of E. bovis in one of the samples from the clinical cases was 30 600 oocysts per gram of faeces (OPG). Age and seasonal variation appeared to have an influence on the intensity of infection.