

Antibodies in the serum of golden hamsters experimentally infected with the intestinal trematode *Echinostoma caproni*

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Abstract:

The serum antibody response in golden hamsters (*Mesocricetus auratus*) infected with the intestinal trematode *Echinostoma caproni* was examined with ELISA, SDS-PAGE and Western blot, and IFAT techniques. All methods showed that the hamsters responded slowly but developed a clear positive humoral response to the infection. In most hamsters, an antibody response to infection could not be detected earlier than 11-13 weeks after infection with 6 or 25 metacercariae, and responses were weak when compared to previous results from mice infected with the same parasite. IFAT with positive hamster sera on live juvenile *E. caproni* showed only fluorescence at the posterior tip, which is a different pattern from that seen using from infected mice, indicating a different response to antigens on the juvenile parasites by these two hosts. The results are discussed in relation to the limited selfcure and development of resistance which is observed in golden hamsters infected with *E. caproni*.