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Gastrointestinal nematode larvae in dairy cattle bred on *Panicum maximum cv. Mombasa, Cynodon, Brachiaria mutica* and *Brachiaria decumbens* pastures

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1 ABSTRACT

Presence of gastrointestinal nematode larvae from dairy cows bred on *Panicum maximum cv. Mombasa, Cynodon spp, Brachiaria mutica* and *B. decumbens* pastures were evaluated. This study was conducted in a milk production system located in Santa Leopoldina, mountainous region of the state of Espirito Santo. The grass samples were collected from ten points, on a previously outlined "W" path, in the morning between 7:30 and 8:30, noting the presence of dew on all samples taken. The samples were cut close to the ground and separated in half, constituting an upper and lower sample of each collection point, and then placed in plastic bags, identified, and transported at room temperature. The infective larvae (L_3) were identified. In this study, over the forage samples (*Panicum maximum, Cynodon* spp*, Brachiara mutica, Brachiaria decumbens*) collection period, it was observed that every month there was L3 recovery in the forage, however higher L_3 recovery of 78.5 (September) was noted in *P. maximum*; *Cynodon* spp 19.7 (October); *Brachiara mutica* 13.3 (September) and *Brachiaria decumbens* with an average of 14.8 L_3 recovery (September). The results showed that the forage diversity used in the dairy cattle feed, directly contribute to the presence and recurrence of helminth infections in the animals.