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NOTAS E INFORMAÇÕES / NOTES AND INFORMATION

RECOVERY OF *TRYPANOSOMA FORATTINII* COUTINHO AND PATTOLI FROM A TRINIDADIAN RODENT.

RESEARCH NOTE

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SUMMARY: *Recovery of* Trypanosoma forattinii *from natural infected* Oryzomys capito velutinus *from Trinidad, is reported. Negative results were obtained with attempts to infect experimentally, several laboratories animals, silvatyc rodents of the same ecological area and several species of triatomids bugs. Positive results were obtained only by using* O. capito velutinus *born in laboratory.*

UNITERMS: Trypanosoma forattinii*; *Rodent**; *Natural infection**; Oryzomys capito velutinus.

Trypanosoma forattinii was first described from a forest rat *(Oryzomys nigripes)* in the state of São Paulo, Brasil (COUTINHO & PATTOLI [2] 1964) Recently we have found this trypanosome in a new host *Oryzomys capito velutinus* captured in the Turure Forest, Trinidad. Heart blood smears from only two out of 192 rodents (1.04%) were positive for trypanosomes; the parasite was subsequently identified as *T. forattinii.* Parasitemia remained detectable in the peripheral blood of a rat until it died under other 60 days after the infection was first noted. Parasitemia persisted in the second *Oryzomys* for 110 days. This animal gave birth to 3 young which were all negative for trypanosomes at birth and remained so until sacrificed seven months later. Maternal infection of the newborn via the transplacental route (BITTENCURT, [1] 1963), did not appear to take place in this instance.

Unsuccessful attempts were made to propagate the parasite in NNN medium, in adult and suckling white mice, in white mice which had been previously inoculated with strain S180 sarcoma cells, and in guinea pigs. In each of these cases and in all the other experimental work where the infected blood from a host *Oryzomys* was used, the density of

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