

Surveillance of Hematophagous Bats and Rabies Control in the State of Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil

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INTRODUCTION

Rabies is an endemic anthroozoonosis in Mato Grosso do Sul state, mainly transmitted to livestock by *Desmodus rotundus* hematophagous bats, widely spread in the state due to the favorable topography, climate, abundance of shelters and food sources. This study aimed to analyze the number of rabies outbreaks in livestock from 2019 to 2023 and correlate them with the presence of hematophagous bat shelters.

METHODS



Database
2019 to 2023

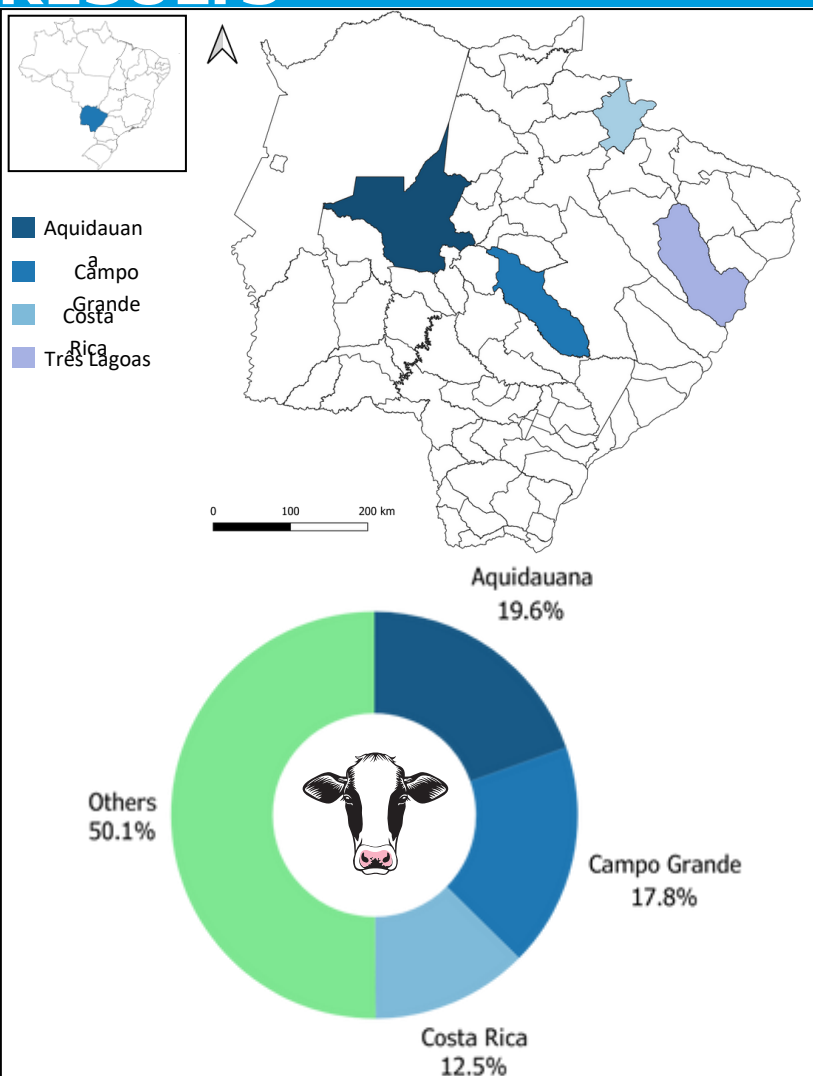


Cattle population
Rabies outbreaks
Bat shelters



Descriptive
statistics

RESULTS

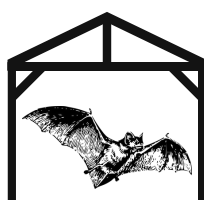


2,388
outbreaks

307 (12.9%) Campo Grande

260 (10.9%) Costa Rica

Surveillance



4,203
bat shelter
inspections



17,078
captured bats

307 (12.9%)

Costa Rica

260 (10.9%)

Três Lagoas

Figure 1. Cattle population distribution in MS.

CONCLUSION

Monitoring hematophagous bat shelters constitutes an important tool for rabies surveillance in rural cycles, as the proximity of these animals to cattle favors its occurrence. Additionally, environmental degradation (e.g., fires in the Pantanal) and changes in agricultural production, such as the establishment of pulp factories and the consequent replacement of cattle farming with eucalyptus plantations, lead to the displacement of bat colonies in search of food, favoring the emergence of rabies in livestock in other parts of the state.