



Aislamiento de *Cryptococcus neoformans* en excrementos de paloma de Castilla (*Columba livia*) provenientes de lugares públicos de El Salvador [

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text (article)

Analítica

The Feral Pigeon (*Columba livia*) is considered a harmless animal, nevertheless, several studies indicate that this species can transmit up to 60 pathogenic microorganisms. One of these are the species that belong to the *Cryptococcus neoformans* species complex; etiologic agent of meningoencephalitis in humans. Aim: The objective of this study was to isolate yeast that belonged to the *C. neoformans* species complex from the feces of the Feral Pigeon (*C. livia*), from public places in El Salvador. Methods: Samples were seeded in conventional culture media and confirmed colonies were typed using the enzyme restriction technique of the URA5 gene. Results: Of a total of 66 samples analyzed, three were positive for yeasts that belonged to the *C. neoformans* species complex. The molecular study grouped the isolates in the molecular types VNI and VNII; both belonging to the species *C. neoformans sensu stricto*. Conclusions: In the studied sites the presence of this yeast is very low, probably due to environmental factors. On the other hand, we present the first report of *C. neoformans sensu stricto* genotypes VNI and VNII in El Salvador. This specie is relevant in public health for being responsible for more than 90% of cases of cryptococcosis worldwide

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Baratz Innovación Documental

- Gran Vía, 59 28013 Madrid
- (+34) 91 456 03 60
- informa@baratz.es