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Urbanorum spp.: REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

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Introduction

Intestinal parasites clinical manifestations and epidemiology are well known, however, little is known about *Urbanorum* spp., a recently described protozoan parasite of the human intestine, emerging in South America. The transmission of *Urbanorum* spp. is via the fecal-oral route and occurs in a similar way to other intestinal parasites, mainly due to lack of personal hygiene and consumption of water and food contaminated by the protozoan. Specific situations have been pointed as possible risk factors for its transmission, among them the fact of living in areas with precarious basic sanitation conditions, difficulty in accessing drinking water and being a resident of rural areas.

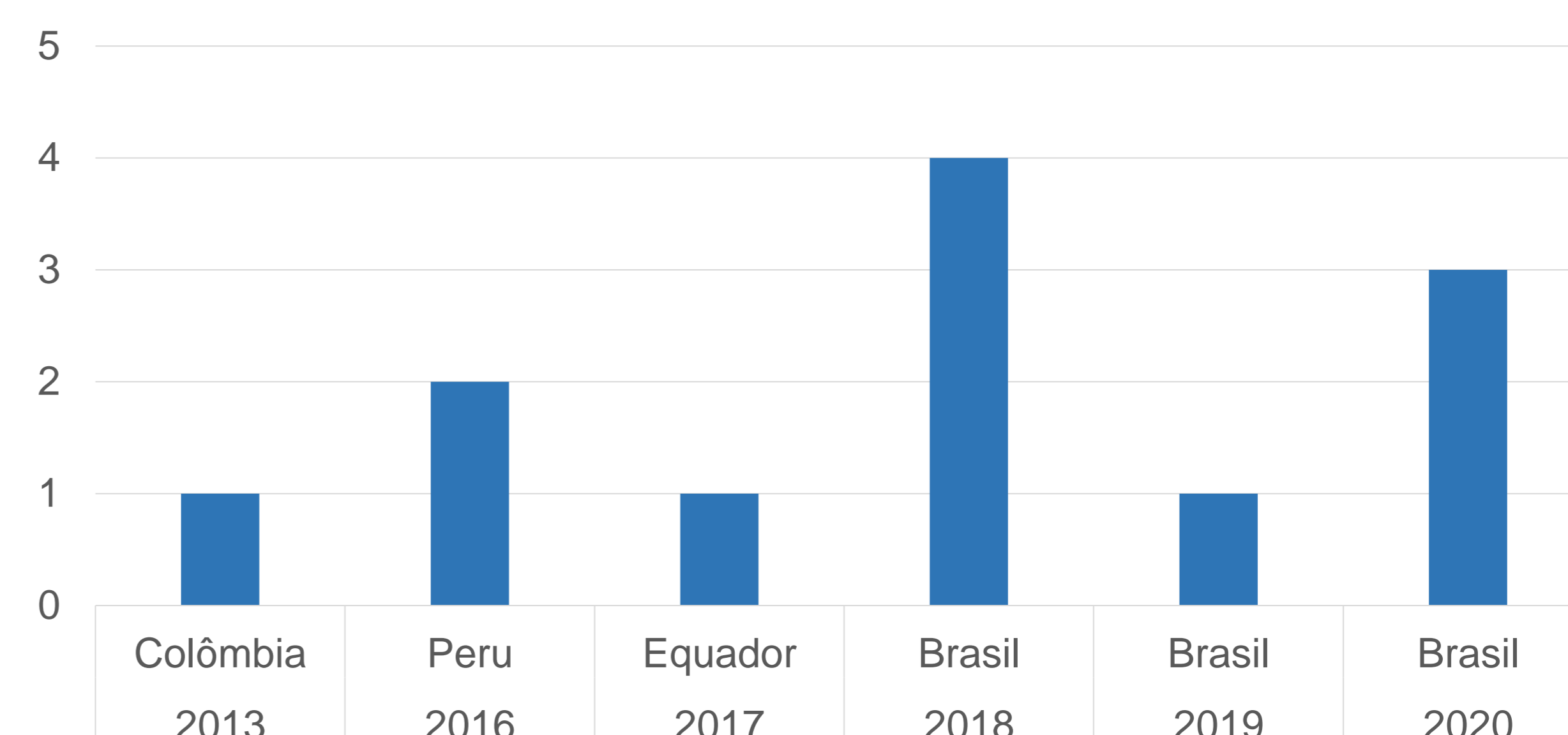


Figure 1. *Urbanorum* spp. publications according year and country here it was related. 2022.

Urbanorum spp. is a protozoan that has been described in human fecal samples as a rounded structure with a diameter between 50 and 100µm and which when stained with lugol has a yellow color content and a double outer membrane with pores through which hyaline structures emerge, pseudopod-like (Figure 2).

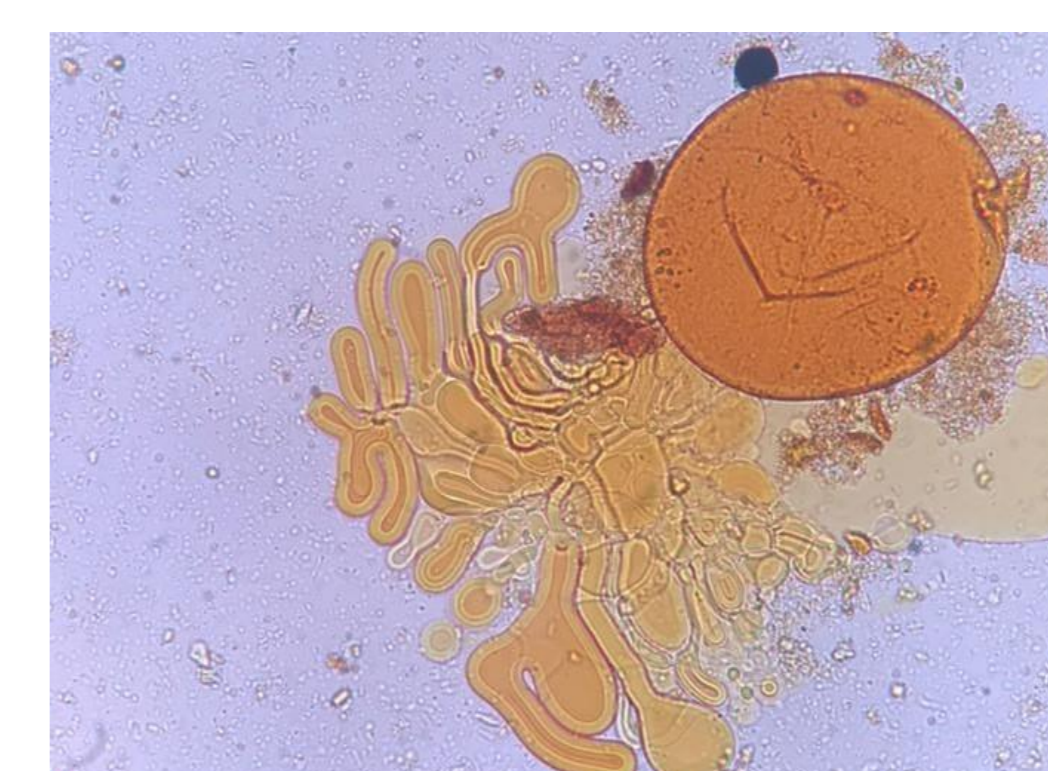


Figure 2. *Urbanorum* spp. in human fecal sample. Optical microscopy in lugol (40X).2022.

Objectives

This work presents a literature review on cases of infection by the protozoan *Urbanorum* spp.

Methodology

The literature review was involved a search in several research databases PubMed/ MEDLINE (National Library of Medicine of the United States of America), LILACS (Latin American and Caribbean Literature on Health Sciences), Web of Science, Scopus, Virtual Health Library (VHL) and Google Scholar, using the terms *Urbanorum* spp and parasite. The period of the pesquisa was until 2022, May.

Results

Were found 12 reports of infection by *Urbanorum* spp in different populations, with the first publication occurring in 2013 in Colombia and eight publications in Brazil (Figure 1).

Conclusions

In addition to the high prevalence of intestinal parasites still existing in South America, we are faced with the need to correctly identify this pathogen. Studies like this seek to arouse interest in further studies regarding the morphological, ultrastructural and molecular characteristics, as well as possible reservoirs of this protozoan.

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