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Title: Occurrence of anti-*Toxoplasma gondii* antibodies and parasite DNA in raw milk of sheep and goats of local breeds reared in Northeastern Brazil

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**Ocurrence of anti-*Toxoplasma gondii* antibodies and parasite DNA in raw milk of sheep and goats of local breeds reared in Northeastern Brazil**

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## HIGHLIGHTS

- Reporting the presence of *T. gondii* in milk of goats' local breeds of the Brazilian
- *Toxoplasma gondii* low positivity of the local breed animals in Brazilian semi-arid
- IFAT be used in conjunction with PCR for diagnosis of *T. gondii* infection in livestock

**ABSTRACT-** The aim of the present study was to detect *Toxoplasma gondii* DNA in raw milk samples of goats and sheep of local breeds from the semi-arid region of the states of Pernambuco and Paraíba, Northeastern Brazil. Serum and milk samples were collected from 243 animals (186 goats and 57 sheep). The Indirect fluorescent antibody test (IFAT) was used to search for anti-*T. gondii* IgG antibodies with a cutoff of 64. Subsequently, the raw milk samples were subjected to DNA extraction and PCR to detect DNA of *T. gondii*. The IFAT results showed a 6.58% (16/243) positivity when all the samples were

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