

SHORT REPORT

MOLECULAR CHARACTERIZATION OF *GIARDIA DUODENALIS* AND *BLASTOCYSTIS* SP IN LIVESTOCK FROM ANIMAL FARMS IN BULACAN, PHILIPPINES

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Abstract. Gastrointestinal protozoa such as *Giardia duodenalis* and *Blastocystis* sp pose risks to health of both farm workers and livestock. However, there are little data on *G. duodenalis* and *Blastocystis* sp prevalence and genotypes in livestock in the Philippines. A survey of *G. duodenalis* genotypes and *Blastocystis* sp subtypes (STs) collected from fecal samples of livestock in animal farms of Bulacan Province, Philippines revealed positive results only from porcine specimens, 6% and 73% infected with *G. duodenalis* and *Blastocystis* sp, respectively. Only *G. duodenalis* assemblage B was identified while ST5 was predominant among *Blastocystis* sp specimens. These data should help shed light on the possible risk of cross-transmission between humans and livestock posed by these two important zoonotic protozoa in Bulacan Province and elsewhere in the Philippines.

Keywords: *Blastocystis* sp, *Giardia duodenalis*, β -giardin, genotyping, PCR, Philippines

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