

A researcher identifies the parasites responsible for Chagas and Leishmaniasis epidemics

Parasites must be correctly identified before the correct treatment is introduced. To do so, we need a fast and necessary results in our studies, especially in under developed countries where there are no proper infrastructure. The Department of Parasitology of University of Granada (Spain), and the researcher Isabel Rodríguez González, for the first time new isolated parasites: Leishmania and Trypanosoma in Peru, Mexico and Spain. These parasites affect at least 18 million people in South America – and Leishmaniasis – which affects around 12 million people. [Organization](#) has recognised these diseases as a public health problem.

This study has compared these parasites with reference strains, by using biochemical and molecular techniques able to identify which groups these isolated parasites belong to.

No medical treatment

The researcher pointed out: "There is no specific treatment yet. Medicines that are used may have serious consequences. Long and expensive treatments often associated with toxic effects." Some species of these parasites need

"If we want to find a specific treatment, the first step we have to take is to correctly identify these species." This study is aimed at discovering specific control measures.

Another important feature of the study is the usefulness of one of the techniques used: PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction), which is cheap in comparison with others. PCR makes it possible to identify the isolated parasites in field studies.

The results of the study have already been published in some of the most important scientific journals in the field: Experimental Parasitology or FEMS Microbiology Letters.

Source: Universidad de Granada

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