

SUMMARY

In an area showing a historical incidence of *Fasciola hepatica* in cattle, 103 *Myocastor coypus* were captured from August 1989 to July 1991. *F. hepatica* specimens were found in the liver of five *M. coypus* (4.85%). Three of these animals were young, about 4 months old, weighing only 2-3 kg. Low egg counts of *F. hepatica* were monthly detected in cattle feces examinations conducted in the area. This was attributed to the intensive administration of liver fluke remedies which were given to the local herds. The problem of fasciolosis was also confirmed by the number of livers condemned in the local abattoirs, because of lesions caused by that trematode. Although the percentage of *M. coypus* harbouring *F. hepatica* was small, the opportunities for pasture contamination with fasciola infected feces are apparently larger than those from cattle. *M. coypus* usually delivers its feces in the water or in marshy areas, what makes the perfect habitat for the development of the life cycle of *F. hepatica*.

RUNNING HEAD: SILVA SANTOS *et alii*. *Myocastor coypus* wild reservoir of *Fasciola hepatica*.

KEY WORDS: *Myocastor coypus* - (RODENTIA CAPROMYIDAE). "Ratão-do-banhado". Wild Reservoir. *Fasciola hepatica*. Liver fluke disease.