

**Título:** Interaction of schistosomiasis mansoni and viral hepatitis in woodchucks.

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To experimentally investigate a claimed interrelationship between schistosomiasis and viral hepatitis, woodchucks (*Marmota monax* and *Marmota marmota*), which are susceptible hosts to both *Schistosoma mansoni* and viral hepatitis (WHV), were studied. Four animals were infected with *S. mansoni* alone. Another four were submitted to double and simultaneous infections (Schistosomiasis+ viral hepatitis with the WHV). The animals were sacrificed at variable periods of time, from two to nine months after cercarial exposure. It was observed that schistosomiasis run a severe course in early infection, with the intestines as the main organ involved. Severe bloody diarrhea developed in some animals, due to numerous, disseminated, destructive periovular granulomas involving all intestinal layers. In the liver, granulomas were scattered, but less numerous than in the intestines and less numerous. Subsequently the intestinal and hepatic lesions underwent considerable modulation with time, with periovular granulomas decreasing in size and numbers, while the parasitic infection tended to self-cure in the course of one year. Four woodchucks with concomitant viral and schistosome infections presented hepatic lesions that did not essentially differ from those seen with schistosomiasis alone.

The peculiar course of schistosomiasis in woodchucks has to be taken into account if further experimental design is intended to explore the relationship between schistosomiasis and viral hepatitis. Woodchucks remain the sole hosts susceptible to both schistosomiasis and B-like viral hepatitis.