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Endozoochorous dispersal of *Echinochloa sp., Oryza sativa* and *Lolium multiflorum* seeds in cattle

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Weeds have some characteristics that make them efficient for their perpetuation. Zoochory is one form of dispersion responsible for the formation of seed bank in the soil, and it can be subdivided into epizoic and endozoic. The objective of this study was to evaluate the number of recovered seeds by endozoochorous dispersion potential of *Echinochloa* sp., *Oryza sativa* and *Lolium multiflorum* in cattle faeces. Using a flexible cane, it was offered to six calves 30g (13818 seeds), 27 g (1000 seeds) and 25 g (12112 seeds) of *Echinochloa sp*., *O. sativa* and *L. multiflorum* seeds, respectively. Each animal represented one repetition. In each period corresponding to 24 hours after the supply, a homogeneous sample was removed for seeds quantification, totaling six days of evaluation. The excreted seeds in the feces were observed during the first 24 hours after ingestion by animals for the three species studied. There was a reduction in the number of seeds recovered in function of the of the evaluation time, from 48 hours after the supply, for all the three species. *Echinochloa* sp. showed 23% of full recovery of seeds, while for *O. sativa* the value was 51% and *L. multiflorum* 9%. The maximum number of recovered seeds occurred at 48 hours after supply, there was a decrease of recovered seeds for all species after this period. The *O. sativa* and *L. multiflorum* seeds showed 97 and 67%, of germination respectively, and, after recovered in feces, the germination was 59% for *O. sativa* and 32% for *L. multiflorum*. Seed absence was observed from the eighth day after ingestion, suggesting the needing of keeping cattle animals in quarantine for a minimum of eight days after ingestion, with the goal of total elimination of seeds from their digestive tract.

Palavras-chave: Weeds, dissemination, preventive control