

Quebracho (*Schinopsis quebracho-colorado*) tannin for the treatment of sheep gastrointestinal parasites.

Effect on faecal egg counts and lamb growth

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Animals

- ❑ **60** Suffolk cross lambs of 29 to 42kg
- ❑ Selected **14d** before the experiment from a commercial flock showing signs of parasite infection
- ❑ Allocated at random to one of **5** treatments
- ❑ **3** lambs from each treatment for faecal egg counting
- ❑ Grazed grass and kale to their choice
- ❑ All weighed and **15** sampled for egg counting weekly

Growth of lambs over 42 days dosed with quebracho tannin or a conventional anthelmintic (n = 12)

		Quebracho tannin				
Weights	Control	60g	60g twice	90g	'Zermex' Wormer	SEM
Initial (kg)	38.1	36.8	36.7	36.9	38.0	0.31
Final (kg)	43.9	45.6	47.1	47.3	49.5	0.93
Gain (g/day)	138 ^a	211 ^b	247 ^{bc}	223 ^b	297 ^c	26

a,b,c superscripts different P < 0.05

Faecal egg counts

Only three lambs per treatment sampled

Only detectible effect on egg count was with the commercial anthelmintic.

No clear effect of tannins.

However clear growth response to tannins despite no detectible effect on faecal egg counts

Conclusions

Quebracho tannins could be effective for the treatment of intestinal parasites in commercial conditions

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