COMPARISON OF RESISTANCE TO RHIPICEPHALUS (BOOPHILUS) MICROPLUS (CANESTRINI, 1887) BETWEEN CURRALEIRO (BOS TAURUS TAURUS), NELORE (BOS TAURUS INDICUS) AND HOLSTEIN (BOS TAURUS TAURUS) CATTLE

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Cattle ticks are an important constraint on the livestock industry, particularly in tropical and subtropical areas, and the host resistance can be a useful alternative method of non-chemical control. It is known that host resistance is highly heritable and that it is greater in zebuine breeds than in taurine. The brazilian native breed Curraleiro can contribute with their genetics, because of its small size, and easy adaptation to adverse conditions. The aim of this study was to evaluate if the Brazilian Curraleiro cattle resistance to the tick *Rhipicephalus* (*Boophilus*) *microplus* is similar to known resistant breed Nelore or the susceptible breed Holstein. Five calves of each breed aged between 6 and 8 months were kept in confinement system in the hangar for animal experimentation of the Veterinary School of Federal University of Goias. Three artificial infestations of ticks using a capsule on the back of the calves were carried out at 15-day intervals. Each calf was infested with 10,000 larvae and were inspected from 18 days after infestation while ticks were found. The engorged females with size up to 5mm were collected and taken to the laboratory where they were counted. Twenty females of each group, per infestations, were selected for evaluation of biological parameters: female weight, conversion of body weight in eggs, egg hatchability and larval survival. There were harvested significant (p>0.05) more ticks from Holstein calves (8194) than in the Nelore (225) and Curraleiro (289) but there were no significant (p>0.05) difference between the Nelore and Curraleiro. Among the biological parameters evaluated there were no significant difference between the three breeds studied. The results of this study indicate that the Curraleiro breed is resistant to the cattle tick *R. (B.) microplus* in similar way observed in Nelore animal, despite being a taurine breed. This may be due to the long adaptation between the parasite and the host since the introduction of the race in Brazil occurred during the European colonization around the 18 century.