The objective of the present study was to report ectoparasite prevalence in 1465 female buffaloes (Buballus bubalis) between two and three years of age, transported from the municipal districts of Soure, Salvaterra, Cachoeira do Arari, Chaves, Breves and Muaná, Marajó Island, Pará, Brazil to a farm located in Castanhal municipal district for quarantine with exportation purposes. During individual restraint for blood collection and tuberculinization, a criterious inspection of the animals was done in order to evaluate ectoparasite presence. Ectoparasite samples were collected from 50 animals and submitted to the Federal Rural University of Minas Gerais for taxonomic identification. Blood samples were collected from 29 infected animals by jugular venopunction in vacuum tubes with anticoagulant (EDTA) for hemogram at the Clinical Pathology Laboratory of the Federal Rural University of Pará Veterinary Diagnostic Central (CEDIVET). The only parasite identified was Haematopinus tuberculatus, from the order Anoplura (hematophagous lice), family Haematopiniidae, considered to be species specific for buffaloes. Among the animals evaluated, 57.61% (844/1465) presented infestation. Lice were distributed all through the body causing intense pruritus, alopecia and skin lesions in major infestation sites such as back, neck and horn base. A large quantity of light yellow eggs was observed adhered to the hair. Infestation by Haematopinus tuberculatus in the evaluated animals did not significantly change hemogram parameters analyzed. The high rate of affected animals was probably due to the fact that, in the Marajó Island, animals are raised together, favouring parasite transmission, associated to absence of management practices such as ectoparasiticides.

Keywords: Haematopinus tuberculatus, buffaloes, Pará, Brazil.