



# VI CONGRESO MUNDIAL DE ESTUDIOS SOBRE MOMIAS

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## PROGRAMA Y RESÚMENES \*\*\* PROGRAM AND ABSTRACTS

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## VI WORLD CONGRESS ON MUMMY STUDIES

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Seven thousand years of  
Trypanosoma cruzi infection in  
pre-Columbian Brazilian  
Indians, archaeological site of  
Abrigo do Malhador, Peruaçu  
Valley, Minas Gerais

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*Trypanosoma cruzi*, the ethiological agent of Chagas disease, is an eclectic and paninfective Kinetoplastid. Human infection in Brazil has traditionally been associated as a consequence to European colonization. We tested the presence of *T. cruzi* DNA in two Brazilian mummies: a hunter-gatherer (AMI) dated of 4500-7000 years BP, and an agricultural-ceramist (AMIII) dated of 600-1200 years BP. DNA was extracted from bone with commercial kit (BIO 101, Qiagen) and Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) used to amplify *T. cruzi* DNA. Fragments of miniexon gene (350bp) were amplified in AMI, and minicircle hypervariable region (330 bp) was amplified in AMIII. PCR products were cloned and sequenced. Sequence findings were similar to *T. cruzi* sequences in GeneBank. These results show that human *T. cruzi* infection predated sedentary habits or European colonization and indicates that acquisition of infection by *T. cruzi* may have occurred soon after human arrival in Brazilian lands.