Salmonella IN WATER USED FOR IRRIGATION OF VEGETABLES IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF GOIÂNIA AND APARECIDA DE GOIÂNIA, GOIÁS, BRAZIL: SEROLOGICAL CHARACTERIZATION AND ANTIMICROBIAL SUSCEPTIBILITY PROFILE

The objectives of the present study were: to verify the occurrence of Salmonella in waters for irrigation of raw vegetables consumed by the population of Goiânia and Aparecida de Goiânia, Goiás, Brazil; to determine the serovars circulating in these waters; to verify its association with fecal coliforms and to know the susceptibility profile of the antimicrobials. Of the 103 samples, 96 (93.2%) were positive to fecal coliforms and 12 (11.6%) were positive for Salmonella, being more frequent

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Endereço para correspondência: E-mail: abisol@iptsp.ufg.br
the following serovars: *S. saintpaul* (6.8%), *S. panama* (2.9) and *S. heidelberg* (1.9%). The sources of waters polluted by *Salmonella* were streams (83.3%) and shallow wells (16.7%) dug close to the streams. The highest resistance was related to ampicillin (33.3%) and one strain presented multiple resistance (ampicillin, ampicillin-sulbactam, cefpodoxime, ticarcillin-clavulonic). The results of this study led us to conclude that the water used in the irrigation of vegetables in the municipalities of Goiânia and Aparecida de Goiânia, Goiás were polluted and could become a source of enteropathogen dissemination, therefore it was considered a serious public health problem.