

Content analysis of protozoology in biology textbooks evaluated by the National Program of Didactic Book and creation of a research website about parasitic protozoa.

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Protozoa are poorly known by the general population, although many species are agents of animal and human diseases, generically designated protozoosis such as amebiasis, Chagas disease, giardiasis, leishmaniasis, malaria and toxoplasmosis. Despite the medical importance, protozoology teaching in basic education is lagged. On textbooks few pages cover pathogenic protozoa and the diseases they cause, presenting, most often, outdated and insignificant information. Thus, this study aimed to develop a teaching tool that contributes to the improvement of teaching and learning of relevant pathogenic protozoa and protozoosis in a medical perspective, and that are discussed in science and biology teaching in the Basic Education. To achieve this goal, a virtual didactic atlas was created as a research website, organized with precise concepts and reliable and current information about Protozoology. To support the site creation, we first performed a content analysis of Protozoology in Science and Biology textbooks evaluated by the National Program of Didactic Book, as well as evaluated the quality and reliability of Brazilian sites that address this subject. After we detected that books neglect certain protozoosis and do not cover relevant information such as forms of infection and prophylactic measures for these diseases, and that Brazilian sites, most often, do not exhibit the key indicators for its reliability, we believe that implementation of this website will help to improve lessons in the class and will significantly support students and people in general in their consultations and searching on the theme.

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