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Control of cyathostomin infections in horses: is the 200 eggs per gram threshold really relevant?

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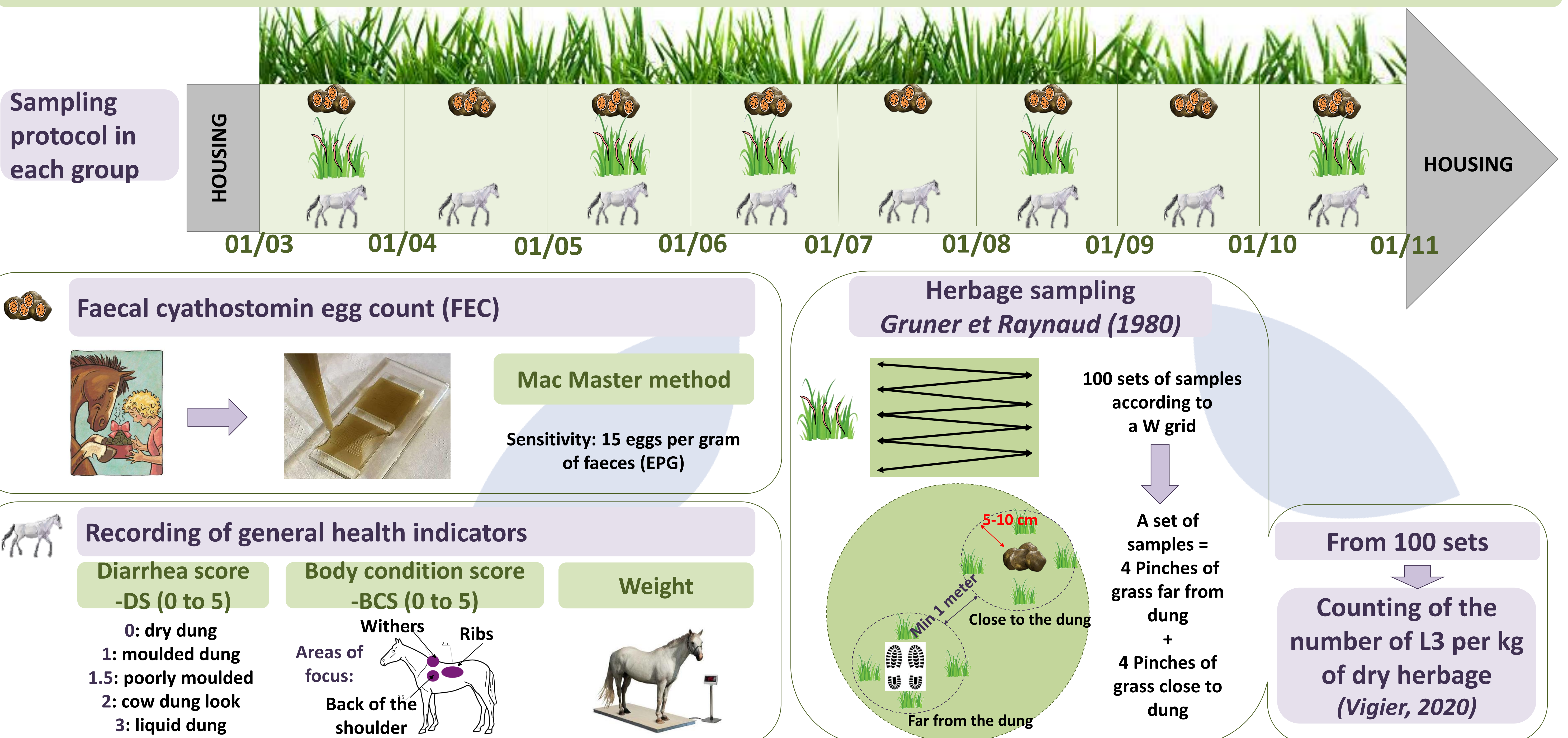
INTRODUCTION

Cyathostomins are considered as grazing horses' most prevalent and pathogenic parasites. To limit their impact on equine health and avoid the emergence of anthelmintic resistance, individual faecal egg counts (FEC) are commonly used to select the high egg shedders for anthelmintic treatment, with the usual threshold of 200 eggs per gram (epg). However, the link between egg excretion and (i) medical consequences of infection and (ii) exposure to infective larvae remains unclear.

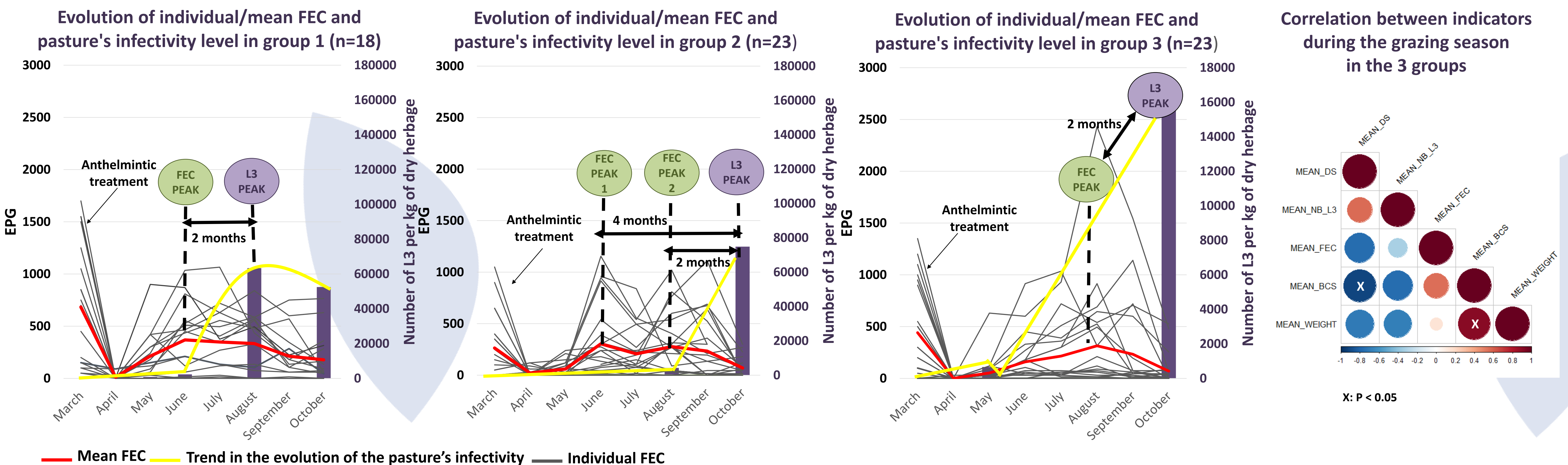
OBJECTIVE

Assessment of the relation between FEC and (i) general health indicators and (ii) pasture infectivity level in 3 groups of adult horses (n=64) during the 2020's grazing season to optimize the use of FEC for selective treatment

MATERIALS & METHODS



RESULTS



DISCUSSION-CONCLUSION

- Before turn-out, no infective larva was counted on pastures but a peak of FEC (48-67% of animals per group ≥ 200 epg) was observed in groups likely related to the emergence of L4 from the intestinal mucosa
 - No significant correlation between FEC, BCS, DS, weight or level of infectivity of pastures was identified during the grazing season
- The peaks of infectivity of pastures were preceded by excretion peaks suggesting that the peak of excretion could be a good predictor of the increase of infectivity of pastures