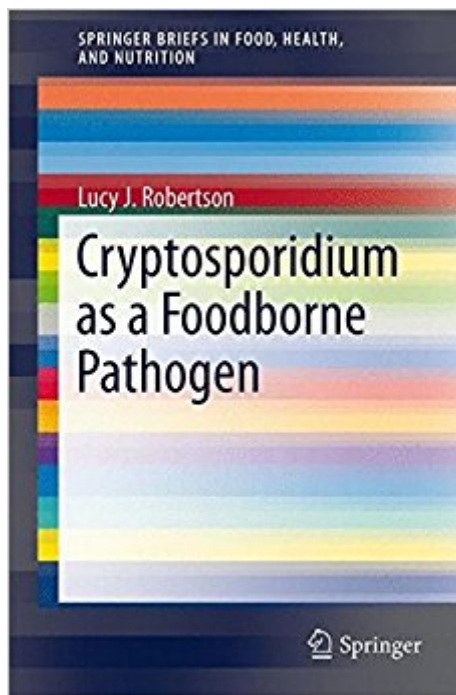




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Cryptosporidium As A Foodborne Pathogen (SpringerBriefs In Food, Health, And Nutrition)



Synopsis

Although widely recognized as an important waterborne pathogen, *Cryptosporidium* spp. can also be transmitted by contamination of food. The same properties of this protozoan parasite that mean that water is an excellent transmission vehicle are also important for foodborne transmission. These include the low infective dose, the high number of oocysts that are excreted, and the robustness of these transmission stages. However, many more outbreaks of waterborne cryptosporidiosis have been reported than foodborne outbreaks. This is probably partly due to epidemiological tracing being much more difficult for foodborne outbreaks than waterborne outbreaks, and the number of persons exposed to infection often being fewer. Nevertheless, the potential importance of foodborne transmission is gradually being recognized, and a wide range of different foodstuffs have been associated with those outbreaks that have been recorded. Additionally, various factors mean that the potential for foodborne transmission is becoming of increasing importance: these include the growth of international food trade, a current trend for eating raw or very lightly cooked foods, and the rise in small-scale organic farms, where there the possibility for contamination of vegetable crops with animal feces may be greater.

Book Information

Series: SpringerBriefs in Food, Health, and Nutrition

Paperback: 90 pages

Publisher: Springer; 2014 edition (November 14, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1461493773

ISBN-13: 978-1461493778

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.2 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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