SUMMARY

In the present study the second internal transcribed spacer (ITS-2) of the ribosomal DNA from *Strongylus spp.* was amplified by the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR). Comparisons were established for the amplification products from related organisms aiming to developed a methodology that might allow a specific diagnosis of these nematode parasites. The amplification of genomic DNA from adult worms and larvae with primers based on the ITS-2 sequence from *Caenorhabditis elegans* resulted in products with 240 base pairs. No DNA amplification was observed when genomic DNAs from *Schistosoma mansoni* and *Ascaridia numidae*, organisms considered outgroups, were included. Our data reveal a potential application of this methodology for the diagnosis of these parasites, although additional studies will be needed towards the definition of species-specific primer sequences.

KEY WORDS: *Strongylus*, species identification, ITS-2, RFLP-PCR, Diagnosis.