

## SUMMARY

A morphometric study was carried of the fourth stage larva and the juvenile forms of *Strongylus vulgaris* collected from the anterior mesenteric cranial artery and its branches of 39 equids naturally infected from of the metropolitan region of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. A total of 1103 worms was counted, measured, and differentiated according to their stage of development and sex. The fourth stage larvae were 2-19 mm long and 0,01-0,79 wide. The juvenil forms were 9-21 mm long and 0,31-0,87 mm wide. Fourth stage larvae had a buccal capsule less developed and without teeth and the internal and external leaf crowns were not visible. The juvenile forms had a bucal capsule with two teeth at the base and the internal and external leaf crown were well-developed. The sexes were easily differentiated in both stages, the female posterior extremity is pointed, whereas males have the copulatory bursa. The copulatory bursa was less developed in the fourth stage male when compared to the juvenile form.

KEY WORDS: *Strongylus vulgaris*, L4 and juvenile forms, equine.