

the IgG, SSP, and avidity assays. Despite this limitation, the fraction of infection attributed to oocysts was consistent for all infected groups. A method for quantifying error rates, sensitivity, and specificity of the entire testing algorithm is being developed. Lastly, the potential effects of strain variability of immune response and detection of SSP antibodies remain unknown for this new tool.

The new tool reported here can be used for source attribution as well as epidemiologic analysis of self-reported data. Its use should lead to improved effectiveness of intervention programs.

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etymologia

Toxoplasma

[tok''so-plaz'mə]

From the Greek *tóxikon* (poisoned arrow, from *tóxon* [bow]) and *plásma* (something molded). This genus of intracellular parasitic protozoa was named for its arc-like shape. Charles Nicolle and Louis Manceaux published the definitive description of the organism in 1909 after they observed the parasites in the blood, spleen, and liver of a North African rodent, *Ctenodactylus gondii*. The species *T. gondii* was formally designated at that time.

Source: Ajioka JW, Morrissette NS. A century of *Toxoplasma* research. *Int J Parasitol*. 2009;39:859–60; <http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/229969-overview>; Dorland's illustrated medical dictionary, 31st edition. Philadelphia: Saunders Elsevier; 2007.