Abstract
The present seroepidemiological research was made in the Rosario de Perija and Machiques municipalities of Zulia state, Venezuela during 2001, in order to determine presence of the foot-and-mouth disease infection. The sample size was estimated using a 90% confidence level and 4% of error. The sampling method was proportional. The selection of study units was made by systematic way in function to the existent bovine population. The ELISA 3ABC technique was used through screening and the positive samples were tested by the enzyme-linked immunoelectrotransfer blot assay (EITB) used as confirmative test. It was determined by the EITB test, a prevalence of 22.04% and 13.69% for Rosario de Perija and Machiques municipalities, respectively. The positive percent by farms was of 25% for Rosario de Perija and 21.5% for Machiques. The percentage characterization of the positive farms to the EITB test allowed to detect a higher positivity at the 11 and 15 sectors (21.9% and 19.5% respectively) in the Rosario de Perija municipality. Likewise, the higher percentage distribution in the Machiques municipality corresponded to 60% at the Libertad parish, 3% in Bartolome and the remainder 5% at the San José parish. Significant differences were not found related to age, sex, type of exploitation and the presence of the infection.

Keywords
Foot-and-mouth disease, prevalence, enzyme-linked immunoelectrotransfer blot assay (EITB), indirect ELISA.