



## ***MALÁRIA NO INFERNO VERDE: AMAZON'S HEALTH IN THE AGE OF DEVELOPMENT (1952-1966)***

**Rômulo de Paula Andrade\***

\*PHD/ Programa de Pós Graduação em História das Ciências e da Saúde da Casa de Oswaldo Cruz/Fiocruz. Researcher – Casa de Oswaldo Cruz.

### **Abstract**

Malaria has been the target of several actions by national and international agencies in the course of the twentieth century. In the 1950s, a new method of combating the disease gained international scope: the "Pinotti Salt". It was one of the resources used by the World Health Organization at the Malaria Eradication Campaign in the late 1950's. However, drug salt had been tested in the Amazon since 1952, becoming one of the main public health actions of the agency responsible for the development of the region: the *Superintendência de Valorização Econômica da Amazônia* (SPVEA). This paper analyzes the first researches on the use of the "Pinotti Salt" in the Amazon region from two document types: articles and reports written by the *Serviço Nacional de Malária* professionals and technicians between 1952 and 1961; and the movie *Malária no Inferno Verde*, produced in 1954. Science, health and development are equally articulated in a context of "Sanitary optimism," by using the eradication of malaria as a way to overcome the underdevelopment of the Brazilian Amazon. More than a tool to combat malaria, the use of the salt is a way to comprehend the historical integration process of the region to Brazil, as well as the overcoming of historical stigmas, such as "demographic vacuum" and the "hostile nature".