



RAILLIETINA CESTICILLUS INFECTION IN DOMESTIC PIGEON (*COLUMBA LIVIA DOMESTICA*)

Veterinary Science

P. N. Ingle-Patil	Department of Pathology, Nagpur Veterinary College, MAFSU, Nagpur.
S. V. Jamdade	Department of Pathology, Nagpur Veterinary College, MAFSU, Nagpur.
N.N. Joat	Department of Pathology, Nagpur Veterinary College, MAFSU, Nagpur.
N. V. Kurkure	Department of Pathology, Nagpur Veterinary College, MAFSU, Nagpur.
S. W. Kolte	Department of Pathology, Nagpur Veterinary College, MAFSU, Nagpur. - Corresponding Author

ABSTRACT

A carcass of pigeon was presented at Department of Veterinary Pathology, NVC, Nagpur for postmortem examination. On gross examination, intestine revealed presence of helminthic infection. On parasitic examination it was confirmed as *Raillietina cesticillus*. The microscopic examination of cestode revealed typical characteristics of *Raillietina cesticillus*. The gross examination of intestine revealed mild enteritis. Considering the importance of Pigeon as a reservoir host we consider it important to put on record.

KEYWORDS:

Introduction

Poultry are most preferred source of income for commercial as well as backyard farmers. In comparison to the other livestock species, there are few social and religious taboos related to production, marketing and consumption of poultry products. Because of these reasons poultry products have become one of the important protein sources. (Radfar, Khedri, Adinehbeigi, Nabavi and Rahmani. 2012).

Among the various infections of poultry, Helminthic infections are very common. (Bhowmik, Sasmal and Chakaraborty.1982). Helminthic infections have hidden role in causing economic losses in the form of meat and egg production. Secondly, these helminths might have deleterious impact on health of young birds, affecting their growth; making them vulnerable for secondary diseases and most importantly making them a potential source of secondary infection to the other birds. (Adang, Oniye, Ajanusi, Ezealor, Abdu. 2008).

Pigeons can act as reservoirs for number of parasitic infection (Radfar et al. 2012). Though, Pigeons are not economically important species, as far as culinary interests are concerned, in certain parts of the worlds they obviously serve as reservoirs (Piasecki, 2006). Situations may be similar in India, considering these facts we thought to put these findings on record.

Material method

A carcass of domestic pigeon (*Columba livia domestica*) was presented to Department of Pathology, Nagpur Veterinary College. The detail necropsy procedure was carried out according standard protocol and gross lesions were noted. The gastrointestinal tract was opened in longitudinal section and content were washed through test sieves to collect cestodes. The permanent slides of scolices were prepared to identify cestodes (Soulsby, 1982).

Results and Discussion

On the gross examination of the intestines it revealed mild catarrhal enteritis with the presence of tapeworms in the intestine (Fig. 1).

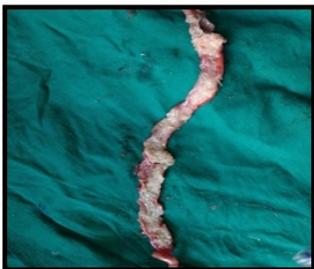


Fig.1 Showing mild enteritis and presence of tapeworm in intestine

In affected birds, the intestine contain's mucous and feces with watery consistency and intestines were full of parasitic load either anchored or free in the intestinal lumen. These findings match the earlier reports in indigenous chickens. (Salam, Mir and Khan et al. 2010). Cestodes (Fig.2 and 3) were identified as *Raillietina cesticillus*. The scolex showed rostellum having small hooks. Suckers were unarmed and inconspicuous and mature proglotid showed a set of reproductive organs.the charachtrastics were same as that of earlier reports in indigenous chickens. (Salam et al. 2010; Soulsby. 1982).

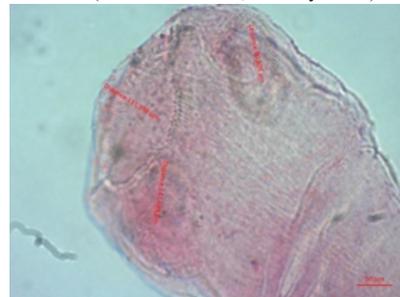


Fig.2 Scolex of *Raillietina cesticillus*



Fig.3 Whole *Raillietina cesticillus*

As the similar cestodes were also observed in domestic fowls and pigeon can act as a reservoir host, we thought it is important to put on record.

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