Schistosoma spindale infection in a captive jackal (*Canis aureus*)

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Abstract This report is based on the findings from a captive jackal (*Canis aureus*) housed in Amirthi Zoological Park, Javadu Hills, Vellore. The animal was reported to be dull, depressed and also had diarrhea. Fecal samples were collected in 10 % formalin and subjected to direct and sedimentation method of faecal examination and was examined for endoparasitic infection. Surprisingly, fecal examination revealed two spindle shaped eggs having terminal spine with a size of 250μ by 60μ. The eggs were identified as belonging to *Schistosoma spindale* and as per the standard keys (Soulsby 1982).

Keywords Captive jackal · *Schistosoma spindale*

Introduction

Animal Schistosomosis is widely present in Tamil Nadu state and affects both the wild and domestic animals

characterized by diarrhea with blood or mucous, weakness and weight loss (Vaidyanathan 1949). Zoo animals are known to be more prone to various infections (Sharma 1998). The infections due to *Schistosoma spindale* are of zoonotic importance and cercaria of *S. spindale* produces dermatitis in people in India. (Anantaraman 1958). The present communication reports parasitic infection identified in a captive jackal revealed *S. spindale*.

Materials and method

Fresh feces were collected from the dull and depressed jackal in 10 % formalin was processed by faecal centrifugal sedimentation technique (Soulsby 1982). A drop of the sediment was examined under low power objective of light microscope.

Results and discussion

The fecal sample revealed the presence of *S. spindale* in a captive jackal with a history of dull, depressed and passing diarrheic feces. Eggs were detected by simple feco-parasitological technique (Fig. 1).

In general, Schistosome infection may be due to an increase in the number of infective stages and/or alteration in host susceptibility (Jeyathilakan et al. 2008 ; Ravindran et al. 2006) and also likely to be variation in moisture content of the feces and the climatic conditions which influences the incidence of helminthic infection in host.

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Fig. 1 Egg of *Schistosoma spindale*

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