The Incidence of Helminth Parasites in Donkeys

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Abstract

The faeces of 82 donkeys irrespective of sex and age were collected and examined for any parasitic ova. The faecal sample of68 donkeys were infected with: *Strongylus* sp. (54.87%), *Parascaris* sp. (29.26%), *Strongyloides* sp. (24.39%), *Trichonema* sp. (15.85%), *Oxyuris* sp. (8.53%), *Gastrodiscus* sp. (8.53%), *Entamoeba* sp. (8.53%), *Dictyocaulus* sp. (3.65%), and *Triodontophorus* sp. (2.43%).

Keywords: Incidence, Helminth, Donkey, Faecal sample, Parasite, Ova.

Introduction

Donkeys acts as a means of transport of goods. Donkeys do suffer from a major clinical illness. Parasitic infestation is a major cause of illness. Documentation of parasitic infestation of donkeys is rare. Therefore, the present study was undertaken to identify and assess the prevalence of helminth infection.

Materials and Methods

The study was conducted on 82 faecal samples of donkeys from Nagpur region. Freshly collected faecal samples were processed and examined grossly and microscopically for qualitative examination adopting standard procedures. The identification of parasitic eggs was done by morphological characters as described by Soulsby (1982).

Results and Discussion

Out of 82 faecal samples, 68 (82.9%) were found to harbour various types of gastro-intestinal parasites. Most of the donkeys were having more than one type of parasitic infestation simultaneously. The results obtained in the present study are depicted in Table. Overall infestation with *Strongylus* sp. (54.87%) was most common followed by *Parascaris* sp. (29.26%), *Strongyloides* sp. (24.39%), *Trichonema* sp. (15.85%), *Oxyuris* sp. (8.53%), *Gastrodiscus* sp. (8.53%), *Entamoeba* sp. (8.53%), *Dictyocaulus* sp. (3.65%), and *Triodontophorus* sp. (2.43%).

Sengupta and Yadav (1997) have observed high prevalence of *Strongylus* sp. and *Triodontophorus* sp. in the equines of Tarai region of UP. Gul *et al*., (2003) showed presence of *Strongyloides* sp., *Parascaris* sp. and *Oxyuris* sp. The prevalence of these parasites in our study is also high.

Table- 1.Incidence of Gastrointestinal Helminths in Donkeys.

Sr. No.	Parasites	Total samples	Positive samples	Incidence rate (%)
1.	*Strongylus* sp	82	45	54.87
2.	*Parascaris* sp.	82	24	29.26
3.	*Strongyloides* sp.	82	20	24.39
4.	*Trichonema* sp.	82	13	15.85
5.	*Oxyuris* sp.	82	7	8.53
6.	*Gastrodiscus* sp.	82	7	8.53
7.	*Entamoeba* sp.	82	7	8.53
8.	*Dictyocaulus* sp.	82	3	3.65
9.	*Triodontophorus* sp	82	2	2.43

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