PREVALENCE AND INVESTIGATION OF GASTROINTESTINAL NEMATODES (CAPILLARIA SPP.) IN DOMESTIC PIGEONS (COLUMBA LIVIA) IN DIFFERENT AREAS OF SIALKOT, PUNJAB, PAKISTAN

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Abstract

The current research was conducted to estimate the prevalence of gastrointestinal nematodes in domestic pigeons (Columba livia) in Sialkot. Total 130 (63 females and 67 males) of 26 species of domestic pigeons were examined. Fecal samples from pigeons’ flocks (fresh droppings) were used for this investigation through qualitative method (direct microscopy and floatation method). These samples were collected from 13 villages (Golophala, Bhagwal Awan, Ugoki, Harrar, Kotli Bhutta, Veerum, Dhatal, Noul, Moman Kalan, Moman Khurd, Adalt Garh, Tibba, and Marjan) of Sialkot city. 21 (13 females and 8 males, with a prevalence of 16.15 %) were found positive with capillaria spp. Capillaria spp. was more prevalent in females (20.63%) than males (11%). High prevalence rate was observed in Bhagwal Awan village (8 pigeons infected), (80%) due to unhygienic living conditions. Low prevalence was observed in Golophala, Dhatal, Kotli Bhutta, Noul, Veerum, Harrar and Moman Khurd. There was no positive pigeon found in Ugoki, Moman Kalan, Adalt garh, Tibba and Marjan. Low and zero prevalence in these villages were due clean and hygienic environment. This research will be helpful to pigeons owners in raising awareness to improve pigeons’ health status through controlling of gastrointestinal parasites especially, capillaria. Further studies are recommended in assessing the effects of these parasites on pigeons’ health and production and aware the pigeon’s keepers to take suitable measures against them.

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