A REPORT ON THE INCIDENCE OF MACROCANTHORHYNCHUS HIRUDINACEUS IN A WILD BOAR

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Macrocanthorhynchus hirudinaceus, an endoparasite of domestic pigs, belongs to the phylum Acanthocephala. They are also called as “thorny headed” worms due to the presence of spine at their anterior end covered by proboscis. The males measure up to 10 cm and females up to 65 cm in length. Adult worms are similar Ascaris suum, however they are flattened and have pseudosegmentations. When placed in water, the spiny proboscis gets protruded, thus aiding differentiation from Ascaris. The thorny headed worm produces inflammation and may provoke granuloma formation at the site of attachment in the small intestinal wall (Urquhart et al., 1996).

Post-mortem examination of wild boar (Sus scrofa) with a history of found dead was conducted at Anchetty Forest Range, Denkanikottai taluk, Krishnagiri district, Tamil Nadu. The proximal part of small intestines had multiple nodular lesions on the serosa. When the intestinal tract was incised, large number of worms resembling Ascaris sp. were noticed adhering to the mucosa of duodenum small intestine. The worms were collected in normal saline and when grossly examined, a spiny proboscis was observed anteriorly (Fig.1) in accordance with that reported in the literature. The endo parasite was identified as Macrocanthorhynchus hirudinaceus (Fig.1) granuloma formation at sites of parasitic infestation would have resulted in the modular lesions of the intestine. Occurrence of M. hirudinaceus in wild boar has been reported from Iran (Eslami and Hamd, 1992) and Uttranchal, India (Banerjee et al., 2005).

Fig.1
Anterior end of Macrocanthorhynchus hirudinaceus showing the protruding spiny proboscis
REFERENCES

