

MIXED PARASITIC INFECTION IN A CAPTIVE TODDY CAT

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The common Palm Civet or Toddy cat (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*), a member of the family Viverridae is distributed in Kashmir, the Himalayas and Assam southwards through the whole of the Peninsula of India except in the desert zones of Sind, the Punjab, and Burma and the Indo-Chinese and Malay countries (Prater, 1998). A comprehensive review of the literature indicated that mostly paragonimiasis in a civet cat has been reported in India (Singh *et al.* 1998). It appears that there has been no report of strongyloidosis and ancylostomosis in palm civet.

During August 2006, a two month old palm civet was caught by the Department of Forests and Wildlife, Puducherry. Faecal sample was obtained during the month of October 2006 and examined for eggs of parasite by floatation technique.

The palm civet was found to be infected with *Strongyloides sp* and *Ancylostoma sp*. The genus *Strongyloides* contains numerous species, but parasites like *Strongyloides stercoralis* and *Strongyloides cati* had been recorded in cats (Soulsby, 1982). The egg of *Strongyloides sp* contains a fully developed embryo (Fig. 1) whereas that of *Ancylostoma sp* contains embryonic cells when laid (Fig. 2). Because a specific diagnosis of species of parasite cannot always be made from the eggs it may be necessary to cultivate the larvae from eggs that hatch in the free state. Hence the parasitic infection of Palm Civet was identified up to the Genus level viz *Ancylostoma sp* and *Strongyloides sp*.

In Srilanka, Malaysia and other parts of Asia *Ancylostoma ceylanicum* had been recorded in dog, cat, civetcat and tiger (Soulsby, 1982). Perusal

of literature revealed that parasites like *Rictularia cahirensis* (Sood, 1971), *Paragonimus africanus* (Ripert *et al.* 1981), *Euparadistomum ambedkan* (Kalyankar and Tagade, 1975) and *Gnathostoma spinigerum* (Liat, 1976) has been reported in civet cats in India and abroad. Thus the present paper reports the mixed parasitic infection of strongyloidosis and ancylostomosis of captive palm civet in India.

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Fig. 1: Egg of *Strongyloides* sp (10 X)



Fig. 2: Egg of *Ancylostoma* sp (10 X)