

# CONCURRENT *DIPHYLLOBOTHRIUM LATUM* INFECTION AND *ISOSPORA FELIS* INFECTION IN A CAT

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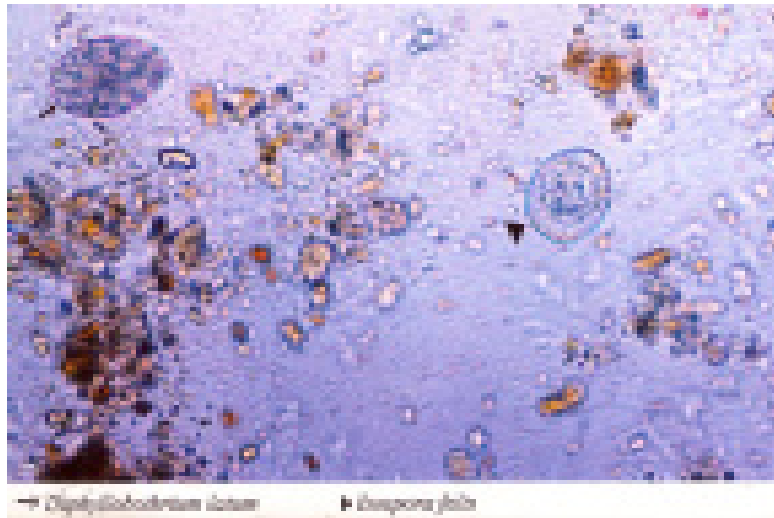
*Diphyllobothrium latum* is an important cestode parasite, which produces macrocytic anaemia resembling pernicious anaemia in animals. *D. latum* occurs in the small intestine of cat in many parts of the world (Soulsby, 1982; Hendrix, 1995; Urguhart *et al.*, 1996). *Isospora sp.* produced severe diarrhoea in young kittens with high oocyst counts (Soulsby, 1982; Urguhart *et al.*, 1996; Barutzki and Schaper, 2003).

A 1½ years old non-descript male cat was brought to the Madras Veterinary College hospital with a history of burn injuries in legs. On clinical examination, it had diarrhoea with the symptoms of soiling around the anus. On faecal examination, eggs and oocysts were observed. Eggs were light brown in colour, operculate and round ended and measured about 63 µm by 45 µm in size. It was confirmed as *D. latum* (Fig.1) by its morphological characters. Oocysts were smooth walled without micropyle and oval in shape and approximately measured about 45 µm by 27µm in size (Fig.1). It was confirmed as *I. felis* by its morphological characters (Soulsby, 1982).

*D. latum* could have occurred due to ingestion of uncooked fish containing plerocercoid. This animal was brought from sewage disposal area and had access to offal from raw fish. The cat might have contracted *I. felis* infection by ingestion of infected small rodents (Urguhart *et al.*, 1996). The animal died of shock due to burn injuries before treatment could be initiated.

## REFERENCES

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**Fig.1**

**Cat: Egg of *Diphylllobothrium latum* and oocyst of *Isospora felis* x 400**