

**HEAVY INFESTATION OF *POSTHARMOSTOMUM GALLINUM*
IN A CROSSBRED JUNGLE FOWL**

SIR: Species of trematodes reported from domestic fowl and jungle fowl in Malaysia are *Echinostoma lindoense*, *E. revolutum*, *Prothogonimus ovatus*, *P. pellucidus*, *Heterophyes* sp., *Tanaisia fedtschenkoi*, *T. vietnamensis*, *Postharmostomum gallinum* and *Philophthalmus gralli* (Sinniah, 1980; Shanta, 1982; Vattanodorn *et al.*, 1984; Lee *et al.*, 1985; Cheah and Rajamanickam, 1986; Cheah *et al.*, 1987).

We would like to report a case of heavy infestation of *P. gallinum* Witenberg, 1923 (Brachylaimidae) in the caeca of an adult female crossbred jungle fowl from Bangi, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia. The bird developed weak legs and seemed to lose balance when disturbed. The bird was autopsied and both caeca were slightly bloated and packed with reddish flukes. The trematodes were relaxed overnight at 4°C in the refrigerator, fixed and preserved in 70 percent alcohol. Ten of the 54 flukes recovered were stained with aceto-alum-carmin, mounted in Canada balsam, studied and measured using the camera lucida.

The morphology and measurements (Table 1) resembled those of *P. gallinum* (Yamaguti, 1971; Cheah and Rajamanickam, 1986). *Postharmostomum gallinum* is synonymous with *P. commutatus* and may cause inflammation of the caeca (Soulsby, 1982).

TABLE 1
Measurements of *Postharmostomum gallinum* based on
mounts of ten good specimens

Feature	Average	Range
Length (mm)	10.5	10.0-11.2
Maximum width (mm)	2.2	1.9-2.7
Oral sucker	1009 x 1072	960-1070 x 1010-1130
Ventral sucker	809 x 851	770-870 x 780-900
Pharynx	525 x 475	490-560 x 440-520
Ovary	539 x 357	430-630 x 325-400
Anterior testis	813 x 728	700-1050 x 490-850
Posterior testis	759 x 1109	610-930 x 920-1190
Eggs (N=100)	34 x 18	28-41 x 16-21

All measurements are in µm except for length and maximum width

The intermediate host(s) of this trematode are unknown in Malaysia. Snails like *Bradybaena similaris*, *Subulina octona*, *Leptinaria lamellata*, *Bulimulus tenuissimus*, *Euharda peliomphala*, *Philamycus bilineatus*, *Eulota sieboldiana minor*, *Eulota similaris stimpsoni*, *Anguispira*, *Deroceras* and *Polygyra* may serve as the intermediate hosts of this fluke (Berry, 1963; Schell, 1970; Faria-Duarte, 1980).

Cheah and Rajamanickam (1986) found only two *P. gallinum* in one out of 102 birds examined. Thus it is significant to find such a large number of these flukes in this cross bred jungle fowl. This bird also had endoparasites of ten *Raillietina echinobothrida*, four *R. tetragona*, one *Hymenolepis carioca*, some *Davainea proglottina*, some *Amoebotaenia cuneata* (= *A. sphenoides*) and one *Cardiofilaria nilesi*.

It could not be ascertained whether the clinical symptoms described above in this crossbred jungle fowl was due to the caecal trematodes.

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