



Infectivity of nematode parasites of the common toad, *Duttaphrynus melanostictus* (Schneider, 1799) Frost *et al.*, 2006 (Anura: Bufonidae) from different localities of Aurangabad

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Abstract: The common toad, *Duttaphrynus melanostictus*, Schneider, 1799) Frost *et al.*, 2006 from Aurangabad was found to harbor three species of nematodes; *Oswaldocruzia goezei* (Skrjabin and Schulz, 1952), *Trichuris globosa* (V. Linstow, 1901, Ransom, 1911), *Oxysomatium macintoshii* (Karve, 1927). Among all the parasites, *Trichuris globulosa* represents the accidental new host record for *D. melanostictus* in Maharashtra.

Keywords: *Duttaphrynus melanostictus*, Infectivity, Nematode, Toad

INTRODUCTION

The host and its parasites constitute a community of organisms living in close intimacy and exerting a profound effect upon each other. The new host record of many helminth parasites of green frogs *Rana clamitans* Latreille, was found from Southwestern Michigan, (Muzzall *et al.*, 2001). There is also a report on nematode parasites from collection of Zoological survey of India, (Baylis, and Daubney, 1922). Study on intestinal helminths of *Duttaphrynus melanostictus* from Formosa gave many new host records (Yamaguti and Mitunaga, 1943). The helminth fauna of Andaman and Nicobar islands also studied from India (Soota and Chaturvedi, 1970). Nematode parasites of different species of amphibians from Maharashtra were studied by many workers. Chaudhari and Deshmukh (1977) have reported new species of genus *Subcularis* from *Rana tigrina*. The purpose of this study was to report additional species of nematodes in *D. melanostictus* collected from Aurangabad, Maharashtra.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Thirty two *D. melanostictus* including road killed were collected by hand during June 10 to Dec. 2011, from Aurangabad, Maharashtra (12 adult males and 20 adult females) from two collection sites *i.e.*, Site- A University Campus and Site-B Cantonment Area.

Toads were anesthetized with chloroform. The body cavity was opened by a longitudinal ventral incision and the alimentary tract was excised by cutting across the oesophagus and the rectum. Contents of the stomach, small intestine and large intestine were mixed with 0.9% saline solution and placed in separate petri dishes for

examination under a dissecting microscope. The lungs, liver, gall bladder were also examined; some muscles, portions of peritoneum and spinal cord were teased apart with needles and examined. Nematodes were fixed in hot ethanol then stored in mixture of 70% ethanol and 10% glycerol and subsequently cleared in glycerol for examination under a compound microscope. Permanent slides were made according to Gibson (1984). Parasites were identified with the use of information from Yamaguti (1961, 1963), "CIH Keys to the Nematode Parasites of Vertebrates" (Anderson, *et al.*, 1974 ab and Anderson, 1978) and the "Fauna of British India" (Baylis and Daubney, 1922; and Baylis, 1936, 1939).

"Frequency Index" *i.e.* the percentage of infected hosts per sample and the "Concentration Index" as the number of worms per infected host were calculated (Margolis *et al.*, 1982).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Helminth parasites, *Oswaldocruzia goezei* Skrjabin and Schulz, 1952 (Site: rectum), *Trichuris globulosa* (Site: stomach and small intestine), *Oxysomatium macintoshii* Railliet and Henry, 1913 (Site: rectum) were recovered from the gastro-intestinal tract of *Duttaphrynus melanostictus* (Schneider, 1799, Frost *et al.*, 2006).

Oxysomatium macintoshii. appeared to have a highest frequency index in Site-B (100%). whereas the lowest frequency index was found in *Trichuris globulosa* at same Site- B (5.8%). Similarly the concentration index was highest in *Oxysomatium* sp. at Site-B (15par/host) and there was no infection recorded in *T. globulosa*. from site A (Table 1)

Four nematode species found in this study are common parasites of anurans and occurred in both the localities.

Table 1. Infectivity of *D. melanostictus* for helminth parasites from different localities of Aurangabad.

Locality	No. of Hosts examined	Parasites recovered								
		<i>Oswaldocruzia goezei</i>			<i>Oxysomatium macintoshii</i>			<i>Trichuris globulosa</i>		
		No. of hosts infected	Freq. index (%)	Conc. index (par/host)	No. of hosts infected	Freq. index (%)	Conc. index (par/host)	No. of hosts infected	Freq. index (%)	Conc. index (par/host)
Site- A	15	12	80	12	14	93.3	14	-	-	-
Site- B	17	15	88.23	10	17	100	15	01	5.8	01

Among all these species of nematodes only one species i.e. *T. globulosa* exhibited a new accidental records for *D. melanostictus* in the study area.

Amphibians, particularly anurans have a rich parasite fauna (Prudhoe and Bray, 1982) perhaps due to the typical life style of amphibians favouring vulnerability to microbial and parasitic infection. The damp habitats preferred by amphibians favour survival of infective stages of the parasites. This study when compared to the observations of earlier workers suggest that the locality from where the host is collected may account as one of the important factors accounting for variance in frequency index and concentration index of the parasitic fauna in various amphibian populations. This may be due to the fact that an ecological complex is formed at each locus composed of the parasite, the vector, the host and various features of the host's environment which is not something absolute and static, but is ever changing and these factors may account for variance in infectivity as indicated in the present findings.

These results were correlated with previous workers findings such as Prudhoe and Bray (1982), Baylis (1936, 1939), Buchvarov, (1963), Ingles (1936), Soota and Chaturvedi (1971). Thus from the present investigation it was found that *Trichuris globulosa*, the parasite of ruminant mammals found all over the world and the occurrence in amphibian host forms the first record and it should be considered as an accidental infection.

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