

**ANTIGENS OF *SETARIA DIGITATA*: CROSS REACTION WITH
SURFACE ANTIGENS OF *WUCHERERIA BANCROFTI* MICRO-
FILARIA AND SERUM ANTIBODIES OF *W. BANCROFTI* IN-
FECTED SUBJECTS**

S. Dissanayake

(Department of Biochemistry, University of Peradeniya)

and

M. M. Ismail

(Medical Research Institute, Colombo)

Serological diagnosis of filariasis by detection of circulating antibodies does not necessarily detect active infection. Determination of circulating antigens may prove to be more relevant and this requires characterisation of antigens that evoke the antibody/immune response.

In the case of *W. bancrofti* it is practically impossible to obtain sufficient filariae to extract antigens for characterisation. The wide cross reactivity of filarial species, however, permits one to use heteroantigens for this purpose. This communication deals with an attempt to characterise *Setaria digitata* heteroantigens reacting with serum antibodies of filariasis subjects. The cross reactivity of these antigens with the surface antigens of *W. bancrofti* microfilariae was studied by inhibition of indirect immunofluorescence. The results indicate that *S. digitata* contains several antigenic fractions which show antigenicity against filariasis sera and two of these fractions were similar to the surface antigens of *W. bancrofti* microfilariae.