

STUDIES ON *CARDIOFILARIA NILESI* IN THE CHICKEN : A LABORATORY MODEL FOR FILARIASIS

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Cardiofilaria nilesi, a filarial parasite of birds in Sri Lanka is transmitted by the mosquito *Mansonia crassipes*. This parasite in the chicken is a good laboratory model for immunological and pathological studies on filariasis, a disease widely prevalent in Sri Lanka.

In this study, the parasite in the chicken was studied in the laboratory and the infection transmitted by *M. crassipes*.

Results indicate that *M. crassipes* is an excellent vector, but its use in the laboratory is limited as it cannot be successfully colonized.

This study was an attempt to find an alternate vector for the parasite.

Aedes togoi is a good vector of many other filarial infections and has transmitted *C. nilesi* in the laboratory.

We attempted to transmit *C. nilesi* using a strain of *A. togoi* originating from Taiwan. Results indicate that the microfilariae were destroyed very early in the stomach itself, and the parasite failed to develop in the mosquito. We conclude that the failure to transmit was because the strain of *A. togoi* used was refractory to *C. nilesi*.

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Reference

1. Goonaratne, B. W. M. (1969), The development of *Cardiofilaria nilesi* in laboratory-bred *Aedes togoi*, *Ann. Trop. Med. Parasit.*, **63**, 337.