A32

SURFACE ANTIGENS OF *SETARIA DIGITATA* (FILARIAE) MICROFILARAIE-2

A.K. Chandana[a], M.M. Ismail[b], S. Dissanayake[a]

[a]*Dept. of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya*

[b]*Dept. of Parasitology, University of Colombo, Colombo 8*

Release of surface antigens have been reported for non filarial nemabodes. Although Excretory and Secretory (ES) antigens of microfilariae have been used in serodiagnosis of filariasis[1] the nature of antigen release by microfilariae has not been investigated. A double antibody immunoperoxidase staining technique was developed for the investigation of the release of surface antigens of *Setaria digitata* microfilariae. The surface antigens of live microfilariae, showed aggregation, polarization and subsequent shedding following binding of antibody. Shedding of the antigens was observed in approximately 6-18 hours in *in vitro* culture following the binding of specific antibody. This shedding of antigens appeared to be an active process and was probably related to cluster formation by microfilariae[2].

Technical assistance of Miss W. Wijekoon is acknowledged. This study received financial support from the European Economic Community and forms a part of a M.Phil. thesis (AKC).

References

1. Harinath B.C. *et al.* (1984) *Bull. W.H.O.* 62:941-944
2. Chandana A.K. *et al.* (1986) *Sri Lanka Ass. Advmt. Sci.*