

IDENTIFICATION OF CRYPTOSPORIDIUM OOCYSTS FROM
FAECES OF CATTLE IN SRI LANKA

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Cryptosporidium is a coccidian parasite infecting a wide range of hosts including man. Cryptosporidium has been known to be associated with diarrhoea in young calves and in children. In the present study, an attempt has been made to identify oocysts of Cryptosporidium from cattle and buffalo calves.

Air dried smears prepared from faeces collected from nondiarrhoeic and diarrhoeic calves were fixed and stained by a modified Kinyoun acid fast technique and examined.

Two of 59 faecal samples from cattle calves revealed oocysts. They were or doughnut shaped. Fifty five of them measured 3-4.5 by 2-4 μ m with a mean of 3.6 ± 0.42 by 3.1 ± 0.40 μ m. Cryptosporidium was however not detected from 54 buffalo calves examined. This is the first report of identification of Cryptosporidium sp. from calves in Sri Lanka.

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