

EVALUATION OF A SPECIES SPECIFIC DNA PROBE FOR THE
DETECTION OF SETARIA DIGITATA INFECTION IN BUFFALOES AND GOATS

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A highly sensitive and species-specific DNA probe for S. digitata has been developed¹. Recent field studies on the evaluation of this probe in cattle indicated that this probe was more sensitive than conventional methods used for microfilaria detection. The present report describes further evaluation of s. digitata probe in buffaloes, a natural host for parasites, and in goats where migration of immature worm is known to cause paralytic disease, Cerebrospinal Nematodiasis.

Blood samples from goats (n=98) and buffaloes (n=92) were examined by dot - blot assay using ³²p-labeled cloned DNA as a probe. DNA probe detected S. digitata infection in 50% of goats and in 20% of the buffaloes. Hence the DNA probe we have developed could be used in the detection of microfilariae of S. digitata in goats and buffaloes.

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