

THE TYPES, MORPHOLOGY AND POPULATION PATTERNS OF
HELMINTH PARASITES IN THE ALIMENTARY CANAL OF
CATTLE AND GOAT FROM JAFFNA PENINSULA

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The present investigation is a survey of endoparasitic helminth parasites in the alimentary canal of cattle and goat from Jaffna Town, Thirunelvely and Atchuvely. Survey of such helminths was carried out in Sri Lanka, (Cruz, 1952; Senadhira, 1967). The study also includes the morphology of parasites and analysis of the population patterns.

The most common endoparasite of cattle is a trematode, present in the rumen and reticulum, belonging to the family Paramphistomidae, 5 mm to 12 mm long and 2 mm to 4 mm wide. This parasite has been reported from goat in Australia (Baxendall, 1982). The second most abundant parasite is a nematode, belonging to the genus Gongylonema found embedded in the mucosa of oesophagus, 45 mm to 62 mm long. The nematodes belonging to the families Trichostrongylidae, 10 mm to 22 mm, Trichuridae, 40 mm to 68 mm and subfamily Oesophagostominae, 11 mm to 22 mm, have been observed in the small intestine, caecum and colon of goat respectively.

The highest population densities of the parasites have been recorded in the months of April, May, December and January and the lowest in September and October.

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