D-06 : OBSERVATIONS ON THE EMBRYONIC DEVELOPMENT OF *Calicophoron calicophorum* (TREMATODA PARAMPHISTOMIDAE)

R Rajeswaran, N Selvarajah; Dept. of Zoology, University of Jaffna.

Calicophoron calicophorum (Nasmark) is an endoparasitic fluke in the rumen and reticulum of cattle in Sri Lanka, (Crusz 1952, Seneviratne 1955, Senadhira 1967). The present paper describes the external morphology of the various developmental stages of embryo of *C. calicophorum,* collected from Northern Sri Lanka - Elavalai, Puloly, Chunnakam, Chavakachcheri and Thellipalai.

Eggs were obtained by placing the adult flukes in 0.9% salt solution at room temperature for 6-15 h. The eggs were then washed and placed in a petri dish containing tap water.

The eggs were oval in shape, 120 - 160 um long and 65 - 80 um wide, the egg-shell 3.3 um thick and the operculum 32 um in diameter.

The embryo consisting of 2 - 5 cleavage cells at the anterior region was seen on day O; cells covering the entire egg on day 1 - 3; presumptive anterior and posterior regions of the larva on day 4; body cilia day 5; movements of anterior region on day 6 - 8; fully grown miracidium with eye-spots on day 9 - 11; ciliary movements on day 12 onwards.

Miracidia hatched from the eggs on day 13-18, measure 184-262 um long and 45 - 65 um wide, and swam actively.

Similarities in the embryonic development were noted with *Paramphistomum microbothrium* (Fischoeder) from Kenya.