

A-30 Preliminary study on gastro-intestinal nematodes in goats

R P V J Rajapakse¹, W D Paranagama¹, A C M Faizal², N U Horadagoda¹

(¹Dept. of Veterinary Para Clinical Studies, Faculty of Vet.

Medicine & Animal Science, Univ. of Peradeniya, ²Veterinary Research Institute, Gannoruwa, Peradeniya)

Parasitic gastro-enteritis has been recognised as one of the major constraints to the development of the goat industry in Sri Lanka. Although some of the parasites responsible for the disease have been identified, the purpose of this study was to quantify relative numbers of each species in order to determine their significance in the usefulness of eggs per gram (EPG) of faeces and packed cell volume (PCV) and haemoglobin (Hb) percentage in the blood as indicators of the worm burden particularly those of blood sucking nematodes.

Young, weak and emaciated goats (age <18 months) brought to the Colombo municipal abattoirs between January and July, 1996, were selected for this study. Samples of blood were collected into EDTA for the estimation of PCV and Hb% and faeces were obtained directly from the rectum for determination of EPG. The gastro-intestinal tracts were collected at the time of slaughter and the parasites in the contents of the abomasum, small and large intestines were identified and counted separately. The abomasum and small intestines were subjected to pepsin digestion in order to determine the presence of histrophic larvae.

9 species of helminths were identified in 124 of the 125 animals examined; One animal was parasite free. The nematodes present included *Trichostrongylus colubriformis* (78.72%), *Oesophagostomum columbianum* and *venulosum* (89.36%), *Haemonchus contortus* (65.0%), *Strongyloides papillosus* (5.21%) *Trichostrongylus axei* (40.0%), *Trichuris ovis* (50.0%) and *Bunostomum phlebotomum* (2%). 11 animals (11.7%) had cestodes that were identified as *Moniezia benedini*. The pepsin digested contents of the abomasum revealed larvae only in 11 animals (11.7%) and small intestines did not reveal any larvae.

There was no association between the EPG, PCV and Hb% and the total worm burden. Conversely, the PCV and Hb% appeared to have a close relationship with the number of adult *Haemonchus contortus* present in the abomasum.

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