E2-38 Triglyceride and uric acid levels in the plasma of Sri Lankan elephants (*Elephas maximus maximus*)

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Elephants are an endangered species. The Sri Lankan elephant found only in Sri Lanka has a population of about 3000 of which about 500 are in captivity. It is feared that this elephant may become extinct in the 21st century. A knowledge of normal blood values (physiological base-line data) of the Sri Lankan elephant would be useful in captive breeding as well as in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of elephants. Further, such data may assist in understanding the relationship between different species of elephants.

In this study the triglyceride and uric acid contents in the blood of 38 captive adult Sri Lankan elephants were determined using Randox test kits :- Triglycerides by a colorimetric method after enzymatic hydrolysis with lipase; uric acid by an enzymatic colorimetric method. The mean values obtained were 0.18 mmol/1 and 0.25 mg/dl, respectively. The amount of triglycerides in the African elephant (0.34 - 0.59 mmol/l) is higher than that in the Sri Lankan elephant. No values for triglyceride content of the Indian elephant have been reported. The uric acid content of the Sri Lankan elephant is in the same range as that of the Indian elephant (0.22 and 0.17 - 2.54 mg/dl) whereas the value for the African elephant is 0.85 mg/dl. There is no marked difference between the male and the female captive adult elephants with regard to their triglyceride and uric acid levels in blood.