

A S A Weerakkody, P V Randeniya, C Perera, P M C B Digana, W D Ratnasooriya
Dept of Zoology, University of Colombo, Colombo 3

The ecto- and endo-parasites harboured by 3 selected species of cave-dwelling microchiropteran hosts, *Hipposideros lankadiva*, *H. speoris* and *Rhinolophus rouxi* were studied at 4 previously reported sites. *H. lankadiva* was captured in the wet zone (n=40), *H. speoris* in both wet (n=10) and dry (n=60) zones, and *R. rouxi* in the wet (n=40) and intermediate (n=67) zones.

Six different arthropod ecto-parasites including bat flies; *Stylidia ceylonica* of Family Mycteribiidae and, *Brachytarsina* and *Raymondia* of Family Streblidae; and mites of Families Laelapidae, Spinturnicidae and Trombiculidae were harboured by these hosts. These mites are recorded for the first time in Sri Lanka. All three bat hosts commonly harboured the 2 streblids and mites of Families Laelapidae and Spinturnicidae. While *H. speoris* did not harbour the nycteribiid, *R. rouxi* (in the intermediate zone) did not harbour the trombiculid mites. *S. ceylonica* inhabited the area of the host's body covered with fur, whereas the streblids were found in the folds of the tail and wing membranes. The mites occupied the dorsal and the ventral surfaces of the patagium. *H. speoris* was infested with the endo-parasitic female streblid fly, *Ascodipteron*, embedded in the ventral surface of the host's patagium. This is reported as a novel finding. A nematode of the Family Molineidae occupied the entire length of the small intestines of *H. lankadiva*. Cestode and strongyl type nematode eggs were detected in the faeces of *R. rouxi* occurring in the wet zones whereas *R. rouxi* from the intermediate zone were found to be entirely free of endo-parasites.