D-48 Endo-parasites of some Sri Lankan bats

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The first descriptive study of bats in Ceylon was carried out by Phillips in 1924. The presence of some bat ecto-parasites was briefly mentioned therein with no reference to endo-parasites.

This preliminary study was undertaken to identify for the first time, different types of endo-parasites present in a few species of bats in Sri Lanka. This investigation commenced in January 1997 and is still in progress. So far, 8 bat species including *Rousettus leschenaulti seminudus* (n=15) and *Cynopterus sphinx* (n=4) of megachiropteran family pteropodidae and *Rhinolophus rouxi* (n=15), *Hipposideros lankadiva* (n=25), *H.speoris* (n=15) *Pipistrellus tenuis mimus* (n=3), *Taphozous melanopogon* (n=26) and *Miniopterus schreibersii* (n=20) representing 4 microchiropteran families, were sacrificed and examined. Intestinal digeneans of Family Lecithodendridae; a cestode representing Family Hymenolepididae; 2 genera of nematodes, *Spinostrongylus* and *Nycteridostrongylus*, both belonging to Family Trichostrongylidae and a third nematode of Family Molineidae were identified. The intestinal flukes were harboured by 3 of the hosts, *P. tenuis mimus, M, schrebersii* and *T. melanopogon. H. lankadiva* and *R. rouxi* were infested with the hymenolepid cestode. *Spinostrongylus* worms were found in *T. melanopogon. M. schreibersii* carried *Nycteridostrongylus* worms.

The molineid nematode was harboured by *H. lankadiva.* Although the body cavity and vital organs of these hosts were examined, all these endo-parasites were confined to the small intestines of their respective hosts. Of the bat species examined, both mega chiropterans, *C. sphinx* and *R. leschenaulti,* and the microchiropteran *H. speoris* were found to be free of internal parasites.