INDIAN JOURNAL OF ANIMAL SCIENCES 65(4) : 421-422, APRIL 1995

Parasites of rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*)

A Chakraborty[1] and A.R. Gogoi[2]

Assam Agricultural University, Khanapara, Guwahati, Assam - 781 022

Received : 19 May 1994

This communication reports on different parasites of rhinoceros recorded at necropsy.

During 1985 to 1989 at the State Zoo, Assam, 12 rhinoceroses died. These were necropsied to ascertain the cause of death. The alimentary tract and other internal organs were examined carefully to detect the parasites. The parasites were studied as per the standard procedure. In addition, pieces of various tissue samples were processed for histopathological examination to have the presence of parasites in microsection.

We recorded nematodes *Kiluluma goodeyi*, 1; *Chabertia* sp. 1; *Necator ammericans*, 3; *Bunostomum* sp. 2, trematodes (*Paramphistomum* sp.1), cestodes (*Anoplocephala* sp.7, Hydatid cyst 1), and protozoa (*Balantidium coli*).

Nematodes accounted for high infection. Hook worms like *Necator* and *Bunostomum* as reported earlier (Chakraborty and Islam 1993) were common. The details of 3 unidentified amphistomes need to be studied further. Anophocephalid infection was predominent. It corresponded with the findings of Jones (1979). *Anoplocephala* was found within the biliary system in 5 animals besides to the gastrointestinal tract. The occurrence of hydatid cyst in the liver of a rhinoceros also indicated its role as an intermediate host of *Echinococcus*. The

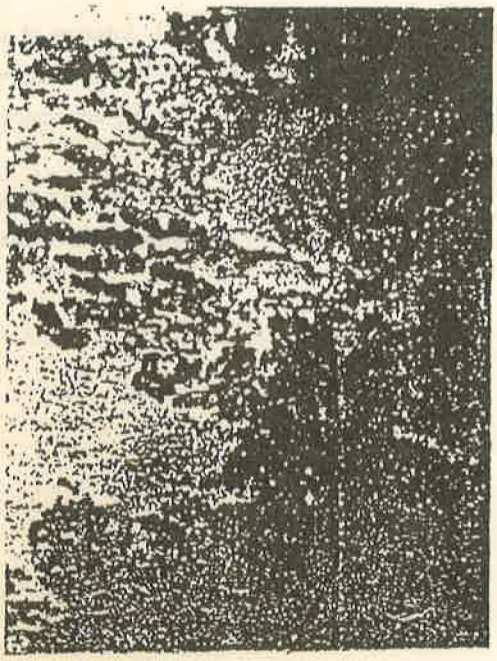

Fig.1. Trophozoites of *Balantidium coli* in intestine H. & E. x 70

Present address :

[1]Associate Professor, Department of Veterinary Pathology, Lakhimpur College of Veterinary Science, Azad, North Lakhimpur, Assam, 787 001.

[2]Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Science.

possible explanation is the maintenance of sylvatic cycle in the wild animals. Trophozoites of *Balantidium coli* were observed in the tissue section of intestine (Fig.1). These corresponded the finding of Power and Price (1967).

Acknowledgements

The first author is grateful to the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research for the financial assistance in the form of Senior Research Fellowship, and to the Zoo authorities for the materials provided.

References

Chakraborty A and Islam S. 1993, A survey of gastrointestinal parasitic infection in free living rhinoceros of the Kaziranga National Park. *Indian Journal of Animal Sciences* 63 : 155-57.

Jones D.M. 1979. The husbandry and Veterinary care of captive rhinoceros. *International Zoo Year Book* 19 : 239-52

Powers R.D. and Price R.A. 1967. Human tuberculosis in a rhinoceros. *American Journal of Veterinary Medical Association* 151 : 890-92.