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## Epidemiological investigation of Paramphistomiasis in cattle at selected areas of Sirajgonj district of Bangladesh

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### Abstract

To investigate the Epidemiology of *Paramphistomum* infection in cattle, faecal samples from 360 cattle were collected from individual areas of the Sirajgonj district from March 2009 to April 2010. One hundred and ninety one animals (53.1%) were infected with single or multiple species of *Paramphistomum*. Age of animals significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) influenced the prevalence of Paramphistomiasis. Older animals suffered (60.3%) more than growing (44.4%) and young (54.0%) ones. Older animals were 1.94 times more susceptible than growing animals. Furthermore, females were more (59.5%; 1.79 times) susceptible to *Paramphistomum* spp. than males (45%). Breed has also significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) effect. The prevalence of Paramphistomiasis was higher ( $p < 0.05$ ) in crossbred (61.8%) animals than that of local (49.2%) cattle. The crossbreed cattle were 1.7 times more susceptible than indigenous cattle. The prevalence of Paramphistomiasis in cattle varied ( $p < 0.05$ ) depending on the season of the year; being highest in the rainy season (60.8%) followed by the summer (50%) and lowest during the winter (48.3%). A high percentage of paramphistomiasis was recorded in the cattle studied during the winter irrespective of age and genetics of animals and seasons of the year.

**Keywords:** Cattle breeds, Paramphistomiasis, Prevalence, Sirajgonj

### Introduction

In Bangladesh, there are many constraints in cattle production, among them malnutrition and parasitism are the major limiting factors (Jabber and Green, 1983). The losses due to parasitism take in the form of mortality, lower general health condition, retarded growth, decrease in the production of milk and meat and lower output of work (Faiz, 1972). The geo-climatic conditions together with the water-logged and low-lying areas in Bangladesh are conducive to parasitic diseases in domestic ruminants. Infact, cattle of Bangladesh are affected by various types of helminth parasites (Rahman and Razzak, 1973; Rahaman and Mondal, 1983). Experts from both government and non-government organization in Bangladesh believe that parasitic diseases are of enormous economic importance (Islam, 1985). In ruminants, paramphistomiasis is often associated with diarrhea, loss of body condition, rough hair coat, dullness, weakness, loss of appetite, intestinal haemorrhages, anemia, reduced milk production and intermandibular swelling (Chandrasekharan *et al.*, 1982). The flukes is widespread in Bangladesh (Hosain and Baki, 1987; Rabbani, 1992 ; Saifuzzaman, 1996). Afazuddin (1985) estimated an annual economic loss of about 1400\$ due to various parasitic diseases in cattle in military farm, Savar, Dhaka. The paramphistomum is normally present in cattle gastro-intestinal tract but over loading has an adverse effect. However, the epidemiological study of Paramphistomiasis has not yet been investigated properly in cattle at the char areas of Sirajgonj district in Bangladesh. The aim of present investigation was to study the prevalence of Paramphistomiasis in cattle in Sirajgonj District of Bangladesh.

### Materials and Methods

Faecal samples from 120 cattle were collected from selected areas of the Sirajgonj district during a period from March 2009 to April. Morphological examination of eggs was conducted in Upazilla Livestock office, Kazipur.

Cattle at 6 months or older age were selected. The age of the animal were determined by observing teeth eruption and taking history from owner. During collection of samples data on the age, sex, breed, place of farming and season of the year carefully recorded. The cattle were grouped into three groups: Growing animals (6 months- 2 years); Young animals (> 2- 5 years); older animals (> 5 years).

Faecal samples were collected directly from the rectum and also from recently voided faeces of 360 cattle in every season summer (March to June), rainy (July to October) and winter (November to February) from different villages of the Sirajgonj district. Collected samples were taken in small polythene bag which were identified properly as per age, sex and breed of the animals. The samples were transferred to Upazilla Livestock office, Kazipur and within 1-3 hours following the method described by Solusby (1982).

#### Technique of total egg count per gram of feces (EPG) (Solusby 1982)

The fecal sample was first well mixed and then 3 gm were weighed and put in 100 ml beaker containing 45 ml of water. Some glass beads were added. The feces were thoroughly mixed with a magnetic stirrer. The mixture was strained through a coffee strainer. The strained mixture was again shaken and 0.15 ml of the mixture was taken with a 1ml syringe and put on a slide and covered with a cover slip. The slide was then placed under a microscope and the *Paramphistomum* eggs were identified on the basis of their characteristics morphological features as described by Solusby (1982) and then counted. The counted total number of eggs found in one slide was multiplied by 100 to get the EPG. (Egg per gram feces).

**Statistical analysis:** The influence of considered factors on the prevalence of paramphistomiasis, were analyzed by logistic regression. The regression was done following the methods described by Mostafa (1989) by using SPSS (Version 11.5) software.

### Results and Discussion

**Prevalence of Paramphistomosis:** Details of the prevalence of Paramphistomiasis in cattle of the selected areas of the Sirajgonj district with regards to age, sex, and breed of animals and feeding system in three seasons are shown in the Table 1. The present investigation revealed a high percentage of Paramphistomiasis (53.1% in faecal sample) in cattle in sirajgonj area. However, faecal examination of cattle and buffaloes from some limited areas of Bangladesh have also suggested that the prevalence of Paramphistomiasis is very much common in Bangladesh. (Afazuddin, 1985; Rahman and Mondal, 1983; Rabbani, 1992 and Saifuzzaman, 1996). The overall Prevalence of Paramphistomiasis recorded in cattle was very similar with, Saifuzzaman (1996), 52.2%; Sahay *et al.* (1989), 58.3% and slightly lower than the reports of Rahman & Razzak (1973), 62.6%; and higher than the reports of Rahman and Mondal (1983), 21.6%; Islam & Samad (1989), 46.3%. This variation in the prevalence of Paramphistomiasis in cattle may be due to agro ecological conditions, animal husbandry practices and breeds of animal.

**Effects of breed on paramphistomiasis:** The prevalence of Paramphistomiasis was higher in crossbred cattle (61.8%) than that in indigenous cattle (49.2%). The difference between breeds was significant ( $P<0.05$ ). The higher prevalence of Paramphistomiasis in crossbred cattle may be due to their lower resistance to tropical diseases than indigenous animals.

**Effects of age of the cattle on paramphistomiasis:** The prevalence of Paramphistomiasis varied depending on their age in cattle (Table 1;  $P<0.05$ ). Highest rate of infection was found in the older cattle (60.3%). The lower rate of infection was found in the young animals (54.0%) and the lowest rate of infection was recorded in the growing calves (44.4%). This result is in agreement with the earlier findings of Okafor *et al.* (1988) who reported that there was an age limit in the prevalence of Paramphistomiasis. They also reported that heavy infection was found in cattle more than five years of age. The reason for this variation in the prevalence of infection in different age groups in cattle is difficult to explain but it might be due to an age related variation in resistance to disease and grazing habit (Okafor *et al.*, 1988).

**Sex related prevalence rate:** The prevalence of paramphistomiasis in female animals was 59.5% and in male animals was 45% and the difference between males and females significant ( $P<0.05$ ). Saifuzzaman (1996) reported that the percentage of paramphistomum infection in male and female cattle was 45.5% and 55.6%, respectively. The higher percentage of infection in the females may be due to the alteration in the physiological condition of the animals during pregnancy and lactation (production activity) and also the lack of feed supplement for production, which may lead to the lowering of body resistance of the females.

**Seasonal effect on prevalence of paramphistomiasis in cattle:** The prevalence of paramphistome infection in cattle during the rainy, winter and summer seasons were 60.8%, 48.3% and 50%, respectively (Table 1) which were varied significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ). This result is closely related to the reports of Petkov *et al.* (1988); Dakshinker and Sandy (1982) and Okafor *et al.* (1988). However, Manna *et al.* (1994) reported that the highest incidence of Paramphistomiasis was in the summer season. This variation might be due to different climatic factors such as temperature, rainfall and humidity which influence the availability of intermediate host, other agro- climatic condition and ecology of the vector and host.

**Feeding habit and prevalence of paramphistomiasis in cattle:** The prevalence of Paramphistomiasis was higher in grazing cattle (62.5%) than that of stalled cattle (45.5%); however the difference was not significant (Table 1).

**Table 1. Prevalence of paramphistomiasis in three seasons in the selected areas of the Sirajgonj district with regard to breed, age and sex of the animals and feeding system**

Factors	Numbers of animals examined	Percent of animals infected	Odds ratio
Seasons*			
i. Summer	120	50.0	1.55
ii. Rainy	120	60.8	1.66
iii. Winter	120	48.3	\$
Breeds*			
i. Crossbred	110	61.8	1.67
ii. Indigenous	250	49.2	\$
Age groups*			
i. Growing	124	44.4	\$
ii. Young	100	54.0	1.29
iii. Older	136	60.3	1.94
Sex groups*			
i. Male	72	45.0	\$
ii. Female	119	59.5	1.79
Feeding management			
i. Grazing	160	62.5	1.99
ii. Stall feeding	200	45.5	\$

\* indicate  $P$  value  $< 0.05$  and significantly varies each other and \$ indicate the base category of logistic regression

It may be concluded that the prevalence of *Paramphistomum* Spp. in cattle is common in Sirajgonj area on Bangladesh. Female, crossbred and older cattle were more susceptible to paramphistomum infection. From our clinical and field experiment it is observed that the disease is diagnosed throughout the year, but its prevalence is more in rainy season than that of other seasons.

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