

## EPIZOOTIOLOGICAL STUDY ON THE GASTROINTESTINAL PARASITISM AND ITS CONTROL IN FREE RANGING JACKAL (*CANIS AUREUS*)

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*Received January 3, 2010 and Accepted June 11, 2010*

**ABSTRACT :** The present work was conducted in the year 2005-06 to study the prevalence of gastrointestinal parasites and parasitic load in free ranging jackal (*Canis aureus*) in Van Vihar National Park, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The freshly laid scat samples were collected and screened for gastrointestinal parasites by employing qualitative and quantitative estimation techniques. Out of 13 samples of jackal, 9 (69.23%) were positive for various parasitic infections with 44.44% mixed infection. A total of 38.46% animals were positive for strongyles, 15.38% for *Strongyloides* sp. and 46.15% for coccidia. The results obtained after employing parasitic egg/oocyst counting techniques in the positive faecal samples showed higher overall mean EPG for strongyles ( $350 \pm 110.55$ ) and comparatively lower ( $100 \pm 100$ ) for *Strongyloides*. The overall mean OPG for coccidia was  $1920 \pm 300.67$ . The high parasitic prevalence and EPG/OPG in the present study indicates the presence of factors which makes accessibility of the animals to infections in the soil, food, water and vectors. Improvement of hygiene in the animals surrounding viz. removal of weeds and bush cutting to reduce the vector load, cleaning of waterholes and scientific disposal of solid wastes received from captive carnivore housings will automatically reduce the infection. The use of rotational cropping of pastures can further reduce the influence of mat formation and therefore parasitic survival. The chances of acquiring parasitic infection around waterholes can be controlled by suitable physical, chemical and biological methods.

**Key Words:** Scat, infection, egg per gram of faeces (EPG), oocyst per gram of faeces (OPG).