Short Communication

SEASONAL PREVALENCE OF GASTROINTESTINAL HELMINTHS IN GOATS

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Parasitic infections are severe constraints to livestock productivity and cause considerable economic losses. Like other species, goats are also highly susceptible to variety of gastrointestinal parasites. Various factors *viz*. age, sex, season and agro-climatic conditions are responsible for the prevalence of helminthic infection. Seasonal variation in prevalence or intensity of gastrointestinal parasitic infection in goats has been reported from Nagpur, India (Maske *et al*., 1990). Hence present study was carried out to assess the occurrence of gastrointestinal helminths in goat during different season under the agroclimatic condition of Assam.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A total of 826 faecal samples of goats were examined in the present study. Faecal samples were collected in polythene bags and brought to the laboratory for examination. The data for the present study was collected irrespective of breed, age and sex from the Directorate of Clinics, College of Veterinary Science, Assam recorded from January 2005 to December 2005, covering four different seasons of the year viz. premonsoon (March to May), monsoon (June to August), post monsoon (September to November) and winter (December to February). The faecal samples were subjected to both sedimentation and floatation techniques and the ova of parasites were identified as described by Soulsby (1982). The prevalence of infection in different season was derived in terms of percentage of the total samples examined.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Out of 826 samples examined 542 (65.62%) showed the presence of parasitic infections. Of these, 350 (64.57%) had single and 9 (2.51%) had mixed infection. In contrast to the present findings Maske *et al*. (1990) reported a higher percentage (88.23%) of parasitic prevalence in the goats at Nagpur (Maharastra).

The helminths encountered in the present study were *Oesophagostomum* sp., *Haemonchus* sp., *Trichostrongylus* sp., *Trichuris* sp., *Bunostomum* sp., *Mecistocirrus* sp., *Gongylonema* sp., *Strongyloides* sp., *Fasciola* sp., *Paramphistomum* sp. and *Moniezia* sp. All the helminthes larvae were identified after coproculture by using the key of HMSO (1979) methods.

The highest percentage (83.21%) of helminthic infection was recorded in monsoon season (June – August) and the lowest was recorded in winter season (46.41%). Similar finding was recorded by Maske *et al*. (1990). The higher percentage recorded in the monsoon season might be due to higher rainfall and relative humidity that favours environment for the development and dissemination of exogenous stage of worms. High rainfall provide suitable molarity of salt present in soil, which is an important factor for ecdysis (Soulsby, 1966). It helps in larval dispersion on the herbage, which increases the chance of contact between host and larvae.

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