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Hardeep Kalkal

PhD Scholar, Department of Veterinary Parasitology, College of Veterinary Sciences Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Hisar, India

Sukhdeep Vohra

Senior Scientist, Department of Veterinary Parasitology, College of Veterinary Sciences Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Hisar, India

Snehil Gupta

Assistant Professor, Department of Veterinary Parasitology, College of Veterinary Sciences Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Hisar, India

Corresponding Author: Hardeep Kalkal PhD Scholar, Department of Veterinary Parasitology, College of Veterinary Sciences Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Hisar, India

Prevalence of gastrointestinal parasites in buffaloes in and around Hisar district, Haryana, India

Hardeep Kalkal, Sukhdeep Vohra and Snehil Gupta

Abstract

During the present study, a total of 400 buffalo faecal samples was collected from four blocks (Hisar-1, Hisar-2, Adampur and Agroha) of Hisar district, Haryana along with their age and sex to know the prevalence of gastrointestinal (GI) parasitic infection. Samples were examined using floatation and sedimentation techniques and data generated was statistically analyzed using IBM SPSS software (version 20). A total of 329 (82.25%) samples were infected with one or more species of GI parasites. In positive cases, *Eimeria* spp. (56.25%) was the most prevalent followed by *Strongyloides* spp. 30%, strongyles 26.75%, *Moniezia* spp. 6% and *Trichuris* spp. 5.57%. Age-wise prevalence of *Eimeria* spp. 42% was found higher (p<0.01) in animals below six months of age, however, higher (p<0.01) prevalence of *Strongyloides* spp. 20% and strongyles 17.25% was recorded in animals above 6 months. Sex wise prevalence of *Eimeria* spp. 45.75% was found higher (p<0.01) in females as compared to males. *Strongyloides*, strongyles, *Moniezia* and *Trichuris* spp. were also recoded higher in female but not significant (p>0.05).

Keywords: Buffalo, Eimeria spp., prevalence, gastrointestinal, Haryana

1. Introduction

Parasitic infestation is a major constraint of livestock and causes great economic loss to the dairy industry by way of retarded growth, low productivity and increased susceptibility of animals to other infections (Yadav *et al.* 2004) ^[13]. Buffaloes are raised as economically important animals because they are multipurpose animals providing milk, meat and good quality hides (Liu *et al.* 2009) ^[10]. In India, the majority of small and marginal farmers are more dependent on buffaloes than cattle for their livelihood as they also serve as an insurance against the risk of crop failure due to natural calamities (Dhanda, 2004) ^[4]. The global population of buffaloes (*Bubalus bubalis*) spread in some 42 countries is estimated to be approximately 177.2 million of which 97% (171 million) and 55.7% (98.7 million) are found in Asia and India, respectively (FAO, 2008) ^[5]. However, information on the prevalence and distribution of gastrointestinal parasites in buffalo from Haryana, India is very fragmentary and scanty. The current study was carried out to determine the levels of GI infections of buffalo in the Hisar, Haryana and to determine the effects of age and sex on the prevalence of GI parasitism to form a basis for formulating strategies for parasite control.

2. Material and Methods

2.1 Location, Geography and Climate

The district Hisar of Haryana is located at 2905'5" north latitude and 75045'55" east longitudes. It covers a geographical area of 3,983 Sq. Km. and elevated from sea 215m (705ft).

2.2 Sample collection and analysis

A total of 400 faecal samples were collected from buffaloes of Hisar districts. Multi-stage stratified random sampling was done while collecting the faecal sample from Hisar districts. Four blocks were randomly selected from Hisar district and from each block four villages were randomly selected and 25 samples were collected from each village. Only one faecal sample was taken from each wiling household covering a cross-section of the village. Samples were examined using floatation and sedimentation techniques. Effect of age (1-6 months and 6 months above) and sex (male and female) was epidemiologically investigated.

2.3 Statistical analysis

The data generated were statistically analysed using IBM SPSS software version 20). Chisquare test was applied for epidemiological investigations.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Prevalence of GI parasites

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Moniezia spp.

Trichuris spp.

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The results of the survey revealed the prevalence of GI parasitic infections in buffalo of Hisar as 82.25% and *Eimeria*

spp. 56.25% was the most prevalent GI parasite followed by *Strongyloides* spp. 30%, Strongyles spp. 26.75%, *Moniezia* spp. 6% and *Trichuris* spp. 5.57% as shown in Table 1.

Parasite	No. of samples positive	Total no. of samples	Per cent of prevalence	
Eimeria spp.	225		56.25	
Strongyloides spp.	120		30.00	
Strongyles spp.	107	400	26.75	
Moniezia spp.	24		6	
Trichuris spp.	23		5.75	

 Table 1: Prevalence of GI parasites in Hisar, Haryana.

Parasite	No. of sa	nples positive	Total no. of samples	Per cent o	of prevalence
rarasite	1-6 months	Above 6 months	Total no. of samples	1-6 months	Above 6 months
Eimeria spp.	168	57		42	14.25
trongyloides spp.	40	80		10	20
Strongyles spp.	38	69	400	9.5	17.25

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Table 2: Age-wise prevalence of GI parasites in Hisar, Haryana.

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Table 3: Sex	wise pre	valence of	GI	parasites	in	Hisar,	Haryana.	
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Parasite	No. of samples positive		Total no of complete	Per cent of prevalence		
	Male	Female	- Total no. of samples	Male	Female	
Eimeria spp.	42	183		10.5	45.75	
Strongyloides spp.	25	95		6.25	23.75	
Strongyles spp.	27	102	400	6.75	25.5	
Moniezia spp.	8	16		2	4	
Trichuris spp.	7	16		1.75	4	

The higher prevalence of GI parasitism recorded from buffalo may be attributed to the feeding habit and habitats of the animal and non-adoption of prophylactic measures as regular deworming with quality dewormer and recommended dose for calves in field conditions (Bilal *et al.*, 2009) ^[3]. Higher prevalence of *Eimeria*, *Strongyloides* and strongyles spp. infection was recorded because of the presence of environmental condition favourable for the development of pre-parasitic free-living stages of concerned parasites these report are more or less similar and reported from various parts of India (Jyoti *et al.* 2012; Muraleedharan, 2005; Gupta *et al.* 1990; Hirani *et al.* 1999; Kaur and Kaur, 2008 and Singh *et al.* 2008) ^{[8, 11, 6, 7, 9, 12].}

3.2 Age-wise prevalence of GI parasites in buffalo calves

Age-wise prevalence of *Eimeria* spp. 42% was found higher (p<0.01) in animals below six months of age, however, higher (p<0.01) prevalence of *Strongyloides* spp. 20% and strongyles 17.25% was recorded in animals above 6 months (Table 2). The findings of the present study are more or less similar to earlier reports (Jyoti *et al.* 2012 and Bharkad *et al.*, 1999)^[8].

3.3 Sex wise prevalence of GI parasites in buffalo calves

Sex wise prevalence of *Eimeria* spp. 45.75% was found higher (p<0.01) in females as compared to males. *Strongyloides*, strongyles, *Moniezia* and *Trichuris* spp. were also recoded higher in female but not significant (p>0.05) other details are shown in Table 3. More or less similar prevalence rates had been reported from both sexes of buffaloes but in calves (Jyoti *et al.* 2012 and Kaur and Kaur, 2008 and Singh *et al.* 2008)^[8, 9, 12].

4. Conclusion

The results of the present investigation indicated that the

prevalence of GI parasites in buffaloes is very common irrespective of age and sex of the animal. Keeping in view the present findings, it can be concluded that there is an urgent need for chemotherapeutic and prophylactic strategies for the helminthes control in this region of Haryana.

2.75

3.5

3.25

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