PREVALENCE OF GASTROINTESTINAL HELMINTHS IN SHEEP AND GOATS IN THE NILGIRIS

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Gastrointestinal tracts of 10 adult sheep from the Sheep Breeding Research Station (SBRS, Sandynallah) and 8 goats from slaughter house, Thalakuntha, were examined for the prevalence of gastrointestinal helminths. Three sheep entrails (30.0%) had multiple helminthic infection comprising Haemonchus contortus, Oesophagostomum columbianum, Trichostrongylus sp. and Trichuris ovis involving two or more species of helminths. Similarly, two goat entrails (25.0%) had multiple helminthic infections comprising of H. contortus, O. columbianum, O. aspersum, Bunostomum trigonocephalum and Moniezia sp., involving two or more species of helminths. Faecal samples of sheep (60 Nos.) from SBRS were also collected from individual animals and the faecal egg counts were done to confirm the intensity of helminth infection. All the samples (100%) were found positive for helminth eggs with a faecal egg counts in the range of 200-5,200 per gram. The coproculture studies also revealed the predominant presence of H. contortus followed by Oesophagostomum sp. and Trichostrongylus sp.

Key words: prevalence, gastrointestinal helminths, sheep and goats, Nilgiris