ON THE INCIDENCE OF
EMERIA LEUKARTI (FLESCH, 1883) REICHENOW, 1940
IN A HORSE IN MADRAS

Horses do not harbour more than a few species of coccidia and their incidences are also few and far between. Consequently very little information is available on equine coccidiosis. The species reported so far are: Eimeria leuckarti (Flesch, 1883) Reichenow, 1940, E. solipedum Gousseff, 1934 and E. antungulati Gousseff, 1934. Two other species have also been recorded. Pellerdy (1965) regards E. utinensts Selan and Vittoria, 1924 as a nomen nudum since the description and illustrations published are very imperfect, while the specific determination of the new species of Eimeria described by Zulinski (1957) has not been furnished. In India the only report of equine coccidia is by Hiregudaar (1956) on E. leuckarti from a horse in Bombay.

During the routine examination of dung samples from race horses attending the Equine Hospital, Madras Race Club, Madras, large sized, dark brown oocysts referable to E. leuckarti were encountered (Fig. 1). As no equine coccidia has so far been met with in this part of the country a detailed study of the material was undertaken.

The oocysts were oval and measured 80.6 x 47.3 μ. The dark brown outer wall was 4.7 x 7.5 μ. thick. The micropyle was distinct. The sporulation time was found to be 16 days. Sporocysts measured 30.5 x 10.4 μ. Sporozoites were 18.2 μ. long and 4.8 μ. broad (Fig. 2). The measurements were generally in conformity with those described by Hiregudaar (loc. cit).

Hammert-Halswick (1943) incriminated this parasite as markedly pathogenic. But Hiregudaar (loc. cit) did not report pathogenicity even though he came across a large number of oocysts. In the present case infection was mild and the horse was apparently normal.
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**Fig. 1**
Photomicrograph of unsporulated oocyst of *Eimeria leukarti*

**Fig. 2**
Photomicrograph of sporulated oocyst of *Eimeria leukarti*