Histomorphology of the Oviduct in Laying and Non-Laying Emu Birds (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*)

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The histomorphological study was carried out on six mature female emu birds at their non-laying stage and six birds at their laying stage. The tissues collected from ovary, infundibulum, magnum, isthmus, uterus and vagina of oviduct were processed for routine histological study. The length of the oviduct in laying birds was $133.18 \pm 9.45$ cm and in non-laying birds the length decreased to $114.25 \pm 14.35$ cm. In the tubular part of infundibulum, the folds were relatively well developed and showed secondary and tertiary folds. It was lined by pseudo-stratified ciliated columnar epithelium with goblet cells. The funnel part was devoid of folds and was lined by simple tall columnar ciliated epithelium. The glands of the lamina propria were observed throughout the folds and were opening directly between mucosal folds and glandular crypts. The magnum showed tall and broad mucosal folds with secondary folds with epithelial invaginations into the lamina propria of laying bird. The tunica mucosa was lined by pseudo-stratified ciliated columnar epithelium with numerous goblet cells. The tubular glands were more in number and closely packed together in all mucosal folds of the magnum in laying emu birds. The mucosal folds in the isthmus were long and narrow compared to those of the magnum. The wall of the shell gland was thicker than that of the magnum and the isthmus. The mucosal folds in the shell gland were numerous numbering more than 50. They were tall, narrow, compact and showed the secondary folds with epithelial invaginations. Unlike other compartments the vagina was devoid of tubular glands. The tunica muscularis was particularly well developed than in any other part of the oviduct.

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