PREVALENCE OF ECTOPARASITES IN POULTRY

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A study was carried out in and around Hassan to know the prevalence of ectoparasite infestation in poultry. A total of 336 birds were screened for ectoparasitic infestation which included 48 desi birds and 288 commercial birds. Out of 48 desi birds screened 19 were found to be infested with ectoparasites. The desi birds had only lice infestation viz., Menopon gallinae on 10
(52.6%) birds, *Lipeurus caponis* on 6 (31.6%) birds, *Goniodes gigas* on 2 (10.5%) birds and *Goniocotes gallinae* (5%) on only one bird. Among 288 commercial birds screened, 82 were found to harbor ectoparasites in which 71 had lice infestation, 8 birds had mite infestation and only 3 (3.7%) birds had mixed infestation with lice and mites. The species of lice found in commercial birds were *Menopon gallinae* on 33 (40.2%) birds, *Menacanthus stramineus* on 15 (18.3%) birds, *Lipeurus caponis* on 23 (28%) birds and the mite species found was *Ornithonyssus bursa*.

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