CONCURRENT INFECTION OF ASCARIDIA GALLI AND CAPILLARIA SP. IN A CAPTIVE PIGEON (COLUMBA LIVIA) - A CASE REPORT

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Round worms are commonly reported from domestic birds. They are known to cause mortality in heavy infections. In the present study, a pigeon carcass received from bird keeper in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh was investigated for cause of death. The bird keeper reported that the bird showed reduced feed intake and passed diarrheic feces for the past 4 days. The submitted carcass was weak and necropsy revealed presence of numerous large round worms in small intestine that have completely occluded the lumen. Examination of mucosal contents from
duodenum, jejunum and ileum revealed numerous thin worms along with larger round worms. The mucosa of duodenum and jejunum showed varying sizes of hemorrhagic foci. The larger round worms were identified as Ascaridia galli based on morphological features, while the thin worms were identified as Capillaria sp. based on microscopic morphology of worms and eggs. Faecal examination also confirmed the presence of eggs of Ascaridia sp. and Capillaria sp. and no evidence for oocysts of protozoan parasites. Histopathology of intestine revealed sections of parasites and their eggs in the lumen, denuded epithelia, marked villus atrophy and infiltration predominantly by mononuclear lymphoid cells and few heterophils. These findings highlight the importance of round worm infections in pet birds. Ingestion of feeds and water contaminated with infective eggs/ larvae or exposure to intermediate host like earthworms causes the disease in birds. To avoid helminthic infections, regular screening and deworming is important in domestic and pet birds.

**Keywords:** Ascaridia galli, Capillaria sp., Captive pigeons, Histopathology