

**BEHAVIOURAL AND HEALTH ASSESSMENT  
STUDIES ON FREE RANGING BLUE PEAFOWL  
(*Pavo cristatus*) IN SOUTH TAMILNADU**

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*to the*

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# TAMILNADU VETERINARY AND ANIMAL SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

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## CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis entitled "**BEHAVIOURAL AND HEALTH ASSESSMENT STUDIES ON FREE RANGING BLUE PEA FOWL (*Pavo cristatus*) IN SOUTH TAMILNADU**" submitted in part fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of **MASTER OF VETERINARY SCIENCE IN WILDLIFE SCIENCE** to the Tamilnadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Chennai is a record of bonafied research work carried out by **Dr.K.S.SUBRAMANIAN** under my supervision and guidance and that no part of this thesis has been submitted for the award of any other degree, diploma, fellowship or other similar titles or prizes and that the work has not been published in part or full in any scientific or popular journal or magazine.

Place : Chennai - 7.

Date : 16/12/99

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## ABSTRACT

<b>Title</b>	:	<b>BEHAVIOURAL AND HEALTH ASSESSMENT STUDIES ON FREE RANGING BLUE PEAFOWL (<i>Pavo cristatus</i>) IN SOUTH TAMILNADU</b>
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Studies on behavioural and health related aspects of free ranging blue peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*) were carried out for 7 months from April to October 1999 in two places namely Deer park, Tirunelveli and Vivekananda kendra, Kanyakumari, Tamilnadu.

Observations on behaviour, social organization, feeding and foraging, light intensity in relation to feeding and roosting, roosting and high pitch vocal sound level of the peacock were recorded.

The collected faecal samples of peafowl were screened for the incidence of helminth and intestinal protozoan parasites. The measurement of

parasitic ova, coccidian oocysts and nematode worms were carried out using micrometry and identified. The incidence of nematode ova includes *Ascarid*, *Heterakid*, *Syngamus*, *Acanthocephalan*, *Strongyle*, *Strongyloides* and *Capillaria*. An unidentified *Cestode* egg was also detected. Two species of coccidian oocysts namely *Eimeria* sp. and *Isospora* sp. along with several unidentified intestinal protozoan cysts were also recorded.

During the period of study, the overall and monthwise incidence of endoparasitic infection were assessed by eggs per gram of faeces.

The incidence of various species of endoparasitic infection revealed a monthwise variation in both the study areas.

The ectoparasites collected from the peafowls were processed and identified as *Haemaphysalis* sp., *Ctenocephalides felis orientalis* and *Menacanthus* sp.