

A CASE STUDY

Occurrence of *Ascaridia galli* (Schrank, 1788) Freeborn, 1923 in *Rana tigrina* from Walnuj Maharashtra, India

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The present study deals with the specimens of the genus *Ascaridia* collected from the intestine of frog (*Rana tigrina*, Daud) from Walnuj MIDC, Aurangabad (M.S.). Frog is not the common host of this genus. The species of this genus are the parasites of the galliform birds, pigeons, jungle crow and cranes. There is only one species described from an elephant. As the parasites having host specificity this case of an accidental infection in the host, *Rana tigrina*.

Toad (*Bufo melanostictus*) forms one of the important components of an ecosystem which is abundant in nature and helps to maintain the balance of nature like other amphibians. The effect of parasites in animal ecology has received much attention in recent years. The host and its parasites constitute a community of organism living in close intimacy and exerting a profound effect on each other. These toads have a luxuriant nematode fauna in major part of their alimentary tract. The present study shows the recovery of a nematode parasite from amphibians which are not a common host and found in ruminant mammals. Thus this forms the report of an accidental infection of this species.

For this study 6 live frogs were brought to the laboratory from the Walnuj MIDC area of Aurangabad, Maharashtra. They were examined thoroughly for nematode infection. Among 6 hosts only one was infected with these nematode species. After collection of nematodes from the intestine of freshly killed hosts they killed immediately by putting them in 70% hot alcohol and preserved in 70% alcohol with a few drops of glycerin with a label containing name of host, locality, location

of parasite and date of collection. Before storing the parasites into 70% glycerin alcohol they were washed a few minute in 70% alcohol to prevent darkening.

All the measurements are in mm and drawings are made with the help of Camera Lucida. Classification based on CIH keys of Nematode parasites of Vertebrates (Chabaud, 1978).

Classification:

Order: Ascaridia

Super family: Heterakoidea

Family: Ascaridiidae Travassos, 1919.

Genus: *Ascaridia* Dujardin, 1845.

Species: *Ascaridia galli* (Schrank, 1788)

Material examined :

One male and one female

Host: *Rana tigrina*

Location: small intestine

Locality: Walnuj MIDC area of Aurangabad (M.S.), India.

Date: June07- May08.

Diagnosis:

Oral aperture encircled by 3 more or less equal lips. Oesophagus elongate, gradually widening posteriorly but not forming a bulb ventriculus, appendix absent, lateral alae present.

Male :

Body 6.64- 6.14 long, 0.59- 0.57 wide nerve ring 0.192 from anterior end, oesophagus 1.28- 1.2 in length, tail conical, tip pointed and 0.176- 0.208 long; spicules sub equal, expanded slightly to proximal end and narrow to distal end, ending in a blunt tip; the right spicule 0.59- 0.49 and the left spicule 0.43- 0.38 long,

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