

Short Communication

BIOMETRY OF TESTICLES AND SPERMATOOZOA OF INDIAN SPOTTED LEOPARD (*Panthera pardus*)

Leopard, the most widespread member of the cat family is one of the five species of the genus *Panthera*. It is distributed in Africa, South Asia, Arabia and Far East. Over most of their range leopards have no particular breeding season. Sexual maturity is probably achieved in leopards in about 2.5 y (Macdonald, 1984). The biometry of testicles and spermatozoa of an adult Indian spotted leopard collected at post-mortem is presented in this paper.

Testicles were recovered from the carcass of a leopard brought for post-mortem examination at College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Mannuthy, Thrissur. (Fig. 1)

The testicles after recovery were washed in normal saline and weighed separately. The length, width and thickness of both testicles were also recorded. Recovery of epididymal spermatozoa was effected by aspirating the contents using a Pasteur pipette and then transferring them to formal saline. Smears prepared using the sample were stained with eosin-nigrosin and examined under oil immersion objective of the microscope. The biometry of 100 spermatozoa was recorded at random and the average was taken.

The length, width and thickness of the left and right testicles were 3.1 x 2.0 x 1.6 cm and

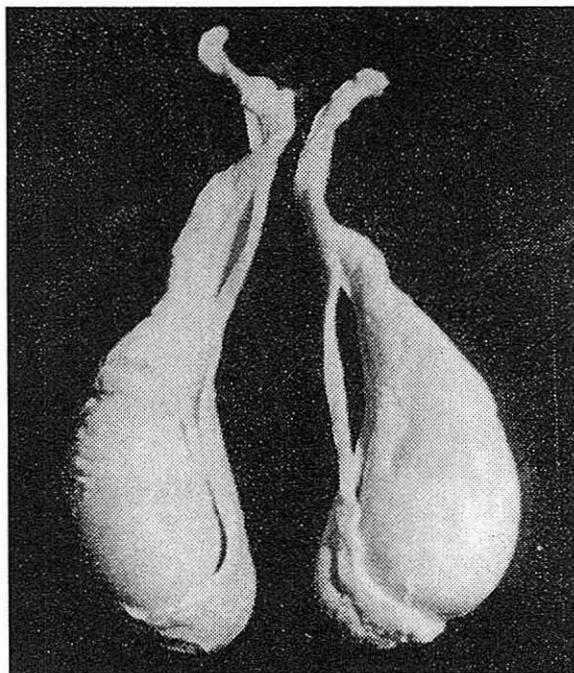


Fig. 1 Testicles recovered from the carcass of the leopard

3.2 x 2.1 x 1.7 cm respectively and the corresponding weights were 16 and 17g. The average length and width of the head of the spermatozoa were 4.7 and 3.1 μm respectively. The midpiece and tail length averaged between 6.28 to 7.85 μm and 25.12 to 31.40 μm respectively.

Summary

The biometry of testicles and spermatozoa of an adult Indian spotted leopard is placed on record.

G. Ajit Kumar and C.P.N. Iyer*

Department of Animal Reproduction
College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences,
Mannuthy, Thrissur, Kerala

References

Macdonald, D. (1984). The Encyclopedia of Mammals: I. Gorge All and Unvin. London. pp.45

* *Since deceased*