

Short communication

OCCURRENCE OF *Porrocaecum depressum* (Zeder, 1800., Baylis, 1920) IN AN IGUANID LIZARD (*Iguana iguana*)

Anisakid nematodes of the genera *Porrocaecum*, *Contracaecum* and *Multicaecum* are common parasites inhabiting the alimentary tract of reptiles, marine birds and mammals (Frey and Kutzer, 1982). Earthworms, cyclops and fishes are the natural intermediate hosts for the above parasites. The present paper reports occurrence of *Porrocaecum* sp. in a subadult, female, green, iguanid lizard brought for postmortem from Madras Snake Park Trust, Chennai.

On postmortem about twenty worms were collected from small intestine and were preserved in 5% formalin for further identification. Later they were identified as *Porrocaecum depressum* as per the descriptions given by Baylis (1936) and Yamaguti (1961).

The male worms measured 18-24 x 0.18-0.23 mm, while the females were of 23-31 x 0.2-0.3 mm in length and width respectively. Cuticular striations were prominently seen. The dorsal lip had two bifurcated anterior lobes and a large median lobe which projected anteriorly. The oesophagus with posterior oblong ventriculus and forwardly projecting anterior caecum along the oesophagus were the other characteristic features observed. The tail end of the male had a blunt conical terminal prolongation without caudal alae. The spicules were equal. In females the vulval opening was found near the middle of the body and the characteristic ascarid eggs were seen in the uterus.

On enquiry, the animal had bouts of diarrhoea with progressive emaciation before death. There were a few petechial haemorrhages with congestion in the intestinal mucosa.

There are earlier reports on the occurrence of *Porrocaecum depressum* in shrews, moles and in birds (Baylis, 1936; Cosgrove, 1986, Frey and Kutzer, 1982) and its occurrence in an iguanid lizard kept in captivity is reported in this paper.

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