

NEW RECORD SPECIES *COTUGNIA ALII* (SHINDE, 2002) CESTODE IN BASRAH, IRAQ PARASITIZED IN *GALLUS GALLUS DOMESTICUS*

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ABSTRACT : The genus *Cotugnia* was erected by Diamare (1893) with type species *C. digonopora*, collected from domestic chicken. Twenty-six cestodes were collected from intestine of six domestic fowl *Gallus gallus domesticus* in Basrah, Iraq with incidence (24%) and (4.3) intensity of infection. *Cotugnia alii* was first recorded infected domestic fowl in Iraq, which is characterized with large scolex quadrangular measuring 0.94 in length and 1.07 in width, have four suckers measures 0.387 in diameter. The rostellum small, oval, measuring in length 0.21 and 0.23 in width with numerous hooks (100-110). Mature segments rectangular have (80-85) testes situated in the center of segment between two ovaries.

Key words : *Cotugnia*, *Gallus gallus domesticus*, cestodes.

INTRODUCTION

Birds have very important economical role by using their meat and eggs as a diet and source of protein especially produced by population. Infection of birds by cestodes cause many problem in growth, reproductivity, produce of eggs and cause mortalities (Awad and Abdul Majeed, 1989).

Cestodes are the most important internal parasites infecting poultry causing various damage. The infection is consider as a main health problem in domestic chickens mainly the hematological parameters. More than 4000 species of cestode fauna from 1400 type of birds affiliates to three different families that are Hymenolepidae, Davainidae and Dilepididae (Calnek *et al*, 1991).

Cotugnia is commonly a cestode parasites that infective avian and poultry some of which have medical importance, causing histopathological and economic problems worldwide (Mahdi *et al*, 2018).

Diamare erect genus *Cotugnia* in 1893 with the type species *C. digonopora* (Pasquale, 1890) collected from domestic fowl of Burma, India and Africa. Also few species of Genus *Cotugnia* reported in Pakistan including *C. margareta* (Beddard, 1916), *C. digonopora* (Pasquale, 1890) from *Gallus domesticus*, *C. celebensis* (Yamaguti, 1956), *Columba livia*, *C. cuneata* (Meggitt, 1924), *C. streptopeli* (Khan and Habibullah, 1967) from *Eurasian collard dove*, *C. fleari* (Meggitt, 1927) collected

from the intestine of *Columba livia* from Karachi Pakistan. *C. karachensis*, *C. margareta* (Beddard 1916) and a new species of genus *Cotugnia* Diamare (Cestoda: Davaineidae (Fuhrmann, 1907) from domestic fowl (*Gallus domesticus*) of district Khairpur, Sindh, Pakistan (Lund *et al*, 2017).

The aim of this work is isolation and identification helminthe parasite in *Gallus gallus domesticus*.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A total of 25 live domestic chickens *Gallus gallus domesticus* were randomly collected from a local market in Basrah city, Iraq to be examined immediately for helminthes in the laboratory of parasitology, College of Health and Medical Technology, Southern Technical University from June 2018 to December 2018. The alimentary canals were removed and placed in normal saline (0.9%) for examined.

Cestodes belonging to the *Cotugnia* were obtained from gut relaxed in saline, fixed in alcohol formalin acetic acid (A.F.A.) over night and kept in (70%) alcohol. Those prepared for identification were stained with Semichon's carmine, dehydrated in graded alcohol series, cleared in xylene (Gracia and Ash, 1979). Specimens were permanently mounted in Canada balsam. The drawing was made with camera Lucida and identified according to Khalil *et al* (1994). All measurements were recorded in millimeter.