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Occurrence of *Haematopinus suis* on a wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) from Udaipur: A note

Sanweer Khatoon, Naresh Kumar, Hemant Joshi and Afroz Jahan

Abstract

Pediculosis by *Haematopinus suis* is a major constraint in both domesticated and wild boars in all parts of the world. This is the only species of louse that infests pigs. A wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) of Udaipur region was bought for post mortem in the Centre of Wildlife Studies in the month of July in 2017 and was examined for presence of ectoparasites by Veterinary Parasitology department and ectoparasites as lice were collected from the animal's body and were identified as *Haematopinus suis* by standard morphological keys. The paper reports for the first time a note on *Haematopinus suis* on wild boar found in Udaipur.

Keywords: *Haematopinus suis*, Udaipur, wild boar

1. Introduction

Haematopinus suis, known as the hog louse, infests both the domesticated and wild boars in all parts of the world. This is the only species of louse that infests mainly pigs [1]. Pediculosis in pigs leads to self-inflicted injuries to their skin and hair such as excoriation, sores, and thickening, from scratching and rubbing. Heavy infestations affect the growth rate and causes anemia in pigs. It may act as a vector for the swine pox virus and *Eperythrozoon suis* [2, 3]. There are multiple papers on parasites of pigs but scanty reports were there on the parasites of wild and domesticated pigs from Udaipur therefore, the aim of the study was to detect the parasites from wild pigs in order to have proper control strategies and also because of their parasitological importance.

2. Materials and Methods

A wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) from Udaipur region was bought for post mortem to the Centre of Wildlife Studies at CVAS, Navania, Udaipur in the month of July 2017 and The department of Veterinary Parasitology approached for parasitic infection on pigs and the wild boar was externally examined for presence of ectoparasites. Heavy lice infestations were found on host skin around the ears, flanks and back, and in the folds of the neck. Lice were collected from the animal body by fine brushes and were preserved in 70% alcohol and were brought to the department for further processing.

3. Results and Discussion

The lice were approximately 3-6 mm in length and it was further confirmed that there were both male and female with both adult and nymphal stages. They were greyish brown in colour with sucking mouth parts and with well-developed three pairs of legs with strong claws. All tarsal claws were of equal size and lateral margins of abdomen were heavily sclerotized. All lice had a brown head and thorax and yellowish-brown abdomen and legs.



Plate 1: Photomicrograph of *Haematopinus suis* (adult) in wild boar

They were further cleared and were properly mounted on slides after proper processing. The morphological identification was done by using the standard keys and descriptions given by Kettle ^[1] and Samuel *et al.* ^[4] and were identified as *Haematopinus suis* based on morphological details (Plate 1). *Haematopinus suis* is a common problem in wild boars as they live in close proximity and is a common cause of anaemia in them. Therefore proper control measures needs to be warranted in order to control parasitic infestations in wild pigs.

4. Conclusion

The present paper is thought to be the first report of *Haematopinus suis* from wild boar found in Udaipur region. Proper control measures are to be undertaken to control Pediculosis in wild boars.

5. References

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