

Prevalence of trematodes infection in pochards of genus *Aythya boie*, 1822 (Anseriformes: Anatidae: Aythyinae) in Sindh, Pakistan

Asma Kanwal Thebo, Saima Naz and Sajid Siyal
University of Sindh, Pakistan


Pochards are economically and ecologically important birds, maintaining the balance in food chain. These birds have been used as good source of food for thousands of years in various regions of world including Pakistan. The pochards harbor a good variety of parasites because of having a wide range of feeding habits. These birds are the intermediate hosts of many helminthic worms, which can be transferred into human or other vertebrates by feeding on them and cause severe infectious diseases. During endo-parasitic studies on the migratory birds in Sindh, Pakistan, total of 40 pochards were captured from the Hamal Lake, district Shahdad Kot during December 2016 to February, 2017. Out of 40, only 32 birds revealed positive with 80% prevalence of trematode in three species of birds, *Aythya ferina* (L.), *Aythya fuligula* (L.) and *Aythya nyroca* (Guldenstadt).

During examination of gut contents and visceral organs, 93 specimens of trematodes were recovered from intestine and other organs. 11 of *Aythya ferina* were examined in which eight went positive, 20 *Aythya fuligula* were examined in which 18 went positive and 09 *Aythya nyroca* were examined in which 06 went positive. The host wise prevalence of the 03 species of birds was calculated, with maximum infection in *A. fuligula* (90%) while the moderate prevalence of infection was recorded in *A. ferina* (72.75%) and minimum infection recorded in *A. nyroca* (66.66%).

Speaker Biography

Asma Kanwal is currently working as Professor at the University of Sindh, Pakistan.

e: asmathebo23@gmail.com

 Notes: