any ulceration or mucoid exudates. A nick incision was given on the tip towards the bent portion of the fishing hook and was palpatated through the neck muscles (Image 4°). Then the fishing hook was taken out by holding its tip with a needle holder. The wound was irrigated with 5% povidone-iodine lotion and left unsutured. The temperature and respiration rates were recorded to be 25°C and 3/min. 70ml of 5%DNS was administered intravenously in the radial vein (Image 5°). A bite block was kept inside the mouth to keep it open for better breathing (Image 3°). A comparative radiograph showed removal of foreign body (Image 7°). Post-operatively the turtle was kept inside a water trough containing a low level of water mixed with 5% povidone-iodine lotion. This practice was continued until the turtle was able to raise its head 4° with respect to its body, move its fin in a coordinated manner and regulate its weight in a water column. The turtle was found fish, earthworm and insects as food. The turtle recovered uneventfully and it was released to its natural habitat. Careful examination of the radiograph revealed presence of eight eggs indicating that the turtle was a gravid female (Image 8°).

Reference

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VET BRIEF  ZOO’S PRINT JOURNAL 22(11): 2897

Paraplegia in a Tiger Panthera tigris

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A male tiger Rohit aged 13yr of Nandankanan Zoo was unable to bear weight on his hind limb. He was treated with powdered calcium tablets (Shell-cal, 500mg, 1no), nerve tonics (Neurobin tablets, vitamin B complex with B12, 2 no), oral analgesic (Tramadol hydrochloride, 100mg, 5 no) offered in beef for five days. There was no improvement and the tiger developed wounds due to limb dragging. It was decided to examine the hind quarters both physically and radiologically. On 03.04.2006 the tiger was darted with a mixture of 1.2mg atropine sulphate, 200mg xylazine hydrochloride and 400mg ketamine hydrochloride using a pressure gun (Image 1°).

After 12min the animal was lifted on a tarpaulin strap and brought out of his pen. Temperature, respiration and heart rate were recorded to be 99.6°F, 17/min and 98/min, respectively (Image 2°). Radiograph of both the limbs in lateral and dorsal-plantar views were taken starting from stifle joints to digits (Images 3° & 4°). A ventro-dorsal view of both the hip joints was also taken (Image 5°). Blood samples were collected for haematological and blood protozoan examination. Ringers Lactate 500ml and DNS 5% 500ml was administered intravenously. Neurobin injection (vitamin B complex with B12) 1ml x 4 ampoules and Tramadol hydrochloride injection 100mg, 1ml x 2 ampoules were injected intramuscularly. The tiger was revived from anesthesia by i/v administration of 2ml (20mg) of yohimbine hydrochloride (Antagozil) (Image 6°). Radiographs did not reveal any fracture or dislocation of the bones. Blood examination for protozoan parasites was negative. The haemoglobin, total leucocyte count, neutrophilic count and eosinophilic count were recorded to be 12g/dl, 9300/mm³ of blood, 80% and 10% respectively. Ceftriaxone sodium 1g (Monocif) and Neutrobion 10ml were administered intramuscularly once daily for five days with a dart gun. Thereafter, cartigen, glucosamine sulphate (Pharmed Ltd., Mumbai-1) 500mg x 4, Neutrobion (vitamin B complex with B12) 2 tablets and multivitamin tablets with trace mineral i.e. vitA, vitD, vitB1,2,6,12, vitE, ferrous sulfate, copper sulphate, manganese sulphate and zinc sulfate, Supradyn (Nicholas Lab., two no.) in beef was administered for 15 days. The tiger started bearing weight and walking on his hind limbs (Image 7°). After ruling out infection, inflammation, traumatic, toxic and parasitic causes, it was concluded that the tiger was suffering from nutritional problems, hence multivitamin with trace mineral tablets were administered. Eldridge (1997) stated that it is difficult to determine what specific mineral is in imbalance when examining an animal’s symptoms, because the clinical signs for one mineral imbalance can be exactly the same as for several other minerals. Again deficiencies of minerals and excess intake of minerals may present the same symptoms. In late 1980 seven cheetah cubs of Zoological Institution in Southwestern United States suffered from various levels of ataxia and hind limb paralysis which were successfully treated by both injectable and oral copper supplement. However, copper deficiency; a nutritional problem is usually considered in carnivorous animals on a diet primarily of poultry; which may be particularly vulnerable to copper related deficiency. In this case, however, the tiger was maintained on beef.

Reference

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Amblyomma tick infestation in Indian Rat Snake Pysas mucosa from Chandrapur district of Maharashtra state
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Snakes are commonly affected by bewildering variety of parasites resulting in severe health hazards, amongst which ticks play a pivotal role in morbidity and mortality. Tick infestation not only results in anaemia, owing to their blood sucking habit, but also transmits certain blood borne diseases. Information is lacking on tick infestation in snakes from Maharashtra. Hence, the present communication documents the first report on occurrence of Amblyomma ticks in a Rat Snake (Pysas mucosa) from Chandrapur district of Maharashtra state.

An 8 ft-long female Rat Snake rescued from Chandrapur (Maharashtra) was observed with heavy tick infestation all over the body and beneath the scales. Ticks were removed manually by applying alcohol on exposed part of the body and were collected in a specimen bottle,
transported to the laboratory, processed and identified based on morphological characters illustrated by Sen & Fletcher (1962).

Based on morphological features, ticks were identified as Amblyomma sp., which is in consonance with the findings of Burridge et al. (2000) who evidenced Amblyomma ticks in snakes from Florida, additionally, the same species of tick, was evidenced in tortoises and monitor lizards. Hanson et al. (2007) observed snake paralysis in Southern Black Racer due to the bites of Amblyomma rotundatum from Florida. Tick infestation in snakes was also recorded by Sur et al. (2001) from West Bengal, India. They successfully treated tick infested snakes with deltamethrin. The snakes were found tick free and resumed to eat normally within a week after acaricidal therapy. Kiel et al. (2006) reported deaths in African vipers imported from Africa to Florida due to vorontoxia, diarrhoea, emaciation, convulsions, which were controlled only after elimination of ticks.

References

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VET BRIEF
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Infestation of tick Aponomma gibsoni (Acari: Ixodidae) in Monitor Lizard Varanus bengalensis from Nagpur, Maharashtra

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Monitor Lizard or Water Monitor lizard (Varanus bengalensis) is very common in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra state and often killed by the tribal community for black magic or medicinal purposes and sold surreptitiously. Wild and captive reptiles are generally infected with large numbers of parasites, but cause little harm to their health unless they are under stress, nevertheless, signs of parasitism depends on kind of parasite and body tissue involved. Tick parasite poses a direct threat to the health causing unthriftiness, restlessness and anaemia resulting in serious health hazards. Ticks have a significant role as vectors of various pathogens eg. Ricettota honei (the etiologic agent of Flinders Island spotted fever) has been transmitted by Aponomma hydrosauri a tick associated with reptiles (Stenos et al. 2003). Hence, the present communication deals with the infestation of A. gibsoni in Monitor Lizard from Nagpur, Maharashtra.

A rescued Monitor Lizard was screened for ectoparasitic infestation. Ticks were encountered in the dorsal part of tail, collected, processed and examined in the laboratory. The identification was performed based on morphological characters described by Sen & Fletcher (1962).

Monitor lizard was found to be infested with male A. gibsoni confirms the findings of Tendeiro et al. (1956) who recorded A. sp from Portugal. Aponomma hydrosauri was recorded in Australian reptiles (Bull et al., 1976) and A. (Bothriocroton) globotoma and Amblyomma glauerti in monitor lizard (V. globootoma and V. glauerti) from Western and Northern territories, Australia (Keirans et al., 1994). Bayless & Simmons (2000) evidenced tick parasites on the Rock Monitor Lizard (V. albogularis) from Tanzania, Africa. Aponomma hydrosauri was associated with reptiles and transmitted Ricettota honei Stenos et al. 2003. Pietsch et al. (2006) also collected tick parasites, viz., A. erinaceum and A. latum.

References

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