TICKS ON A SNAKE

Occurrence of Aponomma sp.

Four snakes (2 Indian Rat Snakes *Ptyas mucosa* and 2 Spectacled Cobra *Naja naja*) found in Kolli Hills were caught by a licensed snake catcher and brought to Department of Veterinary Parasitology, Veterinary College and Research Institute, Namakkal for a routine examination of ecto parasites. Ticks were collected and preserved in 70 per cent ethyl alcohol for further examination and identification by standard techniques (Sen & Fletcher 1962).

Examination of a female rat snake showed higher tick infestation: nymphal stages of ixodid ticks (25 numbers) on the dorsum and no ticks on the head, tail, or ventral body. The other three snakes were negative for ecto parasites. The ticks were longirostrate, ornate, without eyes, rounded body and was identified as *Aponomma* sp. Tick infestation in such snake was also recorded by Sur et al. (2001) from West Bengal, India and also by Arunachalam et al. (2010) in the same area of the present record. The association of *Aponomma* sp. of ticks in reptiles was also reported by Stenos et al. (2003) and Pietzsch et al. (2006). The control of ticks is possible only in the case of snakes maintained in the zoo.

References


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