

PREVALENCE AND IDENTIFICATION OF HELMINTH PARASITES OF LOCAL CHICKENS OF ABEOKUTA, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Five hundred and seventy-six local free-range chickens were examined for helminth parasites, colour types, sex, weight, and Packed Cell Volume (PCV) from May 2003 to February 2004. Most birds were brown (39.1%), while 25% were black, grey (12.5%), white and pattern (mixed) colour types had 6.2% and 17.2%, respectively. Female and male chickens accounted for 64.1% and 35.9% respectively. The mean weight of the birds was 0.61kg, in which light birds (0.10-0.60kg) accounted for 53.1% of bird examined, and heavy birds (0.61-1.3kg) were 46%. The mean PCV value was 30.73. Twenty (20) helminth parasites were recorded with *Ascaridia galli* having the highest prevalence (73.4%), followed by *Rallietina tetragona* (64%), *Rallietina cesticii* (56.3%), *Davania proglottina* (50%), *Tetrameres Americana* (46.8%), *Rallietina echnioboitrida* (35.9%), *Choanotaenia influndibulum* (32.80%), *Capillaria cortorta* (31.25%), *Strongyloides avlum* (31.25%), *Hymenolepsis carioca* (28.1%), *Amoebotaenia cumeata* (28.1%), *Amoebotenia sphenoides* (25%), *Heterakis gallinarum* (21.8%), *symhimentus* sp. (15.6%), *Fimbriaria* sp. (15.6%), *syngamus trachea* (12.5%), *Trichinella* sp. (9.37%), *Capillaria annulata* (7.8%), and *Dispharynt spiralis* (4.68%). Worms were recovered from three different alimentary sections with the intestine/caeca accounting for 14 (70%) of the 20 *helminth* *spceies*, 5(20%) were recovered from the *proventriculus*, while trachea accounted for only one (5%) species.

Keywords: Helminths, local free-range chickens, PCV, Abeokuta, Nigeria.