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DISEASES AND PARASITES ENCOUNTERED IN PEN-RAISED INDIAN RED JUNGLEFOWL¹

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Abstract: Forty-two visibly ill or dead pen-raised Indian red junglefowl were examined for parasites and diseases. The following disease conditions and parasites were identified; VIRUS(?)—visceral tumors; FUNGUS—*Candida albicans*; PROTOZOA — *Eimeria acervulina*, *E. maxima*, *E. mivati*, *E. tenella*, *Histomonas meleagridis*; CESTODA — *Raillietina tetragona*; NEMATODA — *Ascaridia galli*, *Capillaria obsignata*, *Heterakis gallinarum*; Filiariidea; ACARINA (mites) — *Megninia* sp. Coccidiosis was the most important problem. Junglefowl appear to be susceptible to most diseases and parasites of domestic chickens.

INTRODUCTION

Bump and Bohl² indicated that few disease and parasite studies have been made on the Indian red junglefowl. While in India they noted Newcastle disease, coccidiosis, simple coryza, and lice. They necropsied five wild junglefowl but found no helminth parasites.

The junglefowl examined by us were fourth and fifth generation offspring of wild birds captured in India by Bump and Bohl² for the Foreign Game Investigation Program (FGIP) of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife U.S. Department of the Interior. Between 1961 and 1968 seven southern states raised and released junglefowl as part of the FGIP¹. These cooperating game and fish agencies submitted 42 visibly ill or dead junglefowl for necropsy. Most junglefowl examined were less than three months old.

METHODS

Ectoparasites were collected with the aid of a dissecting microscope. Birds

were then examined for disease conditions and internal helminths were recovered by the methods of Kellogg and Prestwood.⁴ Coccidia oocysts were collected from the intestinal content, allowed to sporulate, and identified by immune challenge techniques.³

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Diseases and parasites found in pen-raised Indian red junglefowl are listed in Table 1.

Extensive visceral tumors, similar to those seen in lymphoid leukosis and Marek's disease, were the apparent cause of death in two birds.

Crop mycosis was a regular cause of morbidity but mycosis alone did not appear to cause mortality. Often crop mycosis problems were related to poor sanitation.

Coccidiosis caused by *Eimeria tenella* and *E. maxima* was by far the greatest cause of mortality. Helminths (*Ascaridia galli* and *Raillietina tetragona*) occasion-

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Table 1. Diseases and parasites encountered in 42 pen-raised Indian red junglefowl.

Disease Entity or Parasite	Location in/on Host	Remarks
Virus (?)		
Visceral tumors	ovary, liver, kidneys, spleen	Apparently caused death of 2 adult birds, present in 3 birds.
Fungus		
<i>Candida albicans</i>	crop	A regular cause of morbidity, present in 18 birds.
Protozoa		
<i>Eimeria acervulina</i>	small intestine	Coccidia were responsible for 15 deaths and much morbidity.
<i>Eimeria maxima</i>	small intestine	
<i>Eimeria mivati</i>	small intestine	
<i>Eimeria tenella</i>	ceca	
<i>Histomonas meleagridis</i>	ceca, liver	Histomoniasis caused death of 1 bird.
Cestoda		
<i>Raillietina tetragona</i>	small intestine	Caused death of 1 chick, present in 22 birds.
Nematoda		
<i>Ascaridia galli</i>	small intestine	Caused death of 2 chicks, present in 16 birds.
<i>Capillaria obsignata</i>	small intestine	Low numbers present in 2 birds.
<i>Heterakis gallinarum</i>	ceca	Low numbers present in 20 birds.
Filariidea	body cavity	Three immature worms found in 1 bird.
Acarina (mites)		
<i>Megninia</i> sp.	feathers	Present in low numbers on 14 birds.

ally caused death due to intestinal obstruction.

With the exception of three immature filarial worms found in the body cavity

of one bird, the diseases and parasites encountered in these junglefowl are common in domestic chickens of the southeastern United States.

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