

# *Onchocerca armillata* (Railliet and Henry, 1909) from a new host, *Camelus dromedari*

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## RÉSUMÉ

*Onchocerca armillata* (Railliet et Henry, 1909) d'un nouvel hôte,  
*Camelus dromedari*

*Onchocerca armillata* a été observé dans l'aorte d'un dromadaire, à l'abattoir de Kano, Nigéria, sur les 53 animaux examinés.

## INTRODUCTION

*Onchocerca armillata* is commonly found in the aorta of cattle (*Bos taurus* and *B. indicus*) in Africa and Asia (2, 3). It is also a parasite of the domestic buffalo (*Bubalus bubalus*) in India (1) and of the wild buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*) in Africa (4). In India it has been reported in sheep (1). In this study it is found that also the domestic camel can be infected with this filarid.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

In order to establish the helminth's infection rate, a survey was carried out among camels slaughtered in the Kano abattoir in Northern Nigeria. The camels slaughtered were originating from the Sahel vegetational zone, mainly in Niger Republic. During the survey, it was not tried to establish the exact origin of the animals. In the abattoir, the aorta was removed and examined as described in an earlier report (5).

## RESULTS

Only one out of 53 camels examined showed evidence of a helminth infection in the aorta.

After careful extraction only parts of female helminths were obtained from the intima and media of the thoracic aorta. From a nodule in the adventitia, a complete male helminth was recovered. The length of this male measured in alcohol/glycerol was 65.9 mm, the length of the muscular and glandular part of the esophagus was 0.27 and 2.48 mm respectively. The left and the right spicule measured 0.27 and 0.13 mm. The helminth showed clear caudal alae and had eight pairs of papillae of which four were post cloacal. The morphology, measurements and the location of the parasite were similar to *Onchocerca armillata*. The identification was confirmed by Dr. J. R. LICHTENFELS of the Animal Parasitology Institute in Beltsville (U. S. A.) to whom a male specimen was sent.

## DISCUSSION

Although *O. armillata* has not yet been reported in camels its occurrence in this host could be expected considering the wide host range of this filarid. The low prevalence rate (1/53) in camels originating from the Sahel region, when compared to cattle in Northern Nigeria, confirms the postulation of SCHILLHORN VAN VEEN and ROBL (5) that *O. armillata* is mainly found in animals in the Sudan and Northern Guinea vegetational zone of Africa.

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## SUMMARY

### *Onchocerca armillata* (Railliet & Henry, 1909) from a new host, *Camelus dromedari*

*O. armillata* was found in the aorta of one out of 53 camels examined in the Kano abattoir, Nigeria.

A brief description of the morphology of the male parasite is given.

## RESUMEN

### *Onchocerca armillata* (Railliet y Henry, 1909) de un nuevo huesped, *Camelus dromedari*

Se observó *Onchocerca armillata* en la aorta de un dromedario, en el matadero de Kano, Nigeria, entre los cincuenta y tres animales examinados.

## RÉFÉRENCES

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