

Tapeworm infection (*Taenia hydatigena*) in Lion (*Panthera leo*) in captivity. A case report

par S. G. OGUNGBADE and A. F. OGUNRINADE

Department of Veterinary Parasitology, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

RÉSUMÉ

OGUNGBADE (S. G.), OGUNRINADE (A. F.). — Cas d'infestation par *Taenia hydatigena* chez le Lion (*Panthera leo*) en captivité. *Rev. Elev. Méd. vét. Pays trop.*, 1984, 37 (1) : 30-31.

Taenia hydatigena a été trouvé chez deux lions adultes du Zoo de l'Université d'Ibadan. C'est le premier cas noté au Nigeria.

Mots clés : *Taenia hydatigena* - Lion - Nigeria.

SUMMARY

OGUNGBADE (S. G.), OGUNRINADE (A. F.). — Tapeworm infection (*Taenia hydatigena*) in Lion (*Panthera leo*) in captivity. A case report. *Rev. Elev. Méd. vét. Pays trop.*, 1984, 37 (1) : 30-31.

Taenia hydatigena was found in two adult lions of the University of Ibadan zoo. It is the first case noted in Nigeria.

Key words : *Taenia hydatigena* - Lion - Nigeria.

Although there are some records of helminthic diseases of captive animals in Nigeria (1, 2), these reports contain little information on cestode parasites of captive carnivores. We therefore report the occurrence of the tapeworm, *Taenia hydatigena* in the Lion. Two adult lions both 16 and 15 years old respectively originally donated to the University of Ibadan zoo by the Leipzig Zoological gardens, East Germany, were found to be passing segments of the tapeworm later identified as *Taenia hydatigena*. The lions were fed usually on alternate days with raw goat meat and apart from the fact that tapeworm segments were found in their faeces no other untoward effects were observed. Adult cestode infection normally occurs in carnivores because of their feeding habits and it is possible that the lions acquired the infection while being fed on goat meat. *Cysticercus tenuicollis*, the intermediate state of the parasite normally occurs in the tissues of herbivores such as goats and sheep and the cysts have been found

commonly in sheep and goats (3, 4, 5) and occasionally in man in Africa.

As far as we know, this is the first report of *Taenia hydatigena* in the Lion in Nigeria. BAMIDELE and OGUNRINADE (1) also recorded finding cysts of an unidentified cestode in the faeces of the spotted hyaena (*Crocuta crocuta*). It is therefore possible that there is a domestic cycle of the parasite in the zoo. This poses a great danger to the other herbivores in the zoo and the zoo keepers since the larval stages also develop in man.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am very grateful to Mr. Robert Golding, the former Director of the University of Ibadan Zoological gardens and Messrs Ifegbai and Yorke both workers of the University of Ibadan Zoological gardens for their assistance.

RESUMEN

OGUNGBADE (S. G.), OGUNRINADE (A. F.). — Caso de infestación por *Taenia hydatigena* en un león (*Panthera leo*) en cautividad. *Rev. Elev. Méd. vét. Pays trop.*, 1984, 37 (1) : 30-31.

Se encontró *Taenia hydatigena* en dos leones adultos del zoo de la Universidad de Ibadan. Es el primer caso notado en Nigeria.

Palabras claves : *Taenia hydatigena* - León - Nigeria.

REFERENCES

1. BAMIDELE (O.), OGUNRINADE (D. F.). Helminth parasites of captive animals. *Afr. J. Ecol.*, 1980, 18 : 265-266.
2. ENYINIHI (U. K.). Parasitic infections of animals in U.I. Zoo. *Afr. J. med. Sci.*, 1972, 3 : 283-294.
3. LAPAGE (G.). *Veterinary parasitology*. London and Edinburgh. Oliver and Boyd, 1968, 414-416.
4. SOULSBY (E. J. L.). *Veterinary clinical parasitology*. Oxford, Blackwell Scientific Publication, 1965, 126.
5. SOULSBY (E. J. L.). *Arthropods, helminths and protozoa of domesticated animals*. London, Bailliere, Tindall and Casell, 1971, 120-121.