ZOOTAXA 51: 1-12 (2002)
www.mapress.com/zootaxa/

ISSN 1175-5326 (print edition)
ZOOTAXA
ISSN 1175-5334 (online edition)

51

Forestomach ciliate Protozoa in Egyptian dromedary camels (*Camelus dromedarius*)

A. A. KUBESY[1] & BURK A. DEHORITY

Department of Animal Sciences, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, The Ohio State University, Wooster, Ohio 44691, USA

Abstract

The forestomach contents of 20 dromedary camels were examined for total, generic and species composition of ciliate protozoa. The geometric mean value of total ciliate protozoa was 13.9 X 10^4 / ml with values ranging from 4.9 to 109.4 X 10^4 / ml. A total of ten genera containing 31 species and 16 forms were identified. Five species of *Entodinium* (*E. biconcavum, E. bimastus, E. ekendrae, E. parvum and E. tsunodai*) and *Ostracodinium trivesticulatum* represent a new host record. Two new spinated forms of *Diplodinium cameli* were observed, one has a single spine arising from the left lateral surface near the posterior end and the second has an additional spine on the posterior right lateral surface. Previous reports on concentration and species composition in the camel are summarized and compared to the present results.

Key words: Bactrian camel, ciliates, *Diplodinium camelus,* Dromedary camel, Egypt, fauna, protozoa

Introduction

Although numerous reports have been published on the ciliate protozoa in different ruminants, only a limited number of studies have been reported on the ciliate fauna occurring in the forestomach of the camel. Buisson (1923), Dogiel (1926, 1928), Wertheim (1937) and Selim et al. (1999) have published studies on forestomach ciliates occurring in dromedary camels in various localities; however, only one study has been carried out on forestomach

1. Permanent address: Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt.

Corresponding author: B. A. Dehority, Department of Animal Sciences, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, The Ohio State University, 1680 Madison Ave., Wooster, OH 44691. Telephone number: 330-263-3909; Fax number: 330-263-3949; e-mail: dehority.1@osu.edu.

Accepted: 3 July 2002; published: 12 July 2002