



Figure 1. Logarithmic relationship between total length-weight of *Rasbora daniconius*.

sexes of *R. daniconius* follow 'allometric' growth pattern.

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VET BRIEF

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ANCYLOSTOMIASIS IN DHOLES

CUON ALPINUS

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The Dhole or the Indian Wild Dog (*Cuon alpinus*) is a highly social canid. Puppies are completely dependent on their mother for milk and on the rest of the pack for regurgitated food for the first few months of their lives.

A Dhole at the Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Chennai gave birth to nine pups which were well cared by the mother. Faecal samples were collected from all the nine pups using sterile cotton swabs at the age of 20 days. *Ancylostoma* eggs were observed using floatation method within two hours and eggs per gram were evaluated using modified McMaster method (Thienpont *et al.*, 1986). Eggs were identified by their morphological structure (Soulsby, 1982)

All the pups and the mother were dewormed with pyrantel pamoate @ 5mg/kg body wt., mixing the drug in beef for the adult and manually administering the drug to the pups. Coprological examination was carried out after 15 days of administration of the drug. All pups had normal appetite but were weak with rough hair coat before the administration of pyrantel pamoate. On the day prior to administration of pyrantel pamoate, all pups had *Ancylostoma caninum* infection. On day two to day five random faecal examination revealed the presence of eggs of *A. caninum*. The hairs regained the shine in 15 days. *A. caninum* eggs decreased by 94.2% on day 15

and the deworming was carried out to all the pups and the mother on the 15th day itself. On day 30, coprological examination showed that the *A. caninum* eggs decreased by 100%.

Pups and kittens are often infected by transfer of larvae from their dams in utero or via milk (*A. caninum*, *Toxocara cati*, and to a lesser extent, *T. canis*) (Burke *et al.*, 1985). Van Heerden *et al.* (1994) noticed *A. caninum* in the faecal matter in the free ranging African wild dog and also in captive born 3-month old pup. In the present study also trans mammary transmission of *A. caninum* is conferred. Doses of 7.5 and 10mg/kg of closantel (an injectable salicylanilide) had a marked anthelmintic effect on adult stages, removing 99 and 98%, respectively (Guerrero *et al.*, 1982).

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VET BRIEF

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A CASE OF MOUTH ROT AND HELMINTHIASIS IN A SPECTACLED COBRA *NAJA NAJA*

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Stomatitis is a clinical condition that has been documented in reptiles. One such case in a Spectacled Cobra (*Naja naja*) was encountered at the Chennai Snake Park, Chennai and the details are discussed in this paper.

A captive reared cobra was reported to be anorectic for four days at the Chennai Snake Park, and after proper manual restraint it was examined. Froth was observed at the commissures of the mouth and on examination of the oral mucous membrane, erosions were noticed in the buccal mucosa with moderate congestion. A sterile swab was applied on the oral lesions and was placed in Amies medium with charcoal in polystyrene tube. Faecal samples were obtained for laboratory examination. Treatment with enrofloxacin injection at 10mg/kg body weight I/M (for a total of 4 injections) once in 48hrs, vitamin C injection at 200mg/kg body weight I/M twice a week, and vitamin A injection at 11,000units/kg body weight I/M once, were recommended. Tube feeding along with administration of pyrantel pamoate at 8mg/kg body weight, orally once, with repetition on the 16th day was also suggested.

The culture examination of the swab revealed *Bacillus* species and faecal examination revealed eggs of *Strongyloides* and *Strongyle* species (+++) in this snake.

The mouth rot may have occurred due to injury, subsequent to the swallowing of mice / rat with sharp teeth. Mader (1996) quoted encountering stomatitis in reptiles and if stomatitis is not properly attended, it may lead to glossitis in association with trauma and ultimately, the snake may lose its teeth through trauma or infection. However, no injury was observed in the tongue of this cobra. Administration of fluoroquinolones in snakes as carried out in this snake was in agreement with the reports furnished by Fowler (1986). Wallach and Boever (1983) stated that in case of mouth rot, the affected reptile will reveal anorexia (as encountered in this captive reared snake) and exudates associated with gingiva. In the cobra under study, frothy and thick exudation was noticed. Though parasites are frequently found in the mouth including the regurgitated nematodes and flukes, no such parasites were encountered in the oral region. But the evidences of helminths encountered warranted the usage of anthelmintics, as carried out. Though mouth-rot in this cobra was due to *Bacillus* species infection, Fowler (1986) quoted that in reptiles, generally several gram negative bacteria are associated with stomatitis. The therapeutic suggestions adapted in this serpent yielded satisfactory results.

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