

for wide variety of procedures (Schmidt, 1986; Sarma & Pathak, 2001).

In the present case Xylazine HCl and Ketamine HCl were used at a dose rate of 0.13mg/kg and 0.03mg/kg body weight respectively to achieve effective standing sedation. No adverse effects of photosensitization as reported by Cheeran (2002) were observed with the use of Ketamine-Xylazine combination. The advantage of using this drug combination in the present case was to obtain reduced drug dose requirement. Xylazine alone has been reported to have potent depressant effect on cardiac and respiratory function while Ketamine, has no depressant effect on these functions but in use alone can produce muscular tremor and stiffness of the skeletal muscles (Pathak, 1991). Combination of Xylazine and Ketamine minimizes the undesirable effect and produces balanced sedation supporting the retention of vital functions. This is further supported by the findings of Sarma and Pathak (2001) that ketamine admixing could mildly mitigate the hypotension brought by Xylazine, while potentiating its sedative action, hence recommended the use of combination in elephants.

The present approach of chemically restraining and securing the elephant provided effective means of managing the problem thereby preventing any emergencies. The need of the present time seems to be in developing better understanding of physiological status of the animal, relevance of early detection of physical signs of musth and in developing proper attitude in dealing with the issues.

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ISOLATION OF STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS FROM SKIN INFECTION IN PARAKEET

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Staphylococci occur world wide in mammals although the spread of staphylococcal strains between different animal species is limited. They can live harmlessly on skin surfaces, especially around the nose, mouth, genitals and rectum in the axillae, inguinal and the perineal areas. But when the skin is punctured or broken for any reason they enter the wound causing infection (Cruickshank *et al.*, 1975). Pathogenic staphylococci cause food intoxication, folliculitis, boils, scalded skin syndrome, impetigo in many animal species including man; abscesses and suppuration conditions and even systematic infections in cattle, goats sheep, pigs, horses; mastitis (acute, subacute and gangrenous) in sheep, goats, rabbits; dermatitis in pigs necrotizing endometritis udder impetigo after abrasions (Quinn *et al.*, 1994). Pets like dogs and cats habitually lick utensils, toys, body parts of children who play with them and transmission of infection takes place from one species to another and thus the organism is of great public health significance. This paper is to record the isolation of *Staphylococcus aureus* from a skin infection of a parakeet after the bite from a cat.

A parakeet was presented to the authors for treatment after it was bitten by a cat on the left wing, and with a history of feather loss, redness, dullness and depression. It was a case of impetigo characterized by formation of blisters burst by itching and self pecking. A swab was collected aseptically in a Carry-Blair transport medium and brought to the laboratory and processed by standard techniques (Cruickshank *et al.*, 1975). The swab sample was inoculated into Muller Hinton broth (supplied by Hi-Media) for pre enrichment and incubated at 37°C for 24 hours and the sample was inoculated on blood agar, nutrient agar, MacConkey agar media plates. The plates were incubated at 37°C for 24 hours. The isolated colonies were taken for morphological and biochemical characterization, by Grams staining, oxidase test, catalase test, coagulase test and sugar fermentation tests. The organism was identified as *Staphylococcus aureus*.

The Gram positive cocci were arranged in clusters, catalase positive, oxidases negative, coagulase positive, causing hemolysis on blood agar and manitol fermentation. The two tests e.g. manitol fermentation and coagulase positive character differentiates it from other *Staphylococcus* species which are negative to both.

Treatment: The wing was washed with a weak solution of potassium permanganate and gentamycin sulphate cream was applied after cleaning and application of tincture iodine solution. The bird recovered successfully.

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