examined. Peripheral blood smears from another 16-year old ailing female leopard having a history of complete anorexia and severe dehydration, were similarly stained and examined for haemoprotozoan infection.

Blood smear examination revealed *Babesia* sp. organisms from both the dead as well as ailing leopards (Image 1[w]), which is in consonance with the findings of Upadhye & Dhoot (2000) who recorded babesiosis from the same zoo. Similarly, Shortt (1940) also reported *Babesia* sp. organisms in a leopard from Coimbatore district. Khurana (1969) and Sinha *et al.* (2000) observed babesiosis in a white tiger from National Zoological Park, Delhi and in a tigress form Birsa Jaivic Udyan, Ranchi, respectively. The complete anorexia recorded in ailing leopard conforms to the findings of Khurana (1969), Upadhye & Dhoot (2000), and Sinha *et al.* (2000), who recorded anorexia in white tiger, leopard and tigress, respectively. Additionally, all the dead leopards manifested clinical symptoms, *viz.*, dehydration, convulsions and lumbar pain, before death. The PM examination revealed oedematous lungs, splenomegaly, congestion of liver and kidney and pale mucous membranes indicating severe anaemia, which is in conformity with the findings of Upadhye & Dhoot (2000), who also illustrated enlargement of the spleen.

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A note on occurrence of *Spirometra* infection in Leopard *Panthera pardus* from Nagpur region

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Spirometra species are rarely pathogenic but the plerocercoids are of public health significance as a cause of sparganosis in human beings. In India, *Spirometra* infection has been reported from wild carnivores like Lion, Tiger, Wolf, Leopard, Jackal, Jungle Cat, Fox and Indian lesser cat (Niphadkar *et al.*, 1989; Rao & Acharjyo, 1994; Thiruthalinathan *et al.*, 1998; Jithendran, 2002). This note is of S*pirometra* infection in Leopard from Nagpur region is reported here.

An ailing 4-year old leopard (*Panthera pardus*) of the Forest Department, Tah-Wadsa, Chandrapur district, Maharashtra was presented for treatment at Nagpur Veterinary College Hospital, Nagpur. The animal later succumbed to severe injuries. At necropsy, the intestine was filled with parasites; the intestinal contents were collected and examined qualitatively for parasitic infections. Helminth parasites were collected, washed and stained for taxonomic identification (Yamaguti, 1959)

Macroscopic and microscopic examination of the collected parasites revealed the pseudophyllidian cestode (without a well defined scolex but acetabulum with a pair of grooves). Further, ova isolated by trichurating the gravid segments indicated operculated eggs, which were pointed at each end, confirming the *Spirometra* infection.

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Rehabilitation of an injured Shikra *Accipter badius*

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Urbanization and the consequent loss of natural habitat has led to an increasing number of confrontations between wildlife and man. There is also an increased public awareness to help the injured wild animals. Because of their beauty and biology birds of prey enjoy a status of high priority (Hatt *et. al.*, 1995).

The forest range officer of Bhubaneswar presented an injured bird of prey to the surgery clinic of Orissa Veterinary College - the bird was unable to fly and was chased by stray dogs in the outskirts of Bhubaneswar. The Shikra was restrained physically with securely holding its head at its back and the legs. On physical examination a compound fracture of its left wing was detected (Image 1[w]). A radiograph of the affected wing revealed a distal radio-ulnar fracture with a bullet embedded in it (Image 2[w]). The bullet was palpated through the skin and a nick incision was given (Image 3[w]) to take out the bullet (Image 4[w]). The wound was irrigated with povidon-iodine lotion and one retention was applied to appose the skin edges leaving a drainage point. The retrieved bullet was suspected to be fired from an air gun rifle. The wing was immobilized with a splint made of micro-pore adhesive tape which was additionally supported with pieces of broom stick kept under the tape. The Shikra was handed over to a care taker for routine care. The bird was kept in a paper carton with small holes for ventilation. Small pieces of chicken

[w] See Images in the web supplement at www.zoosprint.org

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