RESEARCH PAPER

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Studies on avian cestode genus *Cotugnia* Diamare, 1893 (Cestoda: Davaineidae, Fuhrmann, 1907) from *Gallus Gallus domosticus*

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The present investigation deals with a new species of the genus *Cotugnia*, Diamare 1893 from the intestine of *Gallus gallus domesticus*, from Nanded (M.S.) of India. The new species *Cotugnia diamarei* Sp.Nov. comes closer to all known species of the genus *Cotugnia* in general topography of organ but differs due to scolex large, quadrangular, suckers four, oval to rounded, arranged in four corners, rostellum oval, large, placed in anterior region of scolex and having rostellar ring, rostellar hooks 53-55 in numbers, 'V' shaped, arranged in a single circle, neck short, mature progloltids three times broader than long, testes 62 in numbers, oval to rounded, postovarian, cirrus pouch cylindrical, cirrus short, curved tube contained within cirrus pouch, vas deferens thin, curved, vagina posterior to cirrus pouch and ovary bilobed.

Key words : Cestoda, Cotugnia diamarei Sp.Nov., Davaineidae, Gallus gallus domesticus.

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INTRODUCTION

Birds are important components of ecosystem. They are important from the ecological and economical point of view. Man uses many birds as delicious and nutritious food. Similarly birds also produce some important products like meat, eggs and beautiful feathers. The infections of cestode parasites are found in birds. There are no estimates of population suffering from cestode infection but infections are very common in people who are eating poorly cooked or uncooked meat, unhygienic habitats and poor sanitation. Infection leads to anemia. Parasitic diseases are the major public health problem of tropical countries including India. They infect man and also invade domestic birds and wildlife. Although the morbidity and mortality due to such infection is not alarming they adversely affect the general health, physical and mental health, growth of children and productivity of an adult.

Genus *Cotugnia* was erected by Diamare, 1893 with type species *C.digonopora* (Pasqule, 1890) collected from domestic fowl. So far the following species of the avian cestode Genus *Cotugina* are reported.

- C. digonopora (Pasquale, 1890), Diamare, 1893.
- *C.polyacantha*, Fuhrmann, 1909.
- C. cuneatea tenuis, Meggitt, 1924.
- *C. joyeuxi*, Baer, 1925.

- C. parva, Baer, 1925.
- C. fleari, Meggitt, 1927.
- C. bahli, Johri, 1934.
- C. intermedia, Johri, 1934.
- *C. noctua*, Johri, 1934.
- C. taiwanensis, Yamaguti, 1935.
- C. rimandoi, Tubangui et Masilungan, 1937.
- *C. magna*, Burt, 1940.
- C. aurangabadensis, Shinde, 1969.
- C. columbae Shinde, 1969.
- C. srivastavi, Malviya and Datta, 1970.
- C. magdoubii Magzoubi and Kasim, 1980.
- C. satpulensis, Malhotra and Capoor, 1983.
- C. yamagutii Shinde, 1985.
- C. vishakhapatnamensis, Kolluri, 1988.
- C. rajivji, Jadhav et al., 1994.
- C. kamatiensis, Kharade and Shinde, 1995.
- C. chengmaii, C. Wongsawad and Jadhav 1998.
- *C. manishae*, Shinde, 1999.
- C. ganguae, Shinde, 1999.
- C. mehdii, Mahajan et al., 1999.
- C. alii, Shinde et al., 2002.
- C. sillodensis, Jadhav et al., 2003.
- C. singhi, Pawar et al., 2004.
- C. lohaensis, Jadhav et al., 2004.