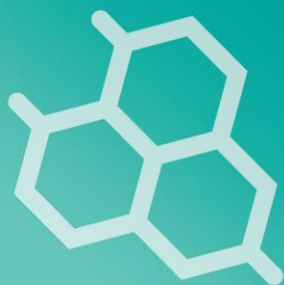


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STUDY ON LOCAL AND BROILER CHICKEN ECTOPARASITES PREVALENCE AND ESTIMATION IN QUETTA REGION, BALOCHISTAN, PAKISTAN.

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ABSTRACT

The present study was aimed at ascertaining the ectoparasites of poultry birds. Poultry pests are remarkably involved in the morbidity of the host by sucking blood and causing irritation to them and consequently lower their trade and industry by letting down the production and quality. In this study ectoparasites prevalence was monitored in local and broiler chickens of the Quetta region. One hundred local chickens inhabit the rural areas and one hundred from town poultry farms were examined for the presence of parasites. A total of 156 parasite specimens were collected by the random sampling method. The local poultry harbored 89 lice, 50 ticks, 9 mites, and 5 fleas while 45 specimens of lice species were massed from broiler chickens by standard methods. These were identified by using taxonomic keys. Results showed 40 indigenous and 43 broilers (out of 200 chickens) infested by lice species namely: *Phthiraptera* sp., *Menacanthus cornutus*, *Menacanthus stramineus*, *Goniocotes gallinae*, *Goniodes dissimilis*, *Menopon gallinae*, whereas 24 chickens (indigenous) were found to be infested by tick species (*Argas persicus*). The mite species *Dermanyssus gallinae* were observed infested 6 indigenous chickens, while 5 chickens (indigenous) were plagued by flea parasite *Echidnophaga gallinacean* compare to broiler poultry which was not infested by tick and mite or flea species. Lice were observed more prevalent than other ectoparasites examined in indigenous chickens compare to broiler farms. The present study results concluded that suitable ectoparasites control measures have to be practiced to minimize the effect of infestation by poultry pests specifically to indigenous chickens.