

# First Report of *Hartertia Gallinarum* in Domestic Pigeons (*Columba Livia*) in Iran



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Submission: 📅 February 26, 2018; Published: 📅 March 14, 2018

## Abstract

In September 2017, a 1 years old domestic pigeon (*Columba domestica*) was anatomized. Gastrointestinal tract of the bird was opened. During this study numerous nematodes were found. After fixation and morphological examination the two worms were identified as *Hartertia gallinarum*. The worms were observed and identified by light microscopy on the basis of features at the anterior and posterior parts of the worms. The worms were *Hartertia gallinarum*. In addition, our results showed that among 40 birds, 20 (50%) were infected with *Haemoproteus columbae*. All other helminth infection have been reported as follows: *Raillietina achinobothridia* (10%), *Ascaridia colombae* (12.5%), *Ascaridia galli* (82.5%). 3 different species of ectoparasites identified were *Pseudolynchia canariensis* (25%), *Columbicola columbae* (62.5%) and *Menopon gallinae* (15%). The present study is the first report on *Hartertia gallinarum* in domestic pigeons (*Columba livia*) in Iran.

**Keywords:** *Columba livia*; *Hartertia gallinarum*; Hamedan

## Case Report

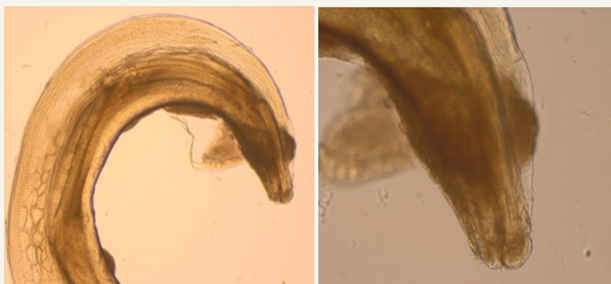


Figure 1: *Hartertia gallinarum* (mail): anterior end.

The nematode *Hartertia gallinarum* is well known as a spiruroid parasite of the small intestine of chickens in Africa and transmitted to the final host by the workers of ants and termites [1-3]. *Hartertia gallinarum* found in the intestine of fowls and wild bustards can cause emaciation, weakness and diarrhea, transmits *Histomonas meleagridis*. While checking the small intestine of indigenous pigeons of Hamedan, two nematodes (5%) were found in a pigeon. The cases have symptoms such as loss of body weight, anorexia, diarrhea, and dehydration. Mix infections of two or more species of parasites were reported in this case. At necropsy, each section of gastrointestinal tract of the bird was opened, separately, and then removed contents were examined under a stereo microscope for parasite helminthes. The respiratory tract was opened and the internal surface of the trachea was inspected. All nematodes removed from mentioned organs were placed in AFA solution

(alcohol, formaldehyde, acetic acid, distilled water, and glycerine), and then cleared with lactophenol (25% glycerine, 25% lactic acid, 25% phenol and 25% distilled water).

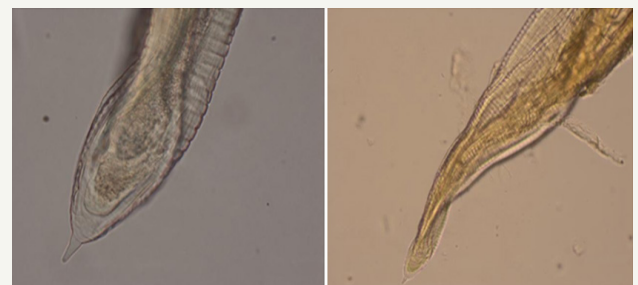


Figure 2: *Hartertia gallinarum* (mail): posterior end.

This species was obtained from small intestine of domestic pigeon with a prevalence of 5%. Worms of fine and elongated body. Lateral flanges very narrow, limited to anterior part of body. Cervical papillae just behind lips, Mouth tow, large, trilobite, lateral lips. The cuticle of the inner surface of each lip is thickened, toothed, and thrown into folds interlocking with those of the opposite side. Each lip with a lateral papilla and a pair of sub-median papillae, interlabia small or rudimentary. Vestibule short, esophagus divided into two parts, of which the anterior is short and muscular. The mean important measurements of 2 male parasites are as following: *Hartertia gallinarum* (Theiler 1919) (Spiruioidea. Spiruridae). Male: total length 35mm, maximum width 0.49mm

left spicule 2mm right spicule 0.48mm. The posterior extremity tubercular (Figure 1 & 2).

## Discussion

Previously, other researcher has been reported *Hartertia gallinarum* on fowl in southern part of Iran. Specimens of the parasite of this study are slightly smaller than those reported by Eslami & Mozafarnejad [4] and Kotlan [1], but they fit well in other characters, the present study is the first report on *Hartertia gallinarum* in domestic pigeons (*Columba livia*) in Iran. Because of macroscopic similarities between the morphology of this nematode and that of *Ascaridia galli*, another small intestine nematode, it is much probable that poultry practitioners take one of these two species for the other. To prevent this in the present short note, in addition the microscopic differences in the morphology of these two species, their life cycle, pathogenecity, and treatment were compared and discussed [4]. Mixed infections of two or more species of parasites per bird was common in the present study. This might be attributed to food preference at a particular time which determines the establishment of mixed or single infection. Our results are in accordance with Kennedy [5]. Also, the present specimens of *Hartertia gallinarum* are slightly smaller than those reported by Mohammad 1996 who recorded it in the caecum of *A. graecain* Gara-area, Rutba, west of Iraq. Later, it was reported. Mahmoud et al. [6] found that comparable ecological conditions and seasons could be factors influencing the prevalence of *Hartertia gallinarum* in birds in the western of Iraq. Other Study on the parasites of chukar partridge *Alectoris chukar* from Shaqlawa district, Kurdistan region, Iraq showed that the existence of five species of parasites including: one species of digenetic trematode (*Dicrocoelium petrowi*), two species of cestodes (*Cotugnia latiproglottina* and *Raillietina alectori*) and two species of

nematodes (*Ascaridia numidae* and *Hartertia gallinarum* [7]. Although this is the first report on *Hartertia gallinarum* in domestic pigeons (*Columba livia*) in Iran, but this needs to be investigated more in other birds, as there is not any report of *Hartertia gallinarum* in Hamedan province so far [8].

## Acknowledgment

The author would like to thank Younes Rostami, Danial Yousefnia and Ebrahim Kargar for help in sample collection. Also, the author is grateful to Dr. Heidari and Saskineh Azami for their aid in the laboratory diagnosis.

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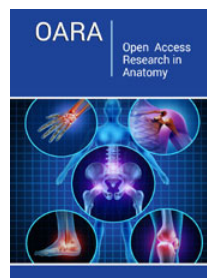
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