



Journal of the Hellenic Veterinary Medical Society

Vol 73, No 2 (2022)



To cite this article:

Ali, R., Afshan, K., Fuentes, M. V., & Firasat, S. (2022). Serological diagnostic potential of the 38-72 kDa somatic antigen of Gastrothylax crumenifer in buffaloes using the Indirect Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay. *Journal of the Hellenic Veterinary Medical Society*, *73*(2), 4105–4112. https://doi.org/10.12681/jhvms.26565

Serological diagnostic potential of the 38-72 kDa somatic antigen of *Gastrothylax crumenifer* in buffalos using the Indirect Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay

A. Rubab¹^O, K. Afshan¹*^O, S. Firasat¹^O, M. V. Fuentes²^O

¹Department of Zoology, Faculty of Biological Sciences, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan

²Parasites and Health Research Group, Departament de Farmàcia I Tecnologia Farmacèutica I Parasitologia, Facultat de Farmàcia, Universitat de València, València, Spain

ABSTRACT: Paramphistomosis, caused by digenetic trematodes of the superfamily Paramphistomoidea, causes heavy economic losses in terms of reduced fertility, milk, and meat production in the livestock industry. In the present study, somatic and excretory-secretory antigens isolated from 500 live Gastrothylax crumenifer were assessed for their diagnostic potential by using an antibody detection enzyme immunoassay. Before the enzyme immunoassay, the somatic and excretory/secretory (ES) antigens of G. crumenifer were subjected to SDS-PAGE and Western blot (WB) for the detection of immunogenic proteins. Indirect ELISA analysis was performed on sera from buffalos naturally infected with G. crumenifer, with control sera of buffalos infected with Gigantocotyle explanatum, Fasciola spp., Cotvlophoron /Paramphistomum spp. The SDS-PAGE results of the somatic products of G. crumenifer identified proteins were between 10-123 kDa, showing a maximum abundance of 10, 15, 25-28, 36, 38-72, 95-123 kDa proteins. The most abundant proteins recorded in ES products were \geq 95, 72, 55, and 40 kDa. The antigenic analysis of somatic proteins using WB revealed reactive polypeptides of a size between 55-70 kDa, while metabolic extracts did not show reactivity with naturally infected buffalo sera. The sensitivity and specificity of the ELISA test for 38-72 kDa somatic antigens were 85.71% and 89.74%, respectively. The cross-reactivity with other trematode sera was 16-20%. Antibodies were tested against the 38-72 kDa somatic antigens, and 19.69% (39/198) of buffalos were found positive, while 12.1% (24/198) presented infection in the faecal/postmortem examination. The study confirmed that ELISA established for the 38-72 kDa somatic antigens of G. crumenifer had diagnostic potential against paramphistome infections.

Keywords: Paramphistomes, buffalos, Antigens, Western blotting, ELISA, SDS-PAGE

Corresponding Author: Kiran Afshan, Department of Zoology, Faculty of Biological Sciences, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan E-mail address: kafshan@qau.edu.pk

Date of initial submission: 25-03-2021 Date of acceptance: 17-07-2021

INTRODUCTION

naramphistomes are conically shaped digenetic trematode parasites belonging to the superfamily Paramphistomidae (Hafeez, 2013), having a wide geographical range including tropical and sub-tropical countries. The economic loss caused by paramphistomes infections has not been estimated, and the cost is in terms of reduced feed conversion ratio, milk, and meat production in the livestock industry (Horak, 1967; Kilani et al., 2003). In some areas of India, the Republic of South Africa, and Australia, the mortality is 80-90% in domesticated ruminants (Boray, 1959, Soulsby, 1987). In Pakistan, the four most commonly occurring genera infecting ruminants are Paramphistomum, Gastrothylax, Cotylophoran, and Gigantocotyle (Yusuf and Chaudhry, 1970). The adults of the first three genera occur in the rumen and reticulum, while those of Gigantocotyle are found in the bile ducts.

A coprological examination is considered the gold standard for the diagnosis of paramphistome infections but may often result in the misdiagnosis of the disease and a lack of sensitivity, especially in light infections (Prasad and Singh, 2014). Most paramphistomes, including Gastrothylax crumenifer, present seasonal reproduction with the highest egg output taking place in the monsoon and post-monsoon period, whereas gonadal regression leads to ceased egg production in the winter season (Hanna et al., 1988). The coprological examination in the non-reproductive phase of paramphistomes is not a useful diagnostic test as eggs appear 13-17 weeks post-infection (Anuracpreeda, 2016). Moreover, paramphistomes eggs resemble those of other trematode parasites and differentiation is not possible with the coprological examination (Kumar, 1998). The adult flukes residing in the rumen release the eggs in faeces, but do not cause severe harm to their hosts. Immature paramphistomes cause pathogenicity in the intestine but are incapable of laying eggs. Therefore, early diagnosis is required for timely treatment before irreversible damage to the intestine occurs (Wang et al., 2006). Immunological diagnosis would be considered an effective tool for early detection of infections during the prolonged prepatent period. Antibody detection occurs with accuracy and precision as early as 2 weeks after infection (Santiago & Hillyer, 1988). Thus, numerous attempts have been made in recent years to determine the potential antigens of different trematodes, including paramphistomes, throughout the world (Gomez-Morales et al., 2013; Anuracpreeda et al., 2013;

Arunkumar *et al.*, 2014; Salib *et al.*, 2015; Dar *et al.*, 2017; Jadav *et al.*, 2018).

In Pakistan, studies conducted on the prevalence and the distributions of paramphistomes in ruminants are based on coprological examination. However, immunodiagnostic studies on these infections have never been conducted. The present study aims at characterizing the somatic and excretory/secretory (ES) antigens of *G. crumenifer* by SDS-PAGE analysis and to assess their somatic antigen diagnostic potential using the antibody detection enzyme immunoassay, particularly during the prepatent period.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research Ethics Committee

The study was conducted by following the ethical guideline approved by the Ethical Committee of Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad, Pakistan. All animals used in the study were slaughtered for other purposes to fulfill the protein demand of local population.

Sample collection

Adult paramphistomes (n= 281) were removed from buffalos (n= 21) taken to be slaughtered at Sihala abattoir, Rawalpindi (Punjab), and local abattoirs in Peshawar (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Pakistan (Fig. 1). The rumens were examined, and parasites were removed with the help of forceps, carefully following all precautions to avoid any damage to the parasites. Helminths were meticulously washed with 0.01M phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) pH 7.2.



Figure 1: Map of Pakistan indicating study areas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab Province

Extraction of excretory/secretory and somatic products

To obtain excretory/secretory products, live helminths were kept in 0.01M PBS (1 helminth / 5 ml) for 24 hours. Flukes were removed and the extract was centrifuged at 10,000 rpm for 10 minutes and the supernatant was separated. To obtain somatic (whole helminth) extract, the fluke was homogenized in chilled tissue lysis buffer, added according to the weight of tissue in a ratio of (1000 µl buffer/100 mg of tissue). The cold condition was maintained by keeping the tissue grinder in an icebox throughout lysis. The homogenate was then transferred to pre-chilled Eppendorf tubes and centrifuged at 10,000 rpm at 4°C for 10 minutes. The Bradford assay (Bradford 1967) was used for protein quantification. The supernatant was transferred to pre-chilled Eppendorf tubes and stored in aliquots at -20°C.

Sodium dodecyl sulphate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE)

The SDS-PAGE was performed according to the method described by Laemmli (1970). Briefly, the somatic and ES antigens were preheated with loading buffer for 5-10 minutes in a water bath at 95°C and loaded in 12 % and 10% separating gels, respectively. After running the gel at 90V for 2 hours, the gel was fixed for 1 hour and then stained with 0.1% Coomassie brilliant blue (Sigma). The molecular weight of each polypeptide was calculated using the protein ladder (Thermo ScientificTM).

Immunoblotting

Immunoblotting was carried out according to Hongbao & Kuan (2006). Briefly, after running the gel, the stacking gel was separated, the nitrocellulose membrane presoaked in transfer buffer was added and the gel was placed at the top of this membrane. The presoaked 6 filter papers were added at the top and bottom and rolled to remove air bubbles. The blotting was carried out at 10V constant voltages for 30 minutes in a semi-dry blotting apparatus (Bio-Rad). The membrane with transferred proteins was then treated with blocking solution (5% skimmed milk) for 1 hour, changing the solution at 15-minute intervals. The primary antibody (1:500) from naturally infected sera was incubated at 4°C overnight. After incubation, the membrane was washed with PBST 3 times, each wash for 10 minutes. The membrane was incubated with a secondary antibody (anti-goat antibody) for 2 hours on rotation. After washing, the substrate (BCIP/NBT)

Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA)

After running the SDS-PAGE gel, different protein bands of somatic antigen were eluted. Each piece was crushed in elution buffer and left overnight, centrifuged at 10,000 rpm for 10 minutes. The supernatant was separated and the protein concentration in each sample was determined with Bradford assay (1967) and stored at -20°C. The checkerboard method was used to determine the working dilutions of antigens and test sera. Different concentrations of antigens (20 μ g, 15 μ g, 10 μ g, 5 μ g, and 1 μ g, per 100 μ l per well) and positive and negative pooled sera (1:10, 1:20, 1:50, 1:100, 1:200, 1:400) were tested. The optimum concentrations of antigen and natural sera dilution were found to be 10 µg/100 µl and 1:10, respectively. ELISA was performed according to the method described by Fagbemi et al. (1997) and Ferre et al. (1997). Each eluted antigen was mixed with coating buffer in equal proportion (1:1) and 100 µl were added to each well of the microtiter plate and incubated overnight at 4°C, then washed with 0.05% PBS-Tween 20 and blocked with 0.05% BSA for 2 hours at room temperature. Next, 100 µl of sera from infected and control animals were added to each well and incubated for 2 hours at 37°C. After 3 washes, 100 µl of secondary antibody (horseradish peroxidase-conjugated anti-bovine IgG antibodies) were added to each well and the plate was incubated for 1 hour at room temperature. The plates were washed and 100 µl of the substrate (TMB Tetramethylbenzidine) was added to each well and the plate was incubated in the dark for 15 minutes at room temperature. The reaction was stopped by adding 100 µl of 1M H₂SO₄ Optical density (OD) values were determined by an ELISA reader at 450 nm. The cut-off value was determined with the mean absorbance value of negative serum added by three standard deviations. Sera with OD values higher than the cut-off value were considered positive.

Evaluation of ELISA using naturally infected buffaloe sera

The ELISA developed was validated with 60 blood and faecal samples collected from buffalos. Blood and faecal samples were taken from buffalos positive for *G. crumenifer* (n=21), and cross-reactivity was tested with control sera collected from buffalos positive for *Gigantocotyle explanatum* (n=10), *Fasciola* spp. (n=7), *Cotylophoron* spp./*Paramphistomum* spp.



Figure 2: Protein bands separated by SDS-PAGE in A) somatic (S) and B) excretory secretory (ES) extracts of adult worms of Gastrothylax crumenifer collected from buffalos

(n=12). Negative control sera (n=10) were obtained from 2-week-old kids born to a herd having a history of stall feeding only. Sera were separated and stored at -20°C, and faecal samples were collected per rectum into well-labeled sterile polythene bags, transported in ice packs to the laboratory, then stored at 4°C and analyzed within two days. The sensitivity and specificity of the ELISA using somatic antigen of *G. crumenifer* were calculated in comparison to faecal/postmortem examination by the following formulae:

Sensitivity = $[a/(a+c)] \times 100$

where 'a' is the number of animals positive by ELISA and faecal/postmortem examination (true positive), while 'c' is the number of animals positive by faecal/postmortem examination but negative by ELI-SA (false negative);

Specificity = $[d/(b+d)] \times 100$

where 'd' is the number of animals negative by ELISA and faecal/postmortem examination (true negative), while 'b' is the number of animals negative by faecal/postmortem examination but positive by ELI-SA (false positive).

Field implementation of ELISA

After the evaluation and standardization of the ELISA test, a total of 198 randomly collected blood and faecal/postmortem samples were examined.



Figure 3: Immunoblotting of Gastrothylax crumenifer somatic antigens in naturally infected buffalos

Statistical Analysis

Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS version 20. Kappa value of ELISA was calculated by using online software 'QuickCalcs (https://www.graphpad.com/quickcalcs/).

RESULTS

SDS-PAGE and Western blot analysis

The SDS-PAGE profile of the separated somatic polypeptides of adult *G. crumenifer* flukes revealed a total of 10 polypeptides in the molecular weight range of 10-123 kDa. The molecular weights of the most visible bands in the somatic extracts were 10-20, 21-37, 38-72, 95-123 kDa polypeptides (Fig.2A). The excretory/secretory extracts of *G. crumenifer* adults showed polypeptides of molecular weights \geq 95, 72, 55, and 40 kDa (Fig. 2B).

The Western blot analysis revealed that somatic extract polypeptides of a size between 55-70 kDa were antigenic against sera obtained from buffalos infected with *G. crumenifer* (Fig. 3). However, in the case of excretory/secretory extract, no distinct band was observed.

ELISA

The cut-off was set by the mean optical density (OD) of the negative reference serum, plus three times standard deviations (0.24+3*0.07=0.45). Eluted antigens of somatic extract of *G. crumenifer* coated on microtiter plates were tested against sera from buffalos to check the antigenicity of the proteins. The sensitivity and specificity of the diagnostic test for 38-72 kDa somatic antigens were 85.71% and 89.74%, respectively. The Kappa value calculated for the test was 0.746 (Table 1), which revealed that the strength of agreement was 'good'.

Table 1. Diagnostic officiency of ELISA established for 20 72 kDe

The cross-reactivity with *G. explanatum* positive sera was 20% and 16.6% was recorded for *Cotylophoron /Paramphistomum* infected sera. Sera from buffalo suffering from fasciolosis and normal control sera did not show reactivity with any of the antigens tested (Table. 2).

Prevalence of *Gastrothylax crumenifer* among buffalos

A total of 198 serum samples were tested for anti-IgG against 38-72 kDa somatic antigen of *G. crumenifer* in buffalos, and 19.69% (39/198) were found positive. The faecal/postmortem examination showed a 12.1% (24/198) infection rate. Paramphistomosis did not show a significant association with the breed, sex nor age of the animals examined by faecal/postmortem and ELISA test.

DISCUSSION

In the present study, somatic and excretory/secretory antigens of *G. crumenifer* were separated and subjected to a protein profiling study. The somatic antigens were used in antibody detection ELISA. The SDS-PAGE analysis of somatic antigens of *G. crumenifer* revealed ten polypeptide bands of molecular weight in the range of 10-123 kDa. Among the prominent bands, the intensity was stronger for high molecular weight bands (38-72 and 95-123 kDa) and weaker for low molecular weight bands, indicating that separation was not very discrete, maybe due to the presence of a non-proteinaceous complex nature

Table 1. Diagnostic entracy of ELISA established for 58-72 KDa soniatic antigen with facear/postinortem examination							
Test	ELIS	A Test		Sensitivity	Specificity	KAPPA	
Faecal/							
Postmortem	Positive	Negative	Total	95% CI	95% CI		
Examination							
Positive	18	3	21	85.71%	89.74%	Kappa= 0.746	
				(63.66%-96.95%)	(75.78%-97.13%)		
Negative	4	35	39			SE of kappa = 0.090	
			60			95% confidence interval:	
						0.570 to 0.922	

Table 2: Evaluation of cross-reactivity of ELISA test established for 38-72kDa somatic proteins of G. crumenifer against animal sera infected with other trematodes along with positive and negative control sera

Sera Positive for Trematodes	Total Sera tested n=60	Test Positive n (%)	Test Negative n (%)
Gastrothylax crumenifer	21	18 (85.7)	3 (14.3)
Fasciola spp.	7	0 (0)	7 (100)
Gigantocotyle spp.	10	2 (20)	8 (80)
Cotylophoron/ Paramphistomum spp.	12	2 (16.6)	10 (83.3)
Negative control	10	0 (0)	10 (100)

of these proteins (Arunkumar *et al.*, 2014). The results are in agreement with the study by Saifullah *et al.* (2000) who recorded eight major fractions ranging from 14 to 205 kDa in *G. crumenifer*.

Similarly, studies on P. epiclitum recorded molecular weight bands in the ranges of 4-100 kDa (Jadav et al., 2018) and 14.9-95.5 kDa (Arora et al., 2010); in P. cervi the molecular weight band ranged from 12 to 100 kDa (Dar et al., 2016), and in Paramphistomum spp. the molecular weight band was in the 11.5-174 kDa range (Salib et al., 2015). However, the results were comparable with mixed paramphistomes bands ranging from 25 to 120 kDa (Meshgi et al., 2009) and F. hepatica and F. gigantica protein bands in the ranges of 18-62kDa and 18-68 kDa, respectively (Meshgi et al., 2008). The variations in the relative molecular weight of the polypeptides in the current research and other reported studies may be due to the influence of the geographical location of the parasite and antigen isolation methods (Jadav et al., 2018). The ES antigens found in the present study were polypeptides with major bands of 55 kDa and 72 kDa and diffused bands of <10-15 kDa. Similar studies conducted in G. crumenifer recorded eight polypeptides in a molecular weight band of 240-30 kDa (Arunkumar et al., 2014) and seven polypeptides in the range of <14 to 165 kDa, respectively (Saifullah et al., 2011). Other studies on the separation of ES antigens of paramphistomes recorded polypeptide bands of different molecular weights (Irving and Howell, 1982; Yadav and Gupta, 1995; Saifullah et al., 2000; Ridi et al., 2007; Saifullah et al., 2011; Anuracpreeda et al., 2013; Jadav et al., 2018). This difference in the number and molecular weights of polypeptides found may be explained by the method of isolation of ES antigens and the species of paramphistomes and other trematodes selected.

Western blot analysis of somatic extracts of *G. crumenifer*, using pooled positive sera samples of naturally infected buffalos, revealed immunoreactive molecular weight bands of 55-70 kDa. No polypeptide band showed immunoreactivity with the verified pooled negative serum Previous studies on Western blot analysis of somatic antigens of *G. crumenifer* (Saifullah *et al.*, 2000; Saifullah *et al.*, 2011), recorded low molecular weight polypeptides, ranging from <14 to 50 kDa. The results of studies on other trematodes are comparable with the current research, having identified somatic antigenic polypeptides of: *F. hepatica* in the range of 33 and 66 kDa (Gonenc *et al.*, 2004); Paramphistomum cervi 52 kDa (Anuracpreeda et al., 2008); mixed infection with paramphistomes 90 kDa (Meshgi et al., 2009); and P. epiclitum with two lower molecular weight protein bands of 37.6 and 39.8 kDa (Arora et al., 2010). The studies on Paramphistomum spp. revealed immune-dominant polypeptides of molecular weights of 27, 39, 58, 63, 71, and 87 kDa, with a maximum reactivity of 63kDa (Salib et al., 2015), and P. cervi revealed six major positive antigenic bands, of which the 90 kDa polypeptide showed the maximum antigenic reactivity (Dar et al., 2017). The results of the current study may be explained by geographical and ecological variation and the host type as causal factors of differences between protein bands. However, the differences between our results and the aforementioned studies may be attributed to single and mixed paramphistome infections (Dar et al., 2017). ES antigens used in serodiagnosis of trematode infections have been well documented (Choi et al., 2003; Narain et al., 2005; Awad et al., 2009; Gomez-Morales et al., 2013; Anuracpreeda et al., 2013). However, in the present study, no ES immunoreactive antigen band was detected by Western blot analysis using naturally infected positive buffalo sera infected with G. crumenifer. The results may be explained by the different isolation methods of ES antigens used, as well as the low molecular weight of the precipitated proteins by the higher concentration of alcohol (Jaiswal et al., 2018).

Indirect ELISA is considered a reliable tool for early diagnosis of paramphistomosis in different animal species (Anuracpreeda et al., 2013). Herein, using the indirect ELISA, the somatic antigen in the 38-72 kDa range was found to display sensitivity and specificity against G. crumenifer infections of 85.71% and 89.74%, respectively, using 60 serum samples from buffalos. This high sensitivity might be due to four immunoreactive bands (molecular weights of 36, 38, 55, and 72 kDa). However, four samples were found to be false positive (ELISA positive and faecal/ post-mortem examination negative), indicating that disease was likely to be in the early stage (immature paramphistomosis) or that animals had been treated for paramphistomosis. The likelihood of cross-reactivity with other trematode infections was found in about 10-20% of the cases when other trematode flukes/eggs were found in postpartum examinations/ faeces of the buffalos under study. This may also be explained with some common antigenic epitopes that develop immune responses in their hosts, generating antibodies that can detect antigens from other infections (Fagbemi & Obarisiagbon, 1991; Ghosh *et al.*, 2005; Arora *et al.*, 2010 Kanjuga *et al.*, 2015). The phosphoryl-choline epitope is the main element of cross-reaction, an important conserved epitope of trematodes (Sloan *et al.*, 1991).

Similar results to our study were reported by Jadav et al. (2018) for somatic antigens of P. epiclitum in postpartum negative groups for indirect ELISA with a specificity of 89.83% in goats and 89.23% in sheep, respectively. Salib et al. (2015) evaluated indirect ELISA against somatic antigens of paramphistomes and revealed that the sensitivity, specificity, and accuracy were 74%, 82.4%, and 79.76%, respectively. Kumar et al. (2008a) developed ELISA using immunoaffinity column chromatography purified antigen from the somatic antigen of F. gigantica in buffalos and found a specificity of 97, 95, and 98% (in indirect) / 92.3, 94.7, and 90% (in dot) against G. crumenifer, G. explanatum and mixed infection of both parasites. In another study, Kumar et al. (2008b) observed 97-98% specificity of the indirect ELISA test against purified 27 kDa glycoprotein from the somatic antigen of F. gigantica against G. crumenifer, G. explanatum, or a mixed infection with both parasites in buffalos. Jadav et al. (2018) recorded a high level of specificity against PeSAg in a faecal negative animal group with indirect ELISA (86.11% for somatic antigens in goats and 66.67% in sheep) and dot-ELISA (83.33% for somatic antigens in goats, 83.33% in sheep). A comparatively high level of specificity was also observed by Kumar et al. (2008 a, b) in negative animal groups.

In the current study, after combining the faecal/ postmortem examination and 38-72 kDa somatic antigen indirect ELISA results, an increased prevalence was found in buffalos (19.69%), indicative of G. crumenifer either in the stage of active (prepatency and patency) or passive infection. The higher positivity prevalence observed in the current study using indirect ELISA may be due to early infections or to cross-reactivity with other closely related helminth parasites (Maji et al., 1999; Yadav et al., 2003; Salib et al., 2015). These findings are in agreement with other studies on paramphistome infections (Kumar et al., 2008 a, b; Kaur et al., 2008; Jadav et al., 2018). However, the prevalence of G. crumenifer infection based on faecal/postmortem examination in buffalos from some districts of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the present study was 12.1%, which is in the range of the prevalence reported from other studies carried out in Pakistan (Zaman et al., 2014; Iqbal et al., 2014).

CONCLUSIONS

The results of the current study confirm that polypeptides of 38-72kDa in the somatic extract of *G. crumenifer* can be used as a specific diagnostic antigen for paramphistomiasis in buffalos of Pakistan. However, the limitation of these assays is that present and past infection cannot be differentiated as the positive titers can also be observed even after elimination of infection. Additional studies on IgM and IgG antibody titers are required to differentiate between current and past infections.

COMPETING INTERESTS

None.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The research work presented in this article is under internal research funds of Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad.

REFERENCES

- Anuracpreeda P, Chawengkirttikul R, Sobhon P (2016) Antigenic profile, isolation and characterization of whole-body extract of *Paramphistomum gracile*. Parasite Immunol 38: 431-438.
- Anuracpreeda P, Poljaroen J, Chotwiwatthanakun C, Tinikul Y, Sobhon P (2013) Antigenic components, isolation and partial characterization of excretion-secretion fraction of *Paramphistomum cervi*. Exp Parasitol 133: 327-333.
- Anuracpreeda P, Wanichanon C, Sobhon P (2008) Paramphistomum cervi: Antigenic profile of adults as recognized by infected cattle sera. Exp Parasitol 118: 203-207.
- Arora R, Singh NK, Juyal PD, Ghosh S (2010) Immunoaffinity chromatographic analysis for purification of specific diagnostic antigens of *Paramphistomum epiclitum*. J Parasit Dis 34: 57-61.
- Arunkumar S, Krupakaran R, Balamurugan TC, Pandiyan GDV (2014) Electrophoretic analysis of excretory/secretor antigens of *Gastrothylax crumenifer* from buffalo. Cib tech J Bio Protoc 3.

- Awad WS, Ibrahim AK, Salib FA (2009) Using indirect ELISA to assess different antigens for the serodiagnosis of *Fasciola gigantica* infection in cattle, sheep and donkeys. Res Vet Sci 86: 466-471.
- Boray, JC, (1959) Studies on intestinal amphistomosis in cattle. Aust. Vet. J., 35 (6): 282-287.
- Bradford M (1976) A rapid and sensitive method for the quantitation of microgram quantities of protein utilizing the principle of protein dye binding. Anal Biochem 72: 248-254.
- Choi MH, Park IC, Li S, Hong ST (2003) Excretory-secretory antigen is better than crude antigen for the serodiagnosis of Clonorchiasis by ELISA. Korean J Parasitol 41: 35-39.
- Dar JS, Tak IR, Ganai BA, Shahardar RA (2016) Protein Profiling of Whole Worm Extract of *Paramphistomum cervi* Isolated from Local Cattle Breeds of Kashmir Using SDS-PAGE. Am Eurasian J Agric Environ Sci 16: 1327-1330.
- Dar JS, Tak IR, Ganai BA, Shahardar RA, Magray AR, Tajamul M (2017)

J HELLENIC VET MED SOC 2022, 73(2) ПЕКЕ 2022, 73(2) Evaluation of immunoblotting technique for the diagnosis of somatic antigens of *Paramphistomum cervi* isolated from local cattle breeds of Kashmir valley. Glob Vet 18: 99-104.

- El Ridi R, Salah M, Wagih A, William H, Tallima H, El Shafie MH, Khalek TA, El Amir A, Abo Ammou FF, Motawi H (2007) *Fasciola gigantica* excretory-secretory products for Immunodiagnosis and Prevention of sheep Fasciolosis. Vet Parasitol 149: 219-228.
- Fagbemi BO, Obarisiagbon IO (1991) Common antigens of Fasciola gigantica, Dicrocoelium hospes and Schistosoma bovis and their relevance to serology. Vet Q 13: 81-87.
- Fagbemi BO, Aderibigbe OA, Guobadia EE (1997) The use of monoclonal antibody for the immunodiagnosis of *Fasciola gigantica* infection in cattle. Vet Parasitol 69: 231-240.
- Ferrer I, Ballesteros B, Marco MP, Barceló D (1997) Pilot survey for determination of the antifouling agent Irgarol 1051 in enclosed seawater samples by a Direct Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay and solid-phase extraction followed by Liquid Chromatography Diode Array Detection. Environ Sci Technol 31: 3530-3535.
- Ghosh S, Rawat P, Velusamy R, Joseph D, Gupta SC, Singh BP (2005) 27 kDa *Fasciola gigantica* glycoprotein for the diagnosis of prepatent fasciolosis in cattle. Vet Res Commun 29: 123-135.
- Gómez-Morales MA, Ludovisi A, Amati M, Pozio E (2013) Validation of an excretory/secretory antigen based-ELISA for the diagnosis of *Opisthorchis felineus* infection in humans from low trematode endemic areas. PLoS One 8: e62267.
- Gönenç B, Sarimehmetoğlu HO, Kara M, Kircali F (2004) Comparison of crude and excretory/secretory antigens for the diagnosis of *Fasciola hepatica* in sheep by western blotting. Turk J Vet Anim Sci 28: 943-949.
- Hafeez MD (2003) Helminth parasites of public health importance trematodes. J Parasit Dis 27: 69-75.
- Hanna REB, Williamson DS, Mattison RG, Nizami WA (1988) Seasonal reproduction in *Paramphistomum epiclitum* and *Gastrothylax crumenifer*, rumen paramphistomes of the Indian water buffalo, and comparison with the biliary paramphistome *Gigantocotyle explanatum*. Int J Parasitol 18: 513-521.
- Hongbao MA, Kuan JS (2006) Western Blotting Method. J Anim Sci 2.
- Horak IG (1967) Host-parasite relationships of *Paramphistomum microbothrium* Fischoeder, 1901, in experimentally infested ruminants, with particular reference to sheep. *Onderstepoort* J Vet Res 34 (2): 451-540.
- Iqbal MN, Muhammad A, Anjum AA, Shahzad KA, Ali MA, Ali S (2014) Prevalence of *Gastrothylax crumenifer* in the gastrointestine of *Bubalis*. Glob Vet 1: 28-31.
- Irving DO, Howell MJ (1982) Characterization of excretory-secretory antigens of *Fasciola hepatica*. Parasitol 85: 179-188.
- Jadav MM, Kumar N, Das B, Solanki JB (2017) Immunodiagnostic potency of homologous antigens for natural *Paramphistomum epiclitum* infection in small ruminants in plate and paper enzyme linked immunosorbent assay. Ind J Anim Res 52: 83-91.
- Jaiswal AK, Shanker D, Sudan V, Singh A (2018) Diagnostic potential of low molecular weight excretory secretory proteins of *Paramphistomum epiclitum* for caprine amphistomosis. Vet Parasitol 257: 5-9.
- Jyoti Prasad A, Singh NK (2014) Evaluation of antibody response to various developmental stage specific somatic antigens of *Paramphistomum epiclitum* in goats. Biomed Res Int.
- Kajugu PE, Hanna REB, Edgar HW, McMahon C, Cooper M, Gordon A, Barley JP, Malone FE, Brennan GP, Fairweather I (2015) Fasciola hepatica: Specificity of a coproantigen ELISA test for diagnosis of fasciolosis in faecal samples from cattle and sheep concurrently infected with gastrointestinal nematodes, coccidians and/or rumen flukes (paramphistomes), under field conditions. Vet Parasitol 212: 181-187.
- Kaur S, Singla LD, Hassan SS, Juyal PD (2008) Evaluation of Dot-ELISA for Immunodiagnosis of *Paramphistomum epiclitum* in ruminants. J Parasit Dis 32: 118-122.
- Khedri J, Radfar MH, Borji H, Mirzaei M (2015) Prevalence and intensity of *Paramphistomum spp*. in cattle from South-Eastern Iran. Iran J Parasitol 10 (2): 268.
- Kilani K, Guillot J, Chermett R (2003) Amphistomes digestive. In: Lefevre, P.C., Blanco, J., Chermatt, J. (Eds.), Principales maladies infec-

tiouses et parasitaires dubetail. (1st Edn.) Tec and Doc Paris, 1400-1410.

- Kumar N, Ghosh S, Gupta SC (2008b) Detection of *Fasciola gigantica* infection in buffalos by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay. Parasitol Res 104: 155-161.
- Kumar N, Ghosh S, Gupta SC (2008a) Early detection of Fasciola gigantica infection in buffalos by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay and dot enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay. Parasitol Res 103: 141-150.
- Kumar V (1998) Trematode infections and diseases of man and animals. Springer Science & Business Media.
- Laemmli UK (1970) Cleavage of structural proteins during the assembly of the head of Bacteriophage T4. Nature 227: 680-685.
- Ma H, Shieh K (2006) Western blotting method. Am J Sci 2: 23-27.
- Maji BP, Dwivedi P, Rao JR, Yadav SC (1999) Cross-antigenicity between ruminal and hepatic Paramphistomes and liver flukes of Buffalo origin. J Appl Anim Res 16: 53-57.
- Meshgi B, Eslami A, Halajian A (2009) Determination of diagnostic antigens in cattle amphistomiasis using western blotting. Iran J Parasitol 4: 32-37.
- Meshgi B, Eslami A, Hemmatzadeh F (2008) Determination of somatic and excretory-secretory antigens of *Fasciola hepatica* and *Fasciola gigantica* using SDS-PAGE. Iran J Vet Res 9: 77-80.
- Mukherjee RP, Chauhan BS (1965) Studies on the trematode fauna of India. Part V. Subclass Digenea: Paramphisto-midae Fischoeder (1901). J Zool Soc (1/2): 150-225.
- Narain K, Devi KR, Mahanta J (2005) Development of enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay for serodiagnosis of human Paragonimiasis. Ind J Med Res 121: 739-746.
- Raza MA, Iqbal Z, Jabbar A, Yaseen M (2007) Point prevalence of gastrointestinal helminthiasis in ruminants in southern Punjab, Pakistan. J Helminthol 81 (3): 323-328.
- Saifullah MK, Ahmad G, Abidi SMA (2011) Isolation and partial characterization of excretory/secretory antigens of *Gastrothylax crumenifer*. Vet Parasitol 180: 232-236.
- Saifullah MK, Ahmad G, Nizami WA, Abidi SMA (2000) Analysis of excretory-secretory and somatic antigens of *Gastrothylax crumenifer*. J Helminthol 74: 271-276.
- Salib FA, Halium MMA, Mousa WM, Massieh ESA (2015) Evaluation of indirect ELISA and western blotting for the diagnosis of Amphistomes infection in cattle and buffalos. Int J Livest Res 5: 71-81.
- Santiago N, Hillyer GV (1988) Antibody profiles by EITB and ELISA of cattle and sheep infected with *Fasciola hepatica*. J Parasitol 74: 810-818.
- Sloan T, Dooge D, Joyce P (1991) Identification of phosphorylcholine containing antigens of *Fasciola hepatica*—successful tolerization against this epitope in experimental animals. Parasit Immunol 13: 447-455.
- Soulsby EJL (1987) Parasitología y enfermedades parasitarias en los animales domésticos. No. 636.0894 S6Y 1982. 1987.
- Soulsby EJL (1982) Helminths, arthropods and protozoa of domesticated animals 7th edn. 809 pp. London, Bailliere Tindall.
- Wang CR, Qiu JH, Zhu XQ, Han XH, Ni HB, Zhao JP, Zhou QM, Zhang HW, Lun ZR (2006) Survey of helminths in adult sheep in Heilongjiang Province, People's Republic of China. Vet Parasitol 140: 378-382.
- Yadav CL, Saxena MK, Ram H, Garg R, Banerjee PS (2003) Detection of cross-reaction proteins in *Fasciola gigantica* and *Paramphistomum epiclitum*. Ind J Anim Sci (India).
- Yadav SC, Gupta SC (1995) Immunodiagnostic moieties in somatic and excretory/secretory antigens of *Fasciola gigantica*. Ind J Exp Biol 33: 824-828.
- Yusuf IA, Chaudhry MA (1970) Species of Paramphistomes (Trematoda) from buffalos in Peshawar region of West Pakistan. Trop Anim Health Prod 2: 235-237.
- Zaman MA, Sajid M, Sikandar A, Rehman TU, Awais MM (2014) Point Prevalence of Gastrointestinal Helminths and their Association with Sex and Age of Buffalos in Lower Punjab, Pakistan. Int J Agric Biol 16: 1229-1231.