

Gastrointestinal Parasites of Cattle in Central Java

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Abstract: Gastrointestinal parasites are the main cause of losses of cattle farms including feed conversion-failure and even death of heavily infected animals. We have conducted a random examination of 455 cows in the Special Region of Yogyakarta-Central Java from March to June 2016. The examined animals were Ongole and Local Cattle (PO) cross breed, Simmental breed, Limousin breed, Simmental and PO cross breed, PO and Limousin cross breed, Friesian Holstein breed (FH), Brahman breed, Angus breed, Angus and Brahman cross breed and Bali breed. McMaster technique, saturated NaCl flotation technique and Parfitt and Banks technique were used simultaneously in this study in order to identify the parasitic stages present in the coprological samples. The test results showed that approximately 65.93% of the cattle population was infected by parasitic stages, such as: Strongylidae (54.00%), *Fasciola* sp. (17.00%), *Eimeria* spp. (15.33%), *Strongyloides* sp. (4.67%), *Paramphistomum* sp. (4.00%), *Trichuris* sp. (3.67%) and *Moniezia* sp. (1.33%). Six different *Eimeria* species were identified: *E. bovis*, *E. auburnensis*, *E. bukidnonensis*, *E. canadaensis*, *E. zurnii* and *E. cylindrica*. Most of the animals presented monoinfections (79.33%), but concomitant infections were also observed (2 different parasites: 17.67%; 3 different parasites: 2.33%; more than 3 different parasites: 0.67%). With this work we proved the high level of parasitism in cattle of Central Java and we intensively highlight the need to find adequate control measures against parasitic diseases in order to reduce the detrimental impact of parasitosis in cattle.

Keywords: Parasites, Gastrointestinal, Cattle, Central Java

Introduction

Gastrointestinal parasitic diseases are the major cause of economic losses in domestic animals worldwide (Corwin, 1997; McLeod, 1995; Grisi *et al.*, 2014; Bandyopadhyay *et al.*, 2010). Decreased inappetence lead to problems of feed and water intake, whilst protein losses due to gastrointestinal damage diminishes availabilities for growth. These problems combination caused impaired amino acids and minerals metabolism with end up in reduced carcass quality. Additionally, delayed maturity for reproduction and extended calving interval lower milk production can be observed in consequence (Charlier *et al.*, 2009; Parkins and Holmes, 1989). The costs with frequent usage of anti-parasitic drugs, the poor feed conversion rates, the reduction of reproductive and/or productive performances, together with the possibility of drug resistance due to indiscriminate treatments with anti-parasitic drugs,

represent some of the factors contributing to the reduced efficacy in cattle production. Indonesia has a high demand of meat in order to fulfill 300 million people needs. Nowadays, self-sufficient production of cattle meat in Indonesia is not possible since meat production is below the national demands, especially due to animal health status and some managerial problems, together with losses in productivity (MoARI, 2011). Therefore, meat has to be imported from abroad since years (MoARI, 2015) implicating a high price of meat that urge the Indonesian government to launch meat self-sufficiency programs (MoARI, 2010). Indonesian government planned to increase population of indigenous, local and commercial breed cattle through several strategic plans i.e.: push live carcass weight from 150 to 176 kgs, weaning rate from 24 to 30% and calving interval from 21 months to 16-18 months (MoARI, 2011). As gastrointestinal parasites hamper the efficient production of cattle products (e.g., meat, milk) it is mandatory to

investigate the prevalence of parasitosis in Indonesian cattle farms in order to improve management and production results. This study aims to describe the prevalence of gastrointestinal parasites commonly found in Central Java, the most populated islands in Indonesia. The data provide baseline knowledge of infection levels in the region and support decision-making for control strategies.

Materials and Methods

Sample collection was carried out for four months, from March to June 2016. Stool samples were collected directly from rectum and faeces were stored in plastic containers and refrigerated at 4°C until the time of examination. Random sampling was performed in several districts of Central Java and Special Region of Yogyakarta provinces i.e., Kulon Progo, Gunung Kidul, Bantul, Yogyakarta, Magelang and Boyolali. These sampling sites included 7°47.44 south latitude and 110°8.24 eastern longitude ordinates. Cattle breed included in the study correspond to those that are commonly farmed in Central Java.

Flotation technique with saturated NaCl (Foreyt, 2001; Parfitt and Banks, 1970) method were performed to identify parasitic stages. Morphologic identification of parasite stages followed Soulsby (1965), Levine and Ivens (1970) and Floriao *et al.* (2016).

Results

Parasites examination showed 65.93% of the total 455 cows were infected. Single parasite infection reached 79.33% (53/300) of the animals and the rest presented concomitant infections by two or three or more parasites (Fig. 1). Different types of parasites ova and *Eimeria* spp. unsporulated oocysts found in the study are shown in Table 1 and Fig. 2. Artificial insemination programs generate several crossbreeds commonly found in traditional farms i.e., Ongole-Local Cattle (PO) cross breed, Simmental-PO cross breed, PO-Limousin cross breed and Angus-Brahman cross breed. The number of infected animals according to their breed is represented in Table 2. In most of the cases, parasitic infestation reaches 50% or more animals in all sampled breeds.

The highest nematode parasite infestation was caused by Strongyle-type eggs which reached 54.00% of the total infected animals, followed by *Strongyloides* sp. (4.67%) and *Trichuris* sp. (3.67%). Cestode infestation by *Moniezia* sp. was 0.88%. Trematode parasite infestation by *Fasciola* sp. was higher (17.00%) than *Paramphistomum* sp infections (4%). Whilst *Eimeria* spp. infestation was 15.33%. Identification of *Eimeria* spp. were performed directly from unsporulated oocysts based in morphological features (Fig. 2). The dominant *Eimeria* spp. examined was *E. bovis*, *E. auburnensis*, *E. bukidnonensis*, *E. canadaensis*, *E. zurnii* and *E. cylindrica*.

Table 1. Gastrointestinal-parasite eggs/oocyst obtained from cattle in Central Java

Parasite eggs/oocysts	Infected animals (%)
<i>Paramphistomum</i> sp	4.00
<i>Fasciola</i> sp	17.00
<i>Strongyle</i> -type	54.00
<i>Eimeria</i> sp	15.50
<i>Moniezia</i> sp	0.88
<i>Trichuris</i> sp	3.60
<i>Strongyloides</i> sp	4.60

Table 2. Breed examined for fecal examination

Breed	Number examined	Number positive
Ongole-Local Cattle (PO) cross breed	120	61
Simmental	125	62
Limousin	98	40
Simmental-PO cross breed	74	41
PO-Limousin cross breed	23	12
Friesian Holstein (FH)	7	4
Angus	2	1
Brahman	1	1
Angus-Brahman cross breed	1	0
Bali	4	4

Discussion

With this study, we demonstrated highly parasitic infections in cattle in the region of Central Java, the most populated island in Indonesia. Our findings are consistent with other reports from various tropical-developing countries (Nginyi *et al.*, 2001; Mejia *et al.*, 2003; Tan *et al.*, 2014; Hussain *et al.*, 2014). This study show that infections with nematodes was common and especially Strongyles were the most frequent compared with other types of worms.

Different risk factors have been described to influence the outcome of parasitic infections in cattle. One of the most important risk factors contributing to high parasitism of tropical areas is likely the constant high temperatures, which favors development of parasitic stages. Temperature range of Central Java is around 20-27°C with little variation throughout the year as it has equatorial climate. In the rainfall season the humidity increases 70-85%. For example for *Haemonchus contortus* high rainfall is related to a proportional increase of the number of migrated L3 from fecal material to pasture (Santos *et al.*, 2012; Silva *et al.*, 2008).

Besides temperature, the management system of the farms also significantly contributes to a higher prevalence of gastrointestinal parasitism (Kumar *et al.*, 2013; Barger, 1997). Almost all animals sampled in this investigation were reared under traditional methods of husbandry in smallholder farmer systems. Animals were fed with forage, i.e., rice straws, from the same land. In Central Java, the forage rotation is difficult to perform due to narrowing land for residential, road and government purposes, complicating parasites control measures (Stuedemann *et al.*, 2004; Larsson *et al.*, 2007). Moreover, feeding imbalance

composition leads to malnutrition, which contributes to the lack of immunity against parasites (Hughes and Kelly,

2006). This risk factor may also increase animal susceptibility toward mixed infections (Fig. 1).

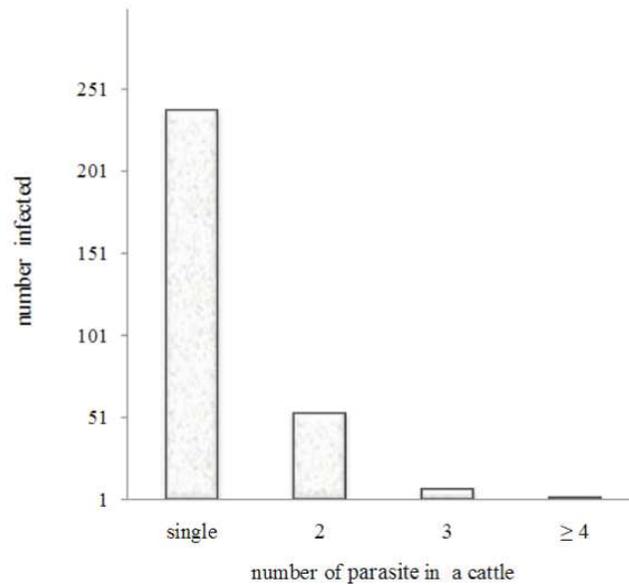


Fig. 1. Distribution of mixed and co infection of parasites among cattle in Central Java

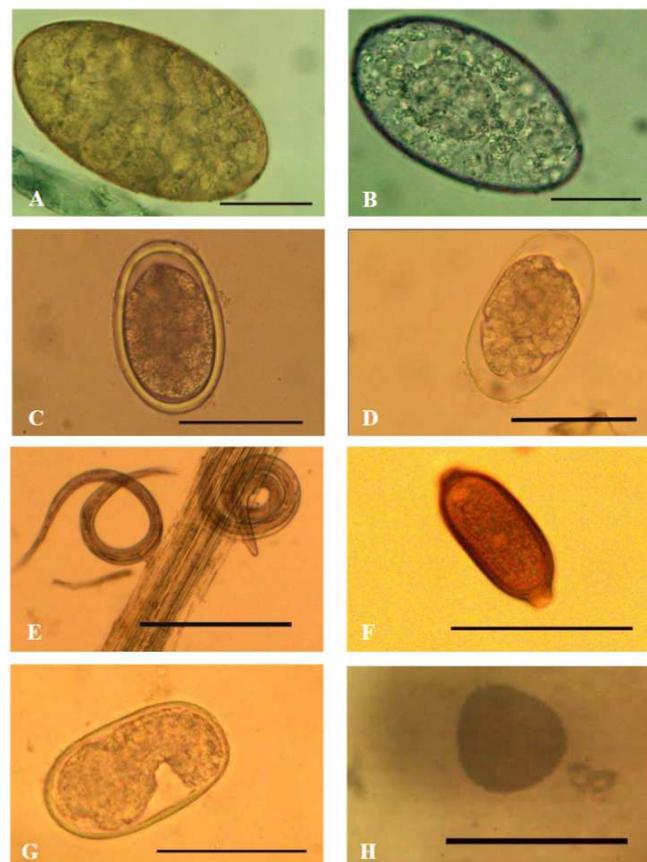


Fig. 2. Micrograph of gastrointestinal parasites eggs examined in cattle of Central Java. A. *Fasciola* sp. B. *Paramphistomum* sp. C.D. Strongyle-type egg. E. Fecal larva. F. *Trichuris* sp. G. *Strongyloides* sp. H. *Moniezia* sp. Scale bars are 50 μ m

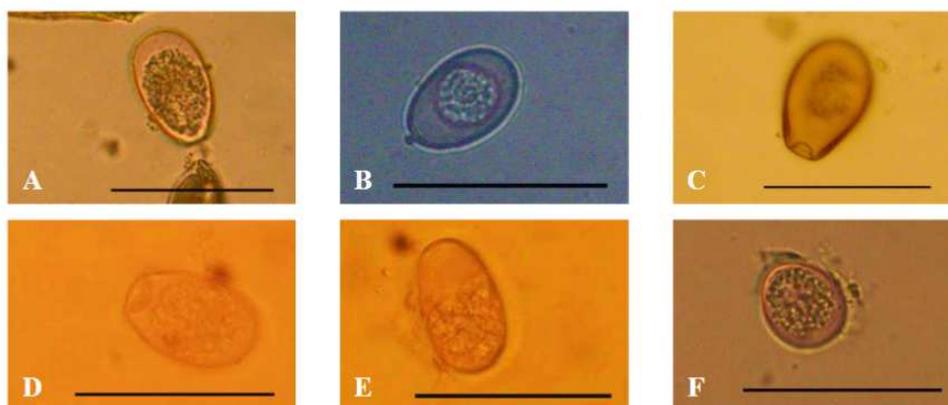


Fig. 3. Unsporulated oocysts obtained from cattle in Central Java. Scale bars are 50 μ m. A *Eimeria auburnensis*. B. *E. bovis*. C. *E. bukidnonensis*. D. *E. canadensis*. E. *E. cylindrica*. F. *E. zuernii*

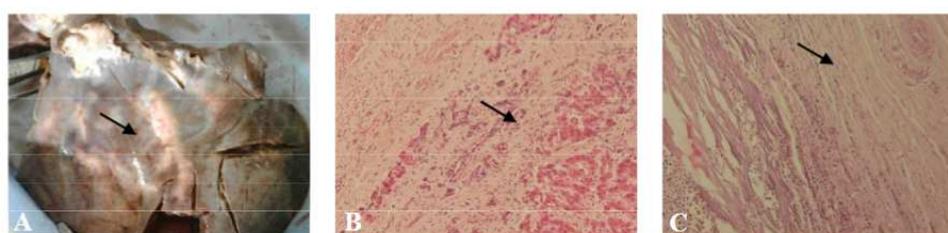


Fig. 4. A. Bovine liver of severe fasciolosis. B. and C. Histopathologic change of A. B and C are in 200X magnification

For trematode infestation, *Fasciola* sp. was the most prevalent parasite followed by *Paramphistomum* sp. This result confirms fasciolosis in cattle often found during Eid al-Adha when people sacrifice cattle for human consumptions (personal observations). Since the majority of Java residents are Moslem, thousands of cattle are slaughtered in one to three days, in order to fulfill religious festivities. Due to the zoonotic potential of fasciolosis, particularly at this time of the year, several infected livers (Fig. 4A) have to be discarded from human food chain to prevent human consumption. The implication of fasciolosis is displacement of hepatocytes with fibrocytes (arrows in Fig. 4B) and lead to development of connective tissue in almost all liver areas (arrows in Fig. 4C). Intensive guidance from institutions is a compulsory for public health importance during this event.

Clinical coccidiosis was rarely found in this investigation. However, subclinical coccidial infection was probable due to infections of one or more species of *Eimeria* (Fig. 3). This also indicates that the infestation with coccidia can still occur in adult cattle in accordance with previous reports (Sudhakara Reddy *et al.*, 2015). *Eimeria bovis* and *E. zuernii* were reported here and they are noted as the most pathogenic species of *Eimeria* affecting cattle. Even low infectious doses of *E. bovis* oocysts (10^4) and *E. zuernii* (10^5) result in severe haemorrhagic enteritis with weight losses, dehydration

or death of heavily infected animals (Mundt *et al.*, 2005; Hermosilla *et al.*, 1999).

Our study reveals the importance of gastrointestinal parasitism in cattle in Central Java. To overcome the negative impact of such parasitic diseases, efficient control measures should be implemented. Administration of the same anthelmintic substances for long time without proper evaluation may lead to considerable costs for traditional farms and raise the possibility of resistance to the substances (Mejia *et al.*, 2003; Muniz-Lagunes *et al.*, 2015). In addition, gastrointestinal diseases has an impact in animal health status that usually implicates a reduction in animals performance, reducing for example daily weight gains, which hampers government's efforts in the national meat self-sufficiency program.

Conclusion

This study showed a high rate of gastrointestinal parasitic infections in traditional farms in Central Java. These results indicate the need to establish efficient control measures that improve animal health and performance by lowering the gastrointestinal parasitism of cattle.

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Author's Contribution

Penny Humaidah Hamid: Designed the research and wrote the manuscript.

Yuli Purwandari Kristianingrum and Joko Prastowo: Did the research.

Liliana Machado Ribeiro da Silva: Analyze result and wrote the manuscript. All authors approve the manuscript.

Competing Interest

Authors declare that they have no competing interest.

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