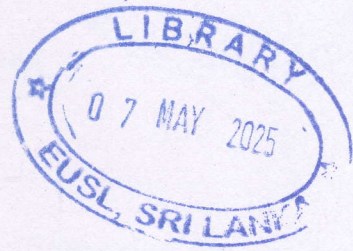
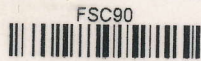


**PREVALENCE AND FACTORS INFLUENCING
GASTROINTESTINAL PARASITIC INFECTIONS
AMONG CATTLE IN THE DISTRICT OF
BATTICALOA, SRI LANKA**



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ABSTRACT

Gastrointestinal (GI) parasitic infections pose a significant challenge in cattle management, with varying effects influenced by age, gender, weather conditions, and infection severity. Despite the lack of published studies, this research aimed to assess the prevalence of GI parasites among cattle in the Batticaloa District. A total of 87 cattle were randomly selected from four areas; Chenkaladi, Karadiyanaru, Eravur, and Valachchenai from August to December 2023. Freshly voided fecal samples were collected, revealing that 89.65% (n=78) of the sampled cattle were positive for eggs of one or more GI parasite species. The study identified a spectrum of GI parasites, including *Fasciola* spp., *Paramphistomum* spp., *Toxocara* spp., *Capillaria* spp., *Taenia* spp., *Nematodirus* spp. and Strongyle type. Analysis by gender showed a higher prevalence in females (91.48%, n=43) compared to males (87.50%, n=35), while calves exhibited the highest infection rate (95.24%, n=20). Seasonal variations were observed, with a 100% prevalence during the wet season (n=46) compared to 78.05% during the dry season (n=32). Geographically, Chenkaladi recorded the highest infection rate at 92%, followed by Karadiyanaru at 91.3%, Valachchenai at 90%, and Eravur at 84%. Recommendations for effective parasite management include regular mass deworming, frequent diagnostic assessments, and farmer training on infection control and prevention. Furthermore, future investigations should explore the economic impact of GI parasites in the study areas and their potential transmission to the human population. This study underscores the need for comprehensive veterinary services to enhance cattle farming practices and mitigate the impact of GI parasitic infections.

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