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A NOTE ON THE DIPLITRIAENA BHAMOENSIS (PARONA, 1889) (NEMATODA: FILARIIDAE) INFECTION IN BIRDS

*Diplotriaena bhamoensis* (Parona, 1889) is a common parasite of bank myna *Acridotheres gingenianus* Latham and common myna *A. tristis* Linné at Ludhiana (Sood and Dang, in press). The intensity of infection is higher in *A. gingenianus* (68.25 %) than in *A. tristis* (23.57 %). The parasites occur both in the thoracic and abdominal cavities. In the abdominal cavity, these lie tightly coiled in the mesenteries among the coils of intestine. In the thoracic cavity the parasites occur congregated around the heart. In some of the infected specimens of *A. gingenianus*, the parasites are traced up to the trachea. In one case, a solitary male specimen was found between the integument and the keel.

In two cases, the parasites tightly encircled the heart (mostly auricular part), without any apparent damage to the cardiac musculae. The parasites are so “delicate” that they tend to burst immediately after their removal from the body. The females kept in Petri dishes survived for 2—7 minutes in tap water and 25—230 minutes in saline solution. The males kept under similar conditions survived for 1/2—2 minutes and 35—345 minutes in tap water and saline solution respectively.

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