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Morphological and scanning electron microscopy studies of the tongue of the Egyptian fruit bat (*Rousettus aegyptiacus*) and their lingual adaptation for its feeding habits

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This study was carried out on the tongues of 12 adult normal healthy Egyptian fruit bats of both sexes. The tongue is protrusible, elongated flat with a rounded apex and its wide and thickness increase gradually toward the lingual root. There are four types of lingual papillae; two mechanical and two gustatory. The tongue divided into three parts (anterior, middle and posterior), each part subdivides into three regions; two lateral regions and median region, in addition to the lingual apex to the anterior region. The lingual papillae close to the median region of the tongue were posteriorly directed toward the pharynx while theses present on the lateral regions of the tongue are directed medioposteriorly. There are six subtypes of the filiform papillae; three on the anterior part (small, conical and giant), two on the middle part (cornflower and leaf-like papillae) while the posterior part contain rosette shape filiform papillae, in addition to transitional papillae and conical papillae. Two gustatory papillae represented by a small number of fungiform papillae which scattered among the filiform papillae on lingual apex and two lateral regions of the anterior and middle part of tongue while the three circumvallate papillae on the posterior part were arranged in a triangle form.

Biography

Raafat M A El-Bakery has completed his Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine science in 1979 from Zagazig University and then became the Demonstrator of Anatomy in 1980 at Alexandria University. He did his PhD in Veterinary Anatomy in 1986 and later became the Assistant Professor of Anatomy in 1990. In 1994, he became Professor of Anatomy and has been serving as the Head of the Department of Anatomy and Embryology at the Alexandria University of Egypt. He has published numerous scientific papers in the field of Anatomy, Histology and Embryology in scientific internal and external journals and has supervised and discussed several Master's and PhD Thesis in most Egyptian universities. He is also a member of the Scientific Committee to upgrade Professors and Assistant Professors.

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