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Acute trichomoniasis in Columba livia domestica (pigeon canker)

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The avian disease Trichomoniasis commonly referred to as "Pigeon Canker" is a protozoal disease caused by Trichomonas gallinae which causes high mortality in squabs. A pigeon owner with flock strength of 150 birds reared in cages reported 17% mortality of 45 days old squabs within a week period. On investigation of the farm the squabs exhibited torticolis of neck, labored breathing, greenish white diarrhea and deprived of feeding with pigeon crop milk, off-feed and weight loss. Physical examination of the affected squabs showed yellow raised areas like yellow buttons mostly distributed in throat, mouth and beak commissure. Lung congestion at postmortem examination was predominant. Tracheal swab, impression smear, blood smear, droppings and organs (heart, lungs, liver, trachea and intestine in 50% GS, NS and 10% formalin) were collected and sent to the laboratory for culture and isolation, microscopic examination, ABST and histopathology respectively. The results of laboratory analysis revealed the presence of *Pseudomonas* species in tracheal swab culture, further no HA virus could be detected and ABST was sensitive for Enrofloxacin, Gentamicin, Amoxicillin and Norfloxacin. The supply of drinking water collected from the farm was subjected to water test analysis and the water sample was portable. Hence the scrap from the lesions of the affected birds were smeared on the glass slide and examined which revealed the presence of triangle Trichomanads. Thus the clinical signs, gross lesions, cultural examination and microscopic examination results confirmed the disease outbreak as canker, which has manifested during the warm climate. Based on the ABST the treatment was attempted with 10% Enrofloxacin and Metronidazole at 60 mg per body weight for 5 days continuously and also the control measures suggested were to isolate the affected birds, disinfect the farm and cage premises, elimination of all sources of stagnant water and to depopulate the birds at regular intervals and the owner followed accordingly recovering the health status of the flock.

Biography

N Premalatha has completed her PhD from Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University. She is an Associate Professor and Head of Veterinary University Training and Research Centre at Melmaruvathur. She has published more than 12 papers in reputed journals and has been serving as an Editorial Board Member of Kalnadai Kathir magazine.

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