

## Identification of Worm Eggs in Faeces of Egrets (*Egretta sp.*) in Surabaya

### Identifikasi Telur Cacing pada Feses Egrets (*Egretta sp.*) di Surabaya

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#### Abstract

The aim of this research was to identify worm eggs species that infected Egrets in Surabaya. A total of 40 samples were taken and faecal examination was conducted in the Laboratory by means of native, sedimentation, and floating methods, In floating method saturated brown sugar solution was used as floating media because brown sugar solution was faster in floating worm eggs. Then further examination of the worm eggs species were matched by microscopic taxonomy and textbook comparison observation. Eggs of three classes of helminths, Trematode, Cestode, and Nematode were found in faeces of Egrets in Surabaya. Species of the Nematode eggs found were *Ascaris sp.*, *Ascaridia galli*, , *Capillaria sp.*, *Toxocara cati*. Species of Cestode class egg found were *Raillietina sp.*, from Trematode class were *Echinostoma revolutum*.

**Key words:** Worms Eggs, *Egretta sp.*, Brown sugar.

#### Introduction

Indonesia is a maritime country, with the geographical location exactly on the the equator line. This country has more than 17,500 large and small islands, has more than 42 types of terrestrial and five types marine ecosystems very unique. The diversity and uniqueness of the ecosystem has made awarded in term of natural resources. There is no other country which has natural conditions such as Indonesia. Indonesia is the richest country in the world in terms of biodiversity. World Resource Institute, IUCN, dan UNED (1995) described that Indonesia has up to 25% various species in the world when its land area is only 1.3% of the total mainland in the world (Sukara 2008).

This is due to the geographical location of Indonesia that is strategic because it is located between two continents, Asia and Australia and between two oceans, the Hindia ocean and the Pacific as well as a meeting between two important biogeographic region that is Oriental and Australian region. This conditions made Indonesia the world's most unique area (Sukara,

2008). These unique conditions made Indonesia rich in term of palnts and animals.

Indonesia has a lot of diversity in various kind of animal species or wildlife, one of them is the kinds of birds. The number of bird species in Indonesia account for 18% from the total of birds species in the world (1598). Indonesia also became a part of the flight paths of 149 species migratory birds (Sukmantoro *et al.*, 2007). Migratory birds are birds that do the flying activity from breeding location to non breeding location that occur every year. Migration of these birds as a form of response due to the extreme climate change. Several types of habitat that support migratory birds are the mountains, swamps, coastal waters, lakes, mangroves and mudflats because its providing various sources of food (Howes *et al.*, 2003).

The time when migratory birds start migrating to the southern hemisphere are from October to December. Location that will be visited by migratory birds to find food are the mangrove, beach, mudflats, rice field and swamp.

The stopover place of these migratory birds can be a source of disease transmission which could infect the birds in Indonesia, because this can increase the density of the groups of birds. This incident that increased the risks of disease transmission to local birds that foraging at the same spot with migrant birds (Whitworth *et al.*, 2008). One of the Indonesia bird that inhabit at mangrove, mudflat, rice field and the foraging activity at the same time with the migrant birds are the egrets (Howes *et al.*, 2003)

Egrets are the water birds with medium body size that usually can be found in mangrove areas and rice field areas at tropical country such as Indonesia. These birds are included in the family Ardeidae and can be identified from the size of the neck that is long enough and slightly curving, long legs and dark colored for several species of egrets (Mackinnon, 2000). Egrets started their hunting activity during the day while walking through shallow mudflat, open water and stabbing prey with its bill (Kazantzidis and Goutner, 1996). Egrets mainly eat small fish size 1.2 up to 6 cm, but crustacean, bivalves and other invertebrate also consumed (Elfidasari, 2008).

Egrets in Indonesia are often looking for its prey in the mangrove and rice field. These two areas provide different food sources (Elfidasari, 2008). Mangrove areas provide food such as crustacean and small fish, while rice fields areas provide grasshopper, beetle, and other arthropods as the sources of food (Abdullah *et al.*, 2016). Opportunistic hunter is the nickname for egrets when looking for its prey, they depend on visual cues that was shown by its prey, when there is small movement shown by its prey, egrets will immediately stabs with its bill (Kazantzidis and Goutner, 1996).

East Java especially Surabaya is one of the biggest city in Indonesia that has suitable habitat for egrets as well as migratory birds when stop by, this location is Wonorejo. Wonorejo is one area on the east coast of Surabaya consisting of fishpond area and mangrove area which is influenced by the tides so that presents a vast wetland for feeding grounds for birds (Lukman, 2010). Wonorejo also one of Important Bird Area (IBA) which has been established by birdlife Indonesia as a temporary stopover areas to looking for food for birds that migrate, because

almost every year will be visited by more than 10,000 pairs of birds, especially water birds. Water bird species that are often found in Wonorejo is Ardeidae family, egrets including on it. Egrets in Wonorejo utilize these areas such as muudy areas, fishpond and rivers as as feeding grounds (*foraging*) and mangrove vegetation for perch and nesting (Tri, and Trisnawati 2013), because of the location for foraging of migratory birds and egrets in Surabaya is the same, that is Wonorejo, so contact between these birds could not be avoided dan the risk of disease transmission between species is also high. egrets as one of the wildlife that commonly found in Surabaya need to be aware of its existence.

he emergence of a disease can be caused by the types of organisms such as virus, bacterial, fungus, tick, and lice, but most widely spread is worm (Kusumamiharja, 1986). Parasites, especially worms could decrease the condition of the host because it could disturb the absorption of the nutrient, damage the tissue and sucking blood on host. This could lead to serious problems such as metabolism problem and organ damage so the body organs could not function properly (Kusnoto *et al.*, 2014).

The reason why the researcher choose to identify the worm egg on the egrets as the subject of the research because to determine the types of worms that infect the egrets and to be able carry out further study on diseases in wildlife with the hope could support wildlife conservation in Indonesia.

## Materials and Methods

### Samples Handling

The samples that used in this research were used fresh feces samples of wild egrets that temporary nest in Surabaya Zoo. Faeces were taken and put into plastic pot and filled with 10% formalin. Each pots was labeled or marked with samples number that adjusted for sample collection. Faecal samples brought to the Laboratory of Parasitology Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Surabaya to be examined.

### Sample Examination

Identification was carried out by observing worm eggs isolated from faecal sample, by means of native, sedimentation, and floating methods.

The species of worm eggs found were identified against reference picture (Soulsby, 1986)

### Native Method

Faeces was taken by using the tip of a glass stirrer and smeared on *object glass*. One to two drops of water was added and mixed well using glass stirrer and covered with cover glass. Then examined under a microscope with 100x magnification (10x Objective) (Mumpuni *et al.*, 2016).

### Sedimentation Method

Stool was made into suspension with a ratio of 1 part feces and 10 parts water then filtered through a tea strainer and then put into conical tube. Suspension was centrifuged at 1500 rpm for 5 minutes. After that supernatant was discarded, sediment was topped up with water and centrifuged again for 5 minutes. This process was performed several times until the supernatant was clear. Supernatant was then discarded, leaving a little bit of it sediment. Sediment was stirred and a bit of sediment was taken by using a pasteur pipette. The Sediment of faeces was dropped on *object glass* and covered using *cover glass*. Then examined under a microscope with 100x magnification (10x Objective) (Mumpuni *et al.*, 2016).

### Floating Method

After examination of faeces sample using sedimentation method, the sediment of faeces was topped up with saturated brown sugar solution up to 1 cm before the top of conical tube and then centrifuged at 1500 rpm for 5 minutes. For floating media brown sugar solution was used because the brown sugar solution has lower viscosity value so brown sugar solution has value of specific gravity at 1.20, therefore brown sugar solution is faster in floating the egg worms (Poetranto, 1992).

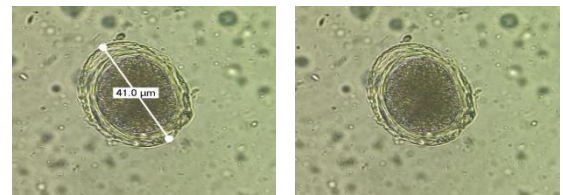
After centrifugation, conical tube was placed on tube rack and slowly topped up with brown sugar solution until the surface of the solution showed convex form. Cover glass was placed gently on the top of the tube and left for 1-2 minutes. Then, cover glass was taken and placed on *object glass* and examined under a microscope with 100x magnification (Objective 10x) (Mumpuni *et al.*, 2016).

### Results

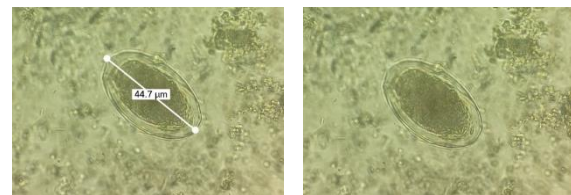
In this study, 40 samples of feces was collected in one day, from 40 samples examined, 39 was positive contained helminth eggs. Type of worm eggs found included three classes of helminth that are Trematode, Cestode, and Nematode. Species of worm eggs found from the class Nematode were *Ascaris sp.*, *Ascaridia galli*, *Capillaria sp.* Species of worm egg from class Cestoda that found in feces of egrets in Surabaya were *Raillietina sp.*, then from Trematode class was *Echinostoma Revolutum*. Table 1 and Figure 1, 2, and Figure 3. showed the result of identification of worm eggs from faeces of egrets in Surabaya.

**Table 1.** Species of Worm Eggs That Found in Feces of Egrets in Surabaya

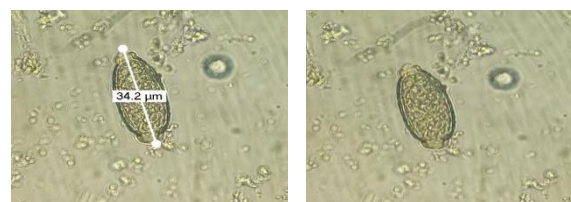
Class	Species	Percentage
Trematode	<i>Echinostoma Revolutum</i>	85%
	<i>Davainea proglottina</i>	2.5%
Nematode	<i>Ascaris sp.</i>	97.5%
	<i>Ascaridia galli</i>	2.5%
	<i>Capillaria sp.</i>	2.5%



*Ascaris sp.*

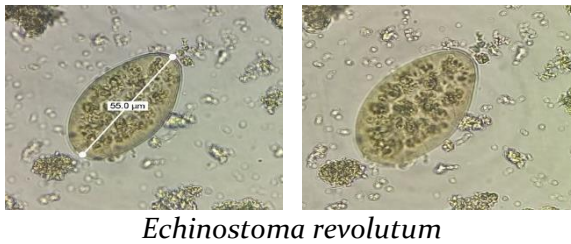


*Ascaridia galli*



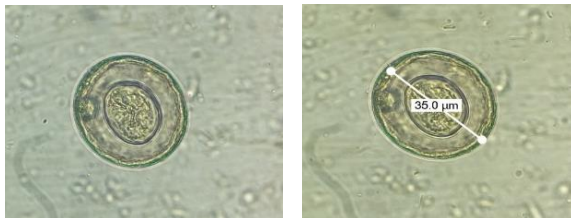
*Capillaria sp.*

**Figure 1.** Figure of Nematode Eggs That Found in Feces of Egrets in Surabaya.



*Echinostoma revolutum*

**Figure 2.** Figure of Trematode Eggs That Found in Feces of Egrets in Surabaya.



*Davainea proglottina*

**Figure 3.** Figure of Cestode Eggs That Found in Feces of Egrets in Surabaya.

### Discussion

Based on the research that has been done, five species of eggs worms were found in feces of Egrets in. Out of the 40 samples was examined, 39 samples was positive contain the worm eggs.

Even though Egrets is easy to find in Surabaya and various places in Indonesia, however the attention to the existence of helminthiasis infection in these species of waterbirds should not be ignored because Egrets could be a mediator helminthiasis diseases that zoonotic for example Echinostomiasis. Atkinson (2008) stated that infection of *Echinostoma revolutum* can occur limited to duck and some species of waterfowls/waterbirds. Besides Egrets as mediator of diseases, climate in the environment also plays a role in the spread of the helminthiasis diseases. Wijaya (2015) stated that risk factors that cause the infection of worm eggs occur in areas with high humidity and high enough of rainfall in each year, so in Indonesia worm eggs and worm infection itself is quite high because climate of Indonesia is supportive in occurrence of infection.

The environmental conditions where there is a pile of feces, the pile of feces is a development field of worm larvae to become

infective larvae (Soulsby, 1986). Besides being affected by season and environment, the spread of parasitic diseases in infecting host can be through food, drink, or soil contaminated with worm eggs that containing infective larvae (Wijaya, 2015). One important factor in the occurrence of parasitic worm infections is the immune system of animals (Levine, 1990). Some factors that can suppress the immune system against parasites and support predisposition parasite infection in the host are the density of a group of animals, poor hygienic condition, contaminated soil and contact between wild birds (LaMann, 2010).

This research has found five species of worm eggs in feces of Egrets in Surabaya, that are *Ascaris spp.*, *Ascaridia galli*, *Capillaria sp.*, *Davainea proglottina*, and *Echinostoma revolutum*. The size of *Ascaris spp.* worm eggs that found is 41 µm. Levine (1990) stated that the size of the eggs of *Ascaris suum* is 50-80 x 40-60 µm, while the sized eggs of *Ascaris Columnaris* 88-90 x 66-68 µm. The eggs of *Ascaridia galli* also found and hte size is 44.7 µm. Levine (1990) stated that the size of the eggs of *Ascaridia galli* around 75-80 x 45-50 µm. *Capillaria sp.* worm egg also found and the size is 34.2 µm. Size of *Capillaria sp.* worm egg according to Levine (1990) is 46-70 x 24-28 µm.. The worm eggs from Cestode class that found is *Davainea proglottinna sp.* with size 35 µm in diameter. Levine (1990) stated that the diameter of the worm eggs of *Davainea proglottina* is ± 28-40 µm. The worm eggs from Trematode class that found is *Echinostoma revolutum* and the size is 55 µm. Levine (1990) stated that the size of the worm eggs of *Echinostoma revolutum* is 50-90 µm with operculum.

The identification results was found five species of worm eggs, that are *Ascaris spp.*, *Ascaridia galli*, *Capillaria sp.*, *Davainea proglottina*, dan *Echinostoma revolutum*. Fowler (2003) stated that *Ascaridia galli* infection in waterbirds was a common problem in waterfowl and the other avian, as well as infections of *Capillaria sp.* was also common in poultry or in the other wild birds. In the othe side, infection of *Davainea proglottina* may occur in majority of birds in the world, and the infection occur if cysticeroids in intermediate host such as molusca was eatean by the birds (Levine, 1990).

In this research also found eggs of *Ascaris spp.* were also found in a large amount, Levine (1990) stated that infection of *Ascaris spp.* may occur in the majority of wild animals especially carnivore. This statement is was in line with the report of Rudy (1987) found the *Ascaris* worm in large quantities in the digestive tract of Red-Tailed Hawk. In another case, Rismawati and co-workers (2013) also found the worm eggs of *Ascaris sp.* in small quantities in the intestine of *Gallus domesticus* in Pekanbaru. Transmission of *Ascaris spp.* eggs could be through food sources, water and other materials that were contaminated by feces containing infective eggs (Tabbu, 2003)

In this study the worm eggs of *Echinostoma revolutum* were also found. Infection of *Echinostoma revolutum* could occur limited to duck and some species of waterfowls/waterbirds (Atkinson, 2008). So it is possibly that Egrets is a mediator of *Echinostoma revolutum* that can cause Echinostomiasis which is a zoonotic diseases.

### Conclusion

Based on the research has been done on the identification of worm eggs in the faeces of Egrets (*Egretta sp.*) in Surabaya it could be concluded that Species of worm eggs found in this study were *Ascaris spp.*, *Ascaridia galli*, *Capillaria sp.*, *Toxocara cati.*, *Davainea proglottina*, and *Echinostoma Revolutum*.

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