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Case Report

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Occurrence of *Haematopinus suis* Linnaeus, 1758 (Insecta, Anopluridae) on a wild boar (*Sus scrofa*)

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Abstract: A wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) about 2 years old was brought to our parasitology laboratory from Orhaneli region, Bursa province. It was examined for ectoparasites and 32 lice collected from the animal's head were inspected and identified as *Haematopinus suis*. Five of them were found to be as nymphs, whereas 27 were adults. This paper is the first report of *H. suis* found in Bursa province, Turkey.

Key words: *Haematopinus suis*, Turkey, Bursa, wild boar

Bir yaban domuzunda (*Sus scrofa*) *Haematopinus suis* Linnaeus, 1758 (Insecta, Anopluridae) olgusu

Özet: Bursa – Orhaneli bölgesinden parazitoloji laboratuarımıza getirilen iki yaşındaki bir yaban domuzunda yapılan ektoparaziter inceleme sonucu hayvanın kafasından 32 adet bit toplanmış ve *Haematopinus suis* olarak teşhis edilmişlerdir. Bu bitlerin beş tanesinin nimf, 27 tanesinin olgun formda oldukları belirlenmiştir. Bu çalışma sonucunda Bursa ilinde ilk defa *H. suis* bulunmuştur.

Anahtar sözcükler: *Haematopinus suis*,Türkiye, Bursa, yaban domuzu

Introduction

Haematopinus suis, known as the hog louse, infests both domesticated and wild boars in all parts of the world. *H. suis* belongs to the insect order *Phthiraptera*, which includes the monophyletic suborder *Anoplura* known as sucking lice. This is the only species of louse that infests pigs (1).

The female *H. suis* is 4 to 6 mm and the male 3.5 to 4.75 mm in length. The color pattern is grayish-brown. Infestations of this insect on its host's skin are around the ears and on the flanks and back, and in the folds of the neck and jowl. Each *H. suis* female lays 3 to 6 eggs per day, producing up to 90 eggs over 25 to 30 days. The eggs are iridescent and white when they are laid and hatch into nymphs, which mature in 10 to 14 days (2,3).

Haematopinus suis is a common problem where animals are reared at high densities. *H. suis* irritates

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its host by taking small but frequent blood meals. Each time it feeds it punctures the skin at a different place. Light infestation causes only mild irritation. Pediculosis in pigs leads to self-inflicted injuries to their skin and hair such as excoration, sores, and thickening, from scratching and rubbing. Heavy infestations affect growth rates and can cause anemia. *H. suis* may act as a vector for the swine pox virus and *Eperythrozoon suis* (2,4).

Although it was reported that *H. suis* had been detected on 2 wild boars for the first time in Trakya region and Çanakkale, Bolu, and Düzce provinces, the region on the host animals and the sex and amounts of the louse were not reported (5). No study was found about *H. suis* on wild boars in Bursa province, Turkey.

Therefore, this is the first report of *H. suis* on wild boars in Bursa province.

Case history

Bursa is located southeast of the Marmara Sea (28-30° N – 40° E), and is a mountainous province covered with natural forest. In December 2006, a wild boar from the Orhaneli region of the province was brought to our parasitology laboratory. The animal was examined for ectoparasites. Numerous lice were collected from wild boar's head. The lice were preserved in 70% alcohol and mounted on slides after clearing in lactophenol. They were examined morphologically using a stereomicroscope and identified according to descriptions by Samuel et al. (6).

Results and discussion

Thirty-two lice were collected from the wild boar. All were identified as *Haematopinus suis*. Five of them were recognized as nymphs, whereas 27 were adults. Nineteen of the adults were female and 8 were male. The length of the bodies varied between 3.5 and 5.1 mm in males and females, respectively. All lice had a brown head and thorax and yellowish-brown abdomen and legs.

Previous studies reported the existence of *H. suis* in some countries. Prevalence of infestations with *H. suis* was 2.5% in sows in Hesse, Germany, and 66.7% in cross-bred pigs in the Upper East region of Ghana. Presence of *H. suis* has been reported from most parts of other countries (7-9).

In Turkey, domestic pig breeding is not common, but, in the wild, wild boars can be found in the most parts of the country. However, only one study was found about ecto/endoparasites of wild and domesticated pigs. *H. suis* was observed on 2 wild boars in the Trakya region. The origin of boars and their lice counts were not determined. No domesticated pigs were infested with lice (5). *H. suis* on wild boars has not been reported previously in Bursa. In the present case, *H. suis* was detected on a wild boar in Bursa province.

In conclusion, there are insufficient data on the parasites of wild and domesticated pigs in Turkey; therefore, further studies are needed to detect the parasites because of their parasitological importance.

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