

P11.05

***Macracanthorhynchus ingens* in long-eared hedgehog (*Hemiechinus auritus*): Histopathology and molecular characterization of the isolate**

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Introduction: *Macracanthorhynchus ingens* belongs to perforated groups of acanthocephalan parasites which are usually parasite of raccoon, but they can also infect human and animals. This is the first report of *Macracanthorhynchus ingens* from long-eared hedgehog (*Hemiechinus auritus*) in Iran.

Methods: During examination of a hedgehog from Jajarm City in North Khorasan, Iran, nine acanthocephalan helminthes were found in small intestine. Helminthological clearing and staining techniques were applied and tissue sections prepared. For molecular analysis, after DNA extraction using designed primers for 18s ribosomal RNA, PCR amplification and sequencing were performed.

Results: Tissue sections revealed the penetration of proboscis in the intestine. The sequences showed 100% similarity with the sequences of *Macracanthorhynchus ingens* deposited in GenBank.

Conclusion: Occurrence of *Macracanthorhynchus ingens* in hedgehog in Iran constitutes new host species.