

## ABSTRACT

The present study assessed the prevalence of endoparasites and its effects on the haematology of African lions (*Panthera leo*) present in Lahore Zoological Garden and Lahore Safari Park, Lahore, Pakistan. 147 lion's faecal samples from 21 lions were collected from January, 2012 to July, 2012. Sedimentation-floatation concentration method was applied to study endoparasites.

Prevalence of endoparasites in lions of Lahore Zoological Garden was higher (71.4%) as compared to Lahore Safari Park in which the prevalence was 57%. *Toxocara* sp., was the most prevalent nematode among the lions of both Lahore Zoological Garden and Lahore Safari Park. The prevalence of cestodes among lions was 19%. Among cestode only *Taenia* sp., was present. No trematode was found in faecal material of any lion. The prevalence of mixed infection was 14.28%.

Haematology of lion was also conducted to check the effects of endoparasites on haematological parameters of lions. It was observed that the haematological reference values for older lions were less as compared to young lions and that was due to the prevalence of endoparasites. In infected lions haemoglobin contents were decreased and leukocytes were increased.

It was concluded that lions present in Lahore Zoological Garden were more susceptible for endoparasites due to close association with each other. Nematode is the most prevalent endoparasite of lion. Prevalence of endoparasites disturbs the normal values of haematological variables.