

# Surveillance of Helminthes and Molecular Phylogeny of Fasciola Gigantica Infecting Goats in Sadat District, Egypt ElKhtam A. O.<sup>1</sup>, Khalafalla R. E<sup>\*2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Sadat City, Egypt <sup>2</sup>Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Kafrelsheikh, Kafr El-Sheikh, Egypt

## ABSTRACT

Helminthes cause health problems in ruminants as anemia, anorexia, weight loss, diarrhea, decreased production and deaths therefore this study was aimed to identify helminthes of goats, their incidence and genotyping of *Fasciola gigantica* recovered from Sadat district (Kafr Dawoud, Wadi Elnatron and ElKhatatba abattoirs) Egypt. The study was applied on 790 animals from March 2014 to March 2015. The overall infection rate with helminthes was 23.54% among slaughtered goats at Sadat district, Egypt. Prevalence in different localities was recorded. The overall prevalence rate of trematode helminth was 9.66% and the recovered trematode species and their associated infection rates were *Paramphistomum cervi* (1.43%), *Fasciola hepatica* (0.41%), *Fasciola gigantica* (5.83%), *Carmyerius gregarious* (1.99%). While the prevalence rate of cestodes was 9% and the recovered species and their correlated infection rates were *Moniezia expansa* (4.28%), *Moniezia benedeni* (0.71%) and *Avitellina centripunctata* (4%). Genotyping of *Fasciola gigantica* of the current study was done by amplifying 18S ribosomal RNA gene (656 bp of nucleic acids), there are no Single Nucleotides Polymorphisms (SNPs) within the sequence of 18S-rRNA gene and when aligned with isolates of the previous studies; the homology was very high (99.9%) and the divergence was very low (0.1).

Keywords: Goat, Helminth, Surveillance, Fasciola Gigantica, Molecular, Phylogeny Egypt

### I. INTRODUCTION

In Egypt, the incidence of parasitic infection among farm animals varied according to many factors including irrigation, season and frequency of exposure of animal to infection, immune condition of the animal, the geographic location and climatic conditions [1]. Undoubtedly the most pathogenic and economically important helminthes are the liver flukes (*Fasciola gigantica*) where they cause traumatic hepatitis, peritonitis and sudden death in acute fascioliasis.

DNA studies and using of molecular tools aid in the exact identification of helminthes parasites. In ribosomal DNA (rDNA) the Internal Transcribed Spacer 2 (ITS2) gene have proven useful for diagnostic purposes at the level of species [2,3]. ITS2 sequences have also been used to characterize and identify different *Fasciola* spp., [4,5]. While,

mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) genes proves to be excellent markers to differentiate in-between closely-related species and testing the polymorphism of *Fasciola* species [5]. In Egypt, *F. gigantica* and *Paramphistomum* spp are prevalent among livestock in the Nile delta [6], the aim of the present work is to identify helminthes infecting goats, their prevalence, morphology and molecular characterization of *Fasciola gigantica* infecting goats in Sadat district, Egypt.

### **II. METHODS AND MATERIAL**

# A. Samples collection and Morphological identification

Samples were collected from 790 goats at Sadat district from local abattoirs in 3 different localities; Kafr Dawoud, Wadi Elnatron and ElKhatatba. Worms were recovered from slaughtered goats from different organs and during evacuation of gastrointestinal tract. Worms were washed, relaxed, fixed, stained and mounted [7]. Morphological description and identification of the collected worms were done on mounted specimens according to [8].

# **B.** DNA extraction from Fasciola gigantica and PCR

Adults of *F. gigantica* were collected from the liver of slaughtered goats and were identified according to morphometric parameters and all other unclear or doubtful samples were rejected [9,10]. These worms were washed several times with PBS and then preserved in tubes that stored at  $-20^{\circ}$ C till DNA extraction [11].

Genomic DNA was extracted using 12 individual worms using the QIAamp DNA Mini Kit (Qiagen Inc., Valencia, CA) according to the manufacturer's instructions. All DNA concentrations were determined using an Epoch spectrophotometer (Biotek, Winooski, VT).

ITS2 region was amplified by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) using the forward primer (3S) 5<sup>-</sup>-TTTTTTGGGCATCCTGAGGTTTAT-3<sup>-</sup> and the reverse (A28) 5<sup>-</sup>-TAAAGAAAG AACATAAT GAAAATAATC-3<sup>-</sup>, [12,13].

The PCR conditions were as follows:  $94^{\circ}C$  for 3 min,  $50^{\circ}C$  for 1 min, and  $72^{\circ}C$  for 3 min for 30 cycles. Amplification reactions were performed in a final volume of 25 µl containing primers (3.2 pmol), deoxynucleoside triphosphates (dNTPs, 0.2 mM), and Taq polymerase (2.5 U/reaction). PCR products were purified using GFX PCR DNA and Gel Band Purification Kit (GE) according to manufacturer's protocol.

### C. Sequencing and phylogenetic analysis

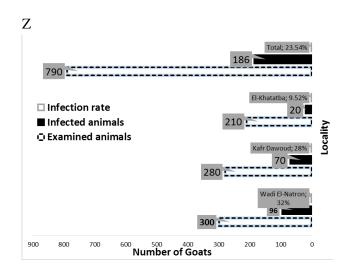
PCR products were sequenced using Big Dye Terminator v 3.1 Cycle Sequencing Ready Reaction kit (Applied Biosystems) in a 3100 Automated DNA Sequencer (Applied Biosystems) as recommended by the supplier. Amplicons were sequenced in each direction using the NC5 and NC2 primers, in separate reactions. Bio Edit v7.0.4.1 and DNASTAR Lasergene SeqMan v7.0.0 programs were used for analyzing and editing the DNA sequences.

Sequences of ITS2 regions from different isolates of previous studies were aligned against the isolate of the current study using ClustalW [14] multiple sequences alignment and the Phylogenetic trees were carried out using MEGA5 software [15].

### **III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### A. Incidence of the recovered helminthes

The overall incidence of different helminth species among examined slaughtered goats was 23.54% (*186 out of 790*) with variable infection rates in different localities where it was at Wadi El-Natron locality 32% (*96 out of 300*), at Kafr Dawoud was 6.25 % (*70 out of 280*) and at El-Khatatba locality was 9.52% (*20 out of 210*) (see Fig. 1).



**Figure 1:** Prevalence of helminth infections of slaughtered goats in different localities (Wadi El-Natron, Kafr Dawood and El-Khatatba) at Sadat District, Egypt

The overall prevalence rate of trematode infection was 9.66% and the recovered trematode species and their associated infection rates were *Paramphistomum cervi* (1.43%), *F. hepatica* (0.41%), *F. gigantica* (5.83%), *Carmyerius gregarious* (1.99%). While the prevalence rate of cestodes was 9% and the recovered species and their correlated infection rates were *Moniezia expansa* (4.28%), *Moniezia benedeni* (0.71%) and *Avitellina centripunctata* (4%) (See Table 1). **Table 1 :** Prevalence of different helminth infections in slaughtered goats (N=790) from different localities at Sadat District, Egypt.

	Infection rate %
Trematodes	9.66
Fasciola gigantica	5.83
Fasciola hepatica	0.41
Carmyerius gregarious	1.99
Paramphistomum cervi	1.43
Cestodes	9
Moniezia expansa	4.28
Moniezia benedeni	0.71
Avitellina centripunctata	4

The helminthes recovered from slaughtered goats were *F. gigantica, F. hepatica, Paramphistomum cervi, Carmyerius gregarius, Moniezia expansa, Moniezia benedeni, Moniezia denticulata* and *Avitellina centripunctata.* The infection rate of *Moniezia expansa*, was agreed with the results recorded in Rudolphi [16] and in Menofia governorate, Egypt [17], but it was disagreed with that recorded by [18] in north Sinai, Egypt.

#### B. Genotyping of Fasciola gigantica

The genotyping of *F. gigantica* which recovered from goat in the current study is based on amplification of 18S ribosomal RNA gene sequence and its characteristics and sequence alignments (Fig. 2).



**Figure 2.** Complete sequences of the 18S-rRNA gene from *Fasciola gigantica* isolate **Y15** of the current study.

For comparative purposes, pairwise and multiple alignments of the gene sequences was done with 18S-rRNA gene sequence of Fasciolides from different hosts and geographical regions obtained from Gene Bank to evaluate sequence homology and diversity (Fig.3).

Main variable regions were identified in the 18SrRNA gene sequences which were characterized by a considerable number of indels (insertion and deletion of nucleotides) as Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNPs) with 18S-rRNA gene of *F. gigantica* isolate BDF-Ct.109 (Accession number: KC476170) and *F. gigantica* isolate *ADC53* (Accession number: KJ728737). By using pairwise and multiple alignment of 18S-rRNA gene of *F. gigantica* isolate 124 (FJ756397) with that of our strain, both sequences have revealed a high sequence homology, due to only a few indels and SNPs and shared a high number of identical nucleotides with *F. gigantica* isolate 124 (FJ756397) which was the most similar sequences (Fig.3).

KC476170	CTCTACCGATTGAATGGTTTAGCAAGGTCCT	31
KC424484	TACTACCGATATGATGGTTTAGCAAGGTCCT	31
AB207141	TACTACCGATTGAATGGTTTAGCAAGGTCCT	31
GQ925431	CCCTGCCCTTTGTACACACCGCCCGTCGCTACTACCGATTGAATGGTTTAGCAAGGTCCT	60
KF982045	GATTA-ATACATCGACTACTGATTGAATGGTTTAGCAAGGTCCT	
KJ728738	ст ст	2
KJ728737	CT	2
FJ756397 Y15		10
112	NNGCNNCNNCCNTCGCTACTACCGATTG-ATGGTTTAGCAAGGTCCT	40
KC476170	CGGATT GGT GC CATT - GC AGT GGCT T CGG CCGCT CG AC CGGT GCT GAG AA GA CG ACC AA A	98
KC424484	CGGATTGGTGCCATT-GCAGTGGCTTCCGCCGCTCGACCGGTGCTGAGAAGACGACCAAA	
AB207141	CGGATTGGTGCCATT-GTAGTGGCTTCGGCCGCTCGACCGGTGCTGAGAAGACGACCAAA	98
GQ925431	CGGATTGGTGCCATT-GTAGTGGCTTCGGCCGCTCGACCGGTGCTGAGAAGACGACCAAA	119
KF982045	CGGATT GGT GC CATT - GT AG TG GCT TC GG CCG CT CG AC CGG TG CT GAGAAGACG ACC AAA	102
KJ728738	CGGATTGGTGCCATT-GCAGTGGCTTCGGCCGCTCGACCGGTGCTGAGAAGACGACCAAA	61
KJ728737	CGGATTGGTGCCATT-GCAGTGGCTTCGGCCGCTCGACCGGTGCTGAGAAGACGACCAAA	61
FJ756397	GAAGACGACCAAA	
Y15	CGGATTGGTGCCATTTGCAGTGGCTTCGGCCGCTCGACCGGTGCTGAGAAGACGACCAAA	106
KC476170	CTTGATCATTTAGAGGAAGTAAAAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTAGGTGAACCTGCGGAAG	
KC424484		150
AB207141		150
GQ925431		179
KF982045	CTTGATCATTTAGAGGAAGTAAAAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTAGGTGAACCTGCGGAAG	
KJ728738	CTTGAT CATTT AGAGGAAGT AAAAGTCGT AACAAGGTT TCCGT AGGTGAACCTGCGGAAG	
KJ728737	CTTGAT CAT TT AGAGGAAGT AAAAGTCGT AACAAGGTT TCCGT AGGTGAACCTGCGGAAG	
FJ756397	CTTGATCATTTAGAGGAAGTAAAAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTAGGTGAACCTGCGGAAG	73
Y15	CTTGATCATTTAGAGGAAGTAAAAGTCGTAACAAGGTTTCCGTAGGGAACCTGCGGAAG	100
KC476178	GATCATTACCTGAAAATCTACTCTTACACAAGCGATACACGTGTGACCGTCATGTCATGC	210
KC424484	GATCATTACCTGAAAATCTACTCTTACACAAGCGATACACGTGTGACCGTCATGTCATGC	210
AB207141	GATCATTACCTGAAAATCTACTCTCACACAAGCGATACACGTGTGACCGTCATGTCATGC	
GQ925431	GATCATTACCTGAAAATCTACTCTCACACAAGCGATACACGTGTGACCGTCATGTCATGC	239
KF982045	GATCATTACCTGAAAATCTACTCTCACACAAGCGATACACGTGTGACCGTCATGTCATGC	222
KJ728738	GATCATTACCTGAAAATCTACTCTTACACAAGCGATACACGTGTGACCGTCATGTCATGC	181
KJ728737	GATCATTACCTGAAAATCTACTCTTACACAAGCGATACACGTGTGACCGTCATGTCATGC	181
FJ756397	GATCATTACCTGAAAATCTACTCTTACACAAGCGATACACGTGTGACCGTCATGTCATGC	133
Y15	GATCATTACCTGAAAATCTACTCTTACACAAGCGATACACGTGTGACCGTCATGTCATGC	226
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KC476170	GATAAAAATTTGCGGACGGCTATGCCTGGCTCATTGAGGTCACAGCATATCCGATCACTG	270
KC424484	GATAAAAATTTGCGGACGGCTATGCCTGGCTCATTGAGGTCACAGCATATGCGATCACTG	270
AB207141	GATAAAAATTTGCGGACGGCTATGCCTGGCTCATTGAGGTCACAGCATATCCGAACACTG	270
GQ925431	GATAAAAATTTGCGGACGGCTATGCCTGGCTCATTGAGGTCACAGCATATCCGAACACTG	299
KF982045	GATAAAAATTTGCGGACGGCTATGCCTGGCTCATTGAGGTCACAGCATATCCGAACACTG	282
KJ728738	GATAAAAATTTGCGGACGGCTATGCCTGGCTCATTGAGGTCACAGCATATCCGATCACTG	241
KJ728737	GATAAAAATTTGCGGACGGCTATGCCTGGCTCATTGAGGTCACAGCATATCCGATCACTG	241
FJ756397	GATAAAAATTTGCGGACGGCTATGCCTGGCTCATTGAGGTCACAGCATATCCGATCACTG	193
Y15	GATAAAAATTTGCGGACGGCTATGCCTGGCTCATTGAGGTCACAGCATATCCGATCACTG	286
KC476170	ATGGGGTGCCTACCTGTATGATACTCCGATGGTATGCTTGCGTCTCTCGGGGCGCTTGTC	330
KC424484	ATGGGGTGCCTACCTGTATGATACTCCGATGGTATGCTTGCGTCTCTCGGGGCGCCTTGTC	330
AB207141		330
GQ925431	ATGGGGTGCCTACCTGTATGATACTCCGATGGTATGCTTGCGTCTCTCGGGGCGCTTGTC ATGGGGTGCCTACCTGTATGATACTCCGATGGTATGCTTGCGTCTCTCGGGGCGCTTGTC	359 342
KF982045 KJ728738	ATGGGGTGCCTACCTGTATGATACTCCGATGGTATGCTTGCGTCTCTCGGGGCGCCTTGTC	342
KJ728738	ATGGGGTGCCTACCTGTATGATACTCCGATGGTATGCTTGCGTCTCCGGGGGGCGCTTGTC	301
FJ756397	ATGGGGTGCCTACCTGTATGATACTCCGATGGTATGCTTGCGTCTCTCGGGGCGCCTGTC	253
Y15	ATGGGGTGCCTACCTGTATGATACTCCGATGGTATGCTTGCGTCTCTCGGGGCGCCTGTC	346
	***************************************	540

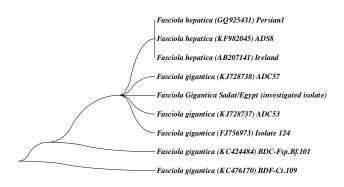
**Figure 3 :** Sequence characteristics and Sequence comparisons of the 18S-rRNA gene from Fasciola gigantica isolate (Y15 represents the 18S-rRNA gene from Fasciola gigantica isolate of the current study)

Our isolate in the present study was very high homologous (99.9%) with other *F. gigantica* isolates, and the divergence was very low (0.1%), they were the closest inter specific pair, but the homology was much lower among *F. hepatica* and *F. gigantica* isolate ADC53 (KJ728737) which indicates that the ITS2 region allows discrimination between species of Fasciolidae [19].

Inter specific variation (between species) in the regions exceeded that within species. The variation between species ranged between 0.1 and 1.4%, and so, the alignments of the 18S rRNA gene sequence of the different isolates showed that the species differed from each other by single base substitutions and indels, and the first 250 and last 190 nucleotides of the gene were identical in all isolates.

#### C. The phylogenetic analysis

By reading the phylogenetic tree (Fig.4), *F. gigantica* isolate in the present study was clustered with *F. gigantica* isolate 124 (FJ756397) as they was very identical to each other, but somewhat differ from *F. gigantica* isolate BDC-Fsp.Bf.101 (KC424484), isolate BDF-Ct.109 (KC476170) and isolate ADC57 (KJ728738) but it lying faraway from *F. hepatica* isolate Persian 1 (GQ925431).



**Figure 4.** Neighbor-Joining phylogenetic tree [20]. The phylogenetic distances were computed using the Maximum Composite Likelihood method [21] and are in the units of the number of base substitutions per site. The analysis involved 9 nucleotide sequences. Codon positions included were 1st+2nd+3rd+Noncoding. All positions containing gaps and missing data were eliminated. There were a total of 404 positions in the final dataset. Phylogenetic analyses were conducted in MEGA5 [15].

The phylogenetic tree based on ITS2 region displayed a close relationship between investigated *F. gigantica* isolate from Egypt and other parts of the world (Fig.4).

In Egypt, *F. hepatica* and *F. gigantica* are prevalent among livestock in the Nile delta [7] results showed that identification of Egyptian *Fasciola* based only on morphometric criteria is not a countable as the presence of *F. hepatica*, *F. gigantica* besides the hybrid form in Egypt was confirmed [22]. In a study was done in Egypt [13], nucleotide sequences of the mitochondrial DNA, cytochrome oxidase subunit 1 (CO1) and Internal Transcribed Spacer 2 (ITS2) of the ribosomal RNA gene were used to identify *Fasciola* species that infects cattle in Qena province, Upper Egypt, and they concluded that, to sequencing, amino acids analysis and studying the phylogenetic relationship are pecise tools to identify *Fasciola* species.

### **IV. CONCLUSION**

The results displayed herein indicated that the using of ITS2 region is a powerful tool for identification and discrimination between the Fasciolidae species.

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