Forestomach ciliate Protozoa in Egyptian dromedary camels
(Camelus dromedarius)

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Abstract
The forestomach contents of 20 dromedary camels were examined for total, generic and species composition of ciliate protozoa. The geometric mean value of total ciliate protozoa was 13.9 × 10^4 / ml with values ranging from 4.9 to 109.4 × 10^4 / ml. A total of ten genera containing 31 species and 16 forms were identified. Five species of Entodinium (E. biconcavum, E. bimastus, E. ekendrae, E. parvum and E. tsunodai) and Ostracodinium trivesticulatum represent a new host record. Two new spined forms of Diplodinium cameli were observed, one has a single spine arising from the left lateral surface near the posterior end and the second has an additional spine on the posterior right lateral surface. Previous reports on concentration and species composition in the camel are summarized and compared to the present results.

Key words: Bactrian camel, ciliates, Diplodinium camelus, Dromedary camel, Egypt, fauna, protozoa

Introduction
Although numerous reports have been published on the ciliate protozoa in different ruminants, only a limited number of studies have been reported on the ciliate fauna occurring in the forestomach of the camel. Buisson (1923), Dogiel (1926, 1928), Wertheim (1937) and Selim et al. (1999) have published studies on forestomach ciliates occurring in dromedary camels in various localities; however, only one study has been carried out on forestomach

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