



OCCURRENCE AND MORPHOMETRICS OF *FASCIOLA HEPATICA*
AND *FASCIOLA GIGANTICA* IN CATTLE

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ABSTRACT

A parasitological survey was done through examination of livers of cattle slaughtered at different abattoir of Cavite to establish baseline information on the presence of *Fasciola hepatica* and *Fasciola gigantica* and their infection status in cattle. Two cattle were found positive out of 115 examined, indicating a low level (1.74%) of *Fasciola* infection in local cattle. A phenotypic study was undertaken by means of morphometric analysis to identify, describe, and compare these flukes. Two types of *Fasciola* spp., *F. hepatica* and *F. gigantica* were identified using morphometric analysis. Result of the present study conformed with the established morphometrics of *F. hepatica* in body length (BL), distance between the distal end of ventral sucker and posterior end of the fluke's body (VS-P) and body width (BW) values, suggesting that local *F. hepatica* resembles the established morphometrics. However, only BW/OV was in conformity with the established morphometric of *F. gigantica*, hence fluke is considered generally shorter. The results seem to indicate intermediate forms of *Fasciola* spp. for the following reasons: a) an overlap in morphometric values were observed between the two species b) the BW was statistically similar in both flukes and c) *F. gigantica* has a short body length BL value. A co-occurrence of both flukes is evident, with *F. hepatica* having a higher parasitic load than *F. gigantica*.



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