ABSTRACT

Cats are closely associated with humans, however, these animals may harbor ectoparasites that may pose health risks to both humans and cats. This research study detected the presence of two species of ectoparasites known to infest cats, Ctenocephalides felis and Felicola subrostratus. Alongside, factors which may affect the ectoparasitism in cats and the correlation to its hematologic properties were observed. There were 30 randomly sampled cats subjected to this study. The whole body of the cats were examined for presence of ectoparasites and blood was drawn from the cats to be subjected for hematologic examination. From the 30 cats examined, 23 (76.67%) cats were infested with ectoparasites of which 20 (66.67%) were infested with Felicola subrostratus and 3 (10%) were infested with Ctenocephalides felis. Factors such as age, sex, and fur color of the cats and the structural characteristics of the blood of the cats do not show significant correlation with the infestation. As for the hematologic properties of the cats, there was a significant correlation shown between the presence of the ectoparasites and the white blood cells, platelets, and lymphocytes of the cats while the red blood cells, hemoglobin, hematocrit, and segmenters showed no significant correlation.

Key words: Ctenocephalides felis, Felicola subrostratus, cats, hematologic properties