



# **PRELIMINARY STUDY FOR DETECTION OF *CAPILLARIA PHILIPPINENSIS* COPRO-DNA IN DIARRHEIC PATIENTS**

## **Thesis**

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## ***Dedication***

*To everyone who has lent me his helping hand from my start till now.*

*With all my respect and appreciation.*

***Mona Ibrahim Ali***

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## Table of contents

<b>List of Abbreviations .....</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>List of tables .....</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>List of figures .....</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>Abstract .....</b>	<b>viii</b>
<b>1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. Aim of the work .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3. Review of literature:</b>	
3.1. Classification.....	5
3.2. Prevalence.....	6
3.3. Transmission.....	8
3.4. Life cycle.....	9
3.5. Morphology.....	12
3.6. Pathogenicity and clinical picture .....	15
3.7. Diagnosis.....	18
3.8. Differential diagnosis .....	32
3.9. Treatment.....	34
3.10. Prevention and control.....	36
<b>4. Materials and methods .....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>5. Results.....</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>6. Discussion.....</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>7. Summary.....</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>8. Conclusion .....</b>	<b>109</b>

<b>9. Recommendation.....</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>10. References.....</b>	<b>112</b>
<b>11. Appendix.....</b>	<b>130</b>

**-1-**

الملخص العربي

# List of abbreviations

Bp	Base pair
CI	Confidence interval
CT	Computerized tomography
<i>C. aerophila</i>	<i>Capillaria aerophila.</i>
<i>C. boehmi</i>	<i>Capillaria boehmi</i>
<i>C. hepatica</i>	<i>Capillaria hepatica.</i>
<i>C. obsignata</i>	<i>Capillaria obsignata</i>
<i>C. philippinensis</i>	<i>Capillaria philippinensis.</i>
<i>C. putorii</i>	<i>Capillaria putorii</i>
<i>cox1</i>	cytochrome <i>c</i> oxidase subunit 1
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
dNTPs	Deoxynucleotide triphosphates
ddH <sub>2</sub> O	Distilled water
ELISA	Enzyme linked immunosorbent assay.
Hb	Hemoglobin.
IHA	Indirect hemagglutination
Ig	Immunoglobulin
Lao PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic.
mtDNA	Mitochondrial DNA
nPCR	Nested polymerase chain reaction
NPV	Negative predictive value
OR	Odds ratio
PPV	Positive predictive value
RBCs	Red blood cells
Rx	Master mixture

SD	Standard deviation
TBE	Tris boric acid EDTA
$T_m$	Melting temperature
<i>T. vulpis</i>	<i>Trichuris vulpis</i>
18S rRNA	small subunit ribosomal RNA



# List of tables

Title	Page No.
Table 4.1: The used primers and their sequences.	52
Table 4.2: The optimized 1ry and 2ry PCR assays reaction components.	54
Table 4.3: Thermocycler program showing the used cycling conditions in 1ry PCR.	55
Table 4.4: Thermocycler program showing the used cycling conditions in nPCR.	56
Table 5.1: Mean age of studied individuals.	62
Table 5.2: Distribution of age groups and gender among study individuals.	63
Table 5.3: Frequency of different complaints of the study group.	64
Table 5.4: Mean diarrhea duration and number of motions of studied individuals.	64
Table 5.5: Clinical manifestations of study group.	65
Table 5.6: Yield of macroscopic examination of stool collected from studied individuals.	66
Table 5.7: Results of microscopic examination of faecal samples of study group.	71
Table 5.8: Diagnostic yield of microscopy and nPCR in detection of <i>C. philippinensis</i> among both studied groups.	72
Table 5.9: Diagnostic yield, accuracy and Kappa agreement of the microscopy method among study individuals.	75
Table 5.10: Mean age of <i>C. philippinensis</i> cases in the study group.	77
Table 5.11: Demographic and environmental data of nPCR positive cases for <i>C. philippinensis</i> .	78
Table 5.12: Distribution of diarrhea duration and motions among <i>C. philippinensis</i> positive cases.	80
Table 5.13: Associated clinical manifestations among <i>C. philippinensis</i> positive cases.	81

Table 5.14: Yield of macroscopic examination of stool collected from <i>C.philippinensis</i> positive cases.	82
Table 5.15: Results of stool examination of positive <i>C. philippinensis</i> cases.	83
Table 5.16: Data analysis for nPCR <i>C. philippinensis</i> positive cases.	85
Table 5.17: Clinical manifestations analysis for nPCR <i>C. philippinensis</i> positive cases.	86

## List of figures

Title	Page No.
Figure 3.1: Proposed life cycle of <i>C. philippinensis</i> <a href="http://dpd.cdc.gov/dpdx/HTML/intestinal_capillariasis.htm">http://dpd.cdc.gov/dpdx/HTML/intestinal_capillariasis.htm</a>	11
Figure 3.2: A, SEM showing a striated cuticle both transversely and longitudinally and a small zigzag cuticular expansion. B, SEM showing a wide, long cleft on the undersurface of the body of a worm (Attia <i>et al.</i> , 2012).	13
Figure 3.3: <i>Capillaria philippinensis</i> , adult female showing narrow anterior and wider posterior portions. Note stichosome (thick arrow) and eggs in the uterus (thin arrow) (Cross, 1997).	13
Figure 3.4: Adult male <i>C. philippinensis</i> . Thick arrow refers to the spicule while thin one refers to the sheath (Amin <i>et al.</i> , 2011) ( $\times 100$ ).	14
Figure 3.5: A mature egg, having characteristic mucoid plugs at both ends (Jung <i>et al.</i> , 2012).	14
Figure 3. 6: Larva of <i>C. philippinensis</i> (El- Dib <i>et al</i> 1999) (x 1000).	15
Figure 3.7: Photomicrograph of the biopsy specimen from the distal ileum (H&E stain, $\times 200$ ). It shows atrophic changes of the intestinal villi, infiltration of plasma cells and eosinophils, and several sections of worms invading the mucosa (arrows) (Ha <i>et al.</i> , 2013).	22
Figure 3.8: Abdominal radiograph. Small bowel series performed with barium illustrates marked luminal narrowing and effacement of folds producing a ribbon-like appearance of the ileum (Ha <i>et al.</i> , 2013).	26
Figure 4.1.A: Area for nucleic acid extraction.	42
Figure 4.1.B: The area for preparing nPCR and gel electrophoresis.	43

Figure 4.2 : Favor Prep stool DNA isolation Mini Kit.	46
Figure 4.3 : DNA extraction by Favor Prep stool DNA isolation Mini Kit.	49
Figure 4.4: Showing laminar flow cabinet.	51
Figure 4.5: Thermal cycler used in DNA amplification.	51
Figure 4.6: Showing gel electrophoresis apparatus.	57
Figure 5.1: Age groups among the study group.	63
Figure 5.2: Eggs of <i>C.philippinensis</i> (× 100).	67
Figure 5.3: Peanut-shaped egg of <i>C. philippinensis</i> with flattened bipolar mucoid plugs and shell striations (× 400).	67
Figure 5.4: Eggs of <i>C. philippinensis</i> with Charcot Leyden crystals (× 400).	68
Figure 5.5: Adult female <i>C.philippinensis</i> showing eggs in the uterus (the arrows) (× 100).	68
Figure 5.6: Posterior end of an adult male <i>C.philippinensis</i> showing the spicule (× 400).	69
Figure 5.7: Charcot Leyden crystals (× 400).	69
Figure 5.8: Diagnostic yield of microscopy for detection of <i>C.philippinensis</i> compared with nPCR of study group.	73
Figure 5.9: Showing Agarose gel electrophoresis for the products of the PCR targeting CAP 18S gene of <i>C. philippinensis</i> at 183 bp.	74
Figure 5.10: Results of blood chemistry of microscopiv <i>C. philippinensis</i> positive patients.	76
Figure 5.11: Mean age of nPCR positive and negative cases in the study group.	78
Figure 5.12: Age distribution of nPCR positive cases in <i>C. philippinensis</i> infected cases.	79
Figure 5.13: Gender distribution of nPCR positive cases among <i>C.philippinensis</i> positive cases.	79

Figure 5.14: Associated clinical manifestations among <i>C.philippinensis</i> positive cases.	81
Figure 5.15: Combined infection of both <i>C.philippinensis</i> and <i>schistosoma mansoni</i> eggs (x100).	84

# Abstract

(Key words: *Capillaria philippinensis*, Intestinal capillariasis, Chronic diarrhea, Nested PCR, *Capillaria* Molecular diagnosis).

*C. philippinensis* is a parasite of the small intestine that causes a severe enteropathy and at times death in cases of delayed diagnosis or inappropriate treatment. Molecular-based approaches offer greater sensitivity and specificity over the existing diagnostic tests and it can help in the diagnosis of *Capillaria* infected cases. The aim of our study is to develop a molecular diagnostic method, by utilization of PCR-based assay for detection of *C. philippinensis*. This study was conducted over 250 patients attending the outpatient clinics of Beni-Suief University hospital. Stool samples were collected and subjected to copro-parasitological examination and copro- nested PCR (nPCR) assays. By microscopic examination, *C. philippinensis* was detected in stool samples of 36 (24%) individuals, all were complaining of chronic diarrhea. By nPCR assay, Copro-DNA was detected in the fecal samples of these 36 positive cases and in fecal samples of other seven individuals whose stool samples were negative for *Capillaria* by microscopic examination. *C. philippinensis*-specific PCR method has been successfully used and evaluated in this study. It is a rapid specific and accurate test that identifies infection with this parasite avoiding the delay in management and possible complications

# 1. Introduction

Human intestinal capillariasis is a parasitic disease caused by *Capillaria philippinensis*, a nematode parasite of fish-eating birds. Although man is accidentally infected by this parasitic disease, its outcome may be fatal if untreated in due time (Soukhathammavong *et al.*, 2008 and Attia *et al.*, 2012).

*C. philippinensis*, first documented in the Philippines in 1963 by Chitwood *et al.* (1964) Subsequently, it has been reported in the Philippines and Thailand, and sporadic cases of the disease were diagnosed in other areas (Austin *et al.*, 1999). In Egypt, Yousef *et al.*, 1989, reported the first case.

Intestinal capillariasis is a life-threatening disease in humans that causes severe enteropathy (Cross, 1998). The most common pathological features are the thickening of the intestinal wall, the deepening of the crypts, and the atrophy of the villi leading to malabsorption of all nutrients (Sangcha *et al.*, 2007). The infestation of the small bowel by this parasite leads to weight loss, chronic diarrhea, abdominal pain, borborygmi, muscle wasting, cachexia, weakness, edema, ascites and/or pleural effusion as a complication of hypo-albuminaemia. Death may