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Morphological Specifications of the Bird Schistosome Cercariae and Surface Carbohydrates as Receptors for Lectins

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Abstract:

Background: To determine the morphological specifications of the bird schistosomes cercaria from *Lymnaea gedrosiana* and to detect the surface carbohydrates as receptors for host lectins in the host-parasite relationship systems such as avian schistosomiasis and human cercarial dermatitis. Methods: One hundred ninety two snails collected from Dezful areas in Khuzestan Province, in the south west of Iran, during 2005-2006 were examined for cercariae using shedding and crushing methods. In addition, surface carbohydrates on the cercariae were detected by lentil (*Lens culinaris*) lectins. Results: From the total number of *Lymnaea gedrosiana*, which examined for bird schistosomes cercaria, 9(4%) snails were found to be infected with furcocercus cercaria of the bird schistosomes (probably *Gigantobilharzia* sp.). Mannose monosaccharide CH₂OH (CHOH)4CHO as surface carbohydrate was also detected on the cercariae. Conclusion: Mannose carbohydrate on these cercariae may be used as receptor by lectins.

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