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Molecular Characterization of *Toxoplasma gondii* from Bird Hosts

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Abstract:

The determination of *Toxoplasma gondii* prevalence in a variety of domestic birds is thought as a good indicator of distribution of *T.gondii* oocysts in the environment. To verify the potential role of domestic birds in circulating toxoplasmosis in Iran, the present study was conducted in Mazandaran Provinces, northern Iran. Latex agglutination test (LA) antibodies were found in 25 of 58 free-ranging chickens (*Gallus domesticus*) and ducks (*Anas sp.*). Also, viable *T. gondii* was isolated from 7 of 25 seropositive chickens and ducks by bioassay of their brains and hearts into mice. Most of the isolated strains were avirulent to mice. Genotyping of *T.gondii* isolates using Multiplex PCR for 5 microsatellite markers indicated that 7 isolates were type III. In this study type II and III isolates and mixed genotypes were not found. This study showed that domestic birds could have a potential role in transmitting toxoplasmosis to humans in Iran.

Keywords:

[Bird hosts](#) . [Gallus domesticus](#) . [Anas sp](#)

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