

ON A NEW COCCIDIAN *WENYONELLA BAHLI*, N. SP., FROM THE COMMON
GREY QUAIL, *COTURNIX COMMUNIS* BONN.

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While conducting cross-infection experiments of coccidian oocysts of Indian fowls and quails the author found in the small intestine of *Coturnix communis*, a new coccidian, the oocysts of which after sporulation showed tetrazoic tetrasporocystid condition—a character which determines the position of this coccidian under the genus *Wenyonella*. Only four species of *Wenyonella* have been reported up to date: (1) *Wenyonella africana* Hoare (1933) from an African snake *Boaedon lineatus*, (2) *W. hoarei* Ray and Das Gupta (1935, 1937) from an Indian squirrel *Sciurus* sp., and (3) *W. uelensis*, and (4) *W. parva* from the Congolese rodents *Funisciurus anerythrus* and *Tamiscus emini* respectively. A comparison of these species of *Wenyonella* as regards the shape and dimensions of the oocysts and sporocysts, and their contents, with corresponding features of this new coccidian has convinced the author that it belongs to a new species which he has named *W. bahli*, n.sp., in honour of Prof. K. N. Bahl of the Lucknow University.

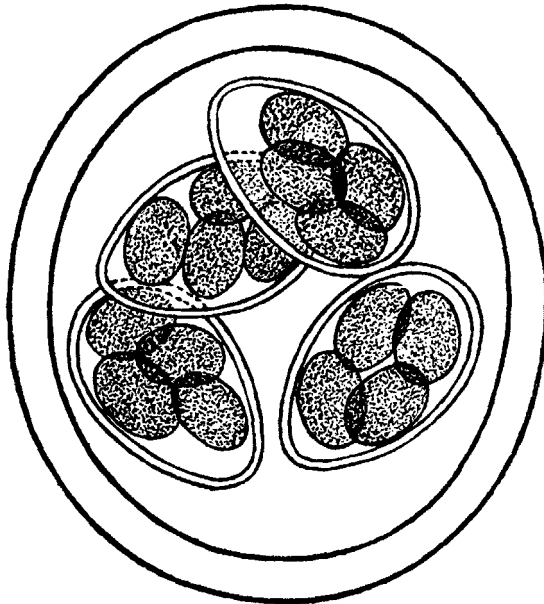


FIG. 1. Oocyst of *Wenyonella bahli*, n.sp. ×5000 circ.

The incidence of infection of this coccidian in the quails collected from the fields was found to be nearly 20%: five birds out of twenty-four were infected. Endogenous stages could not be isolated on account of the infection having mixed with that of other coccidia.

Description.—The oocysts are subspherical or ovoid, measuring $16.0-17.5\mu \times 14.6-15.5\mu$, and have no micropyle. They are passed out in an unsegmented condition along with the faeces of the host. In 1% solution of chromic acid complete sporulation takes place in four to five days. The sporocysts are egg-shaped, measuring $6.6\mu \times 4.2\mu$, and have no lensiform knob (cf. *W. africana* and *W. hoarei*). Each sporocyst contains four ovoid sporozoites, each measuring 2.8μ in length. The oocystic and sporocystic residual bodies are, however, entirely absent (cf. the various species recorded before).

Systematic position: *Wenyonella bahli* n.sp. (Eimeriidea, Coccidiida).

Host: *Coturnix communis* (Galliformes, Aves).

Habitat: Small intestine.

Locality: Lucknow, U.P., India.

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