Isolation of *Besnoitia wallacei* in Kenya

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(Accepted 16 July 1993)

**Abstract**

The development of *Besnoitia wallacei* was studied in 13 cats fed on tissues of mice and rats previously infected with *B. wallacei*. The cats were serially killed between Day 1 and Day 16 of infection, and histological sections from the liver and intestines were examined. Asexual stages were seen in both the small intestines and the liver between Day 6 and Day 16 post-infection. Mature microschizonts in intestinal epithelial cells measured 22.6 μm × 14.7 μm (*n* = 15). Macroschizonts in intestinal lamina propria measured 66.6 μm × 50.3 μm (*n* = 25). Those in the liver measured 70.9 μm × 55.0 μm (*n* = 5). Sexual stages were seen in epithelial cells of the small intestines only.

**Key words:** Besnoitia wallacei; Cat

1. **Introduction**

*Besnoitia wallacei* has an obligatory two-host cycle, with the cat as the definitive host and mice and rats as the natural intermediate hosts (Frenkel, 1977). Endogenous stages of *B. wallacei* in the cat have been described for the American isolate (Wallace and Frenkel, 1975; Frenkel, 1977) and for the Japanese isolate (Ito et al., 1978). This paper reports a study on the endogenous stages in the cat for a Kenyan isolate of *B. wallacei*.

2. **Materials and methods**

In a preliminary study on the natural coccidia infection in cats around Kabete, Kenya, faecal samples from 50 young and adult cats were examined. Oocysts of

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SSDI 0304-4017(93)00573-H