

Studies on *Eimeria* species naturally infecting *Gerbillus pyramidum* (1) Exogenous stages

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Abstract

Exogenous stages of two new Eimerian species, naturally infecting the Egyptian gerbil *Gerbillus pyramidum* were described and diagnosed in the present study. (1) The subspherical type of oocysts was 20 x 17 microns (length x width) in average. These are colourless and enveloped within an even double-layered oocyst wall. Sporulated oocysts containing four sporocysts each averaged in 10 x 8 microns, and a small spherical oocyst residual body was also observed. This type is termed *Eimeria pyramidi* after the species name of its host. (2) The second type of oocysts was elongated in shape measured congruent to 21 x 16 microns. These are colourless and enclosed within smooth double layered oocyst wall. Sporulated oocysts of this type were lacking oocyst residual bodies. This type is termed *Eimeria gerbilli* after the generic name of its host. Both types of described oocysts lack micropyle and polar cap.

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