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Houttuynia struthionis infestation in farmed ostriches: The First Case Report in Egypt

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ABSTRACT

Seventy birds of different ages (3 – 18 months) were found to be infested with the largest avian tape worm *Houttuynia struthionis*. Faecal samples were separately collected from ostriches inhabiting two farms at Giza and Ismailia. Morphometrical description of the segments passed with faeces and adults collected from five birds confirmed the diagnosis. Praziquantel proved to be very effective anthelmintic to eliminate infections. This is the first record of such parasite in Egypt. The role of the invertebrates and migrating birds in the epidemiology of the disease will be fully discussed.