

Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](http://ScienceDirect)

## Asian Pacific Journal of Tropical Disease

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/apjtd](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/apjtd)

doi: 10.1016/S2222-1808(16)61059-9

Academic contents on the paper published in Vol. 4, No. 4, S199-203, 2014

A research paper entitled “*In-vitro* anthelmintic efficacy of *Borassus flabellifer* against *Pheretima posthuma*” has been published in Asian Pacific Journal of Tropical Disease, 2014, 4(4), S199-S203. I have some comments on the paper which may kindly be published in your journal.

1) Title of the paper is misleading because *Pheretima posthuma* (presently considered as *Metaphire posthuma*) is not a helminth, in fact it is an Oligochaete (earthworm) under separate Phylum Annelida.

2) The term antihelmintic activity of plant extract is applicable only when the object is a helminthes like *Ascaris lumbricoides* which does not possess coelom, unlike any annelid like *Metaphire posthuma* (*Pheretima posthuma*) which is a colomate.

3) Earthworm (not earth worm as written in the paper) in no way resembles round worm parasite, *Ascaris lumbricoides* anatomically and physiologically (Page 200, 2.4 part, worm collection and

authentication) The clitellum of earthworm is absent in helminthes. The difference between an earthworm like *Metaphire* and an worm, *Ascaris* is well written in any standard text book on invertebrates.

4) I have doubt whether the target species, *Metaphire* (*Pheretima*) *posthuma* identified were in fact, *Pheretima posthuma*! This is because clitellate adult of *Metaphire* (*Pheretima*) *posthuma* ranges from 100 to 150 cm in length (never 4–5 cm as written in the paper).

5) As *Metaphire* (*Pheretima*) *posthuma*, posseses externally a very thin cuticle (not very thick cuticle as in helminth, *Ascaris* to protect it from HCL secreted from human gut, any erritating factor present in plant extract can paralise/immobilise leading to death of the worm. So it is not surprising that *Borassus* extract would have paralytic effect on earthworms.

Dr. Priyasankar Chaudhuri  
Professor of Zoology  
Earthworm Research Laboratory, Department of Zoology, Tripura University, Suryamaninagar-799022, India.  
Tel: 09863312480  
E-mail: priya\_1956@rediffmail.com

doi:10.1016/S2222-1808(16)30001-9

Poem Brawn or brains *Mycobacterium* reigns?

doi:

Among the captains of bacteria all,  
My name stands prominently tall,  
Lungs for me are heaven on earth;  
Cunning and strong I am by birth.  
Not every cough is due to my presence,  
Fever weight loss I question even an expert existence,  
On treatment for four weeks I put my head down;  
You have no idea even in the smartest of the town.  
And, as my latest version arrives;  
Multi-drug resistance, extensively drug-resistant, totally drug  
resistant my new clones,  
I send them to remote locations;  
To feast on every cell and zone.  
Acid fast is what you connote me! Hey;  
It'll tolerate anything: come what may,  
Hopping from one slide to another,  
Thou shall be my slave forever.  
Thou shall treat me intensively with four drugs,  
Or shall continuously with two drugs,  
But mind you ill spread my wings;  
Defaultingly, from your side if I get shrugs.  
My colony, the strength I felt,

X rays in the past I easily dealt,  
Sputum examination, culture, drug susceptibility testing, GeneXpert,  
Lowenstein-Jensen;  
Coffins of yours I have already smelt.  
You wait for the morning sample;  
I plan your future overnight pink rods against a blue background,  
Thou shall definitely miss due to oversight.  
Your mishaps I flourish,  
HIV and me opportunistically nourish,  
My brethren travel even to areas where there is no air;  
Brains, joints, genitalia, spine, meninges do you think anything ill  
spare.  
Your failures stepping stones to my success;  
In your deepest nightmares I still remain,  
Even death that departs sole mates can't separate us;  
Thy body and even soul neither peaceful nor serene.  
Brawn or brains and years pass but I am the same;  
Newborn or old, rich or poor, mannered or vagabond, muscular or  
lame,  
Thou shall revise the programme millions of times,  
For centuries my terror shall reign.

Dr. Sagar Borker  
KVG Medical College, Sullia, India.  
Tel: 918095382306  
E-mail: Sagarborker@gmail.com