

## Ova of *Bertiella studeri*

### Introduction

*Bertiella studeri* is an intestinal tapeworm belonging to the family anoplocephalidae. It is generally found in primates but has been sporadically found in humans in India, countries in the Far East and Africa. It has also been found in primate handlers in Britain and USA. Two *Bertiella* species have been found in humans namely *Bertiella studeri* and *Bertiella mucronata*.

### Life cycle and morphology

The definitive host of *Bertiella studeri* is a non-human primate with the intermediate host being a mite. The cysticercoid develops in the mite and infections in both humans and primates occur by ingesting infected mites.

The adult tapeworm measures approximately 27 to 30 cm in length with a maximum width of 10mm. The mature proglottids are 6 mm wide and 0.75mm long. The scolex is about 745µm in diameter with a rostellum and suckers. The mature proglottids possess staggered genital pores, a large number of testes forming a continuous mass and a traverse tubular uterus.

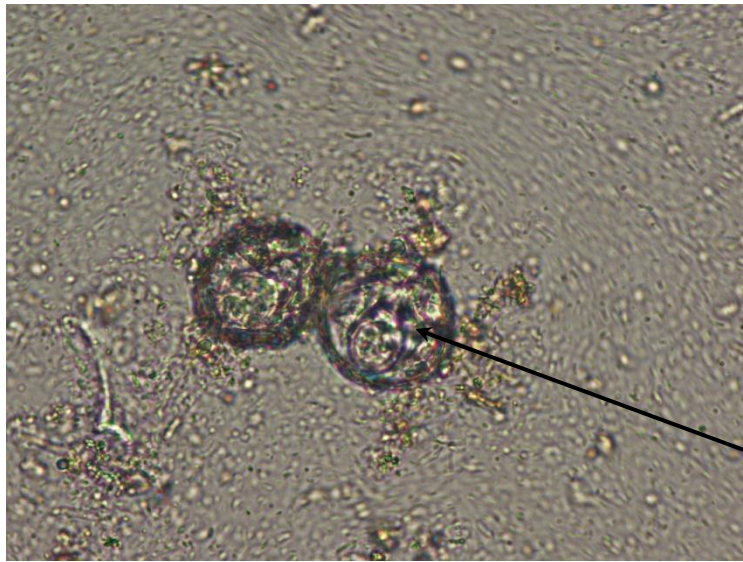
The ova measure 46 to 66 µm by 49-50 µm and are covered with a transparent shell and show a visible pyriform apparatus along with hooklets.

### Clinical history

Patients are usually asymptomatic but nausea, diarrhoea, anorexia and abdominal pain sometimes occur.

### Laboratory diagnosis

Laboratory diagnosis can be made by finding the characteristic motile proglottids in a stool sample. Ova can be seen in the deposit of a formol ether/acetate concentration of the stool



Pyriform  
apparatus