

Biliary cryptosporidiosis in two corn snakes (*Elaphe guttata*)

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Cryptosporidia are 5-7-µm apicomplexid coccidian parasites that infect humans and many other species of mammals, birds, reptiles, and fish. In humans and cattle, infection by *Cryptosporidium parvum* usually affects the intestinal tract, resulting in self-limiting diarrhea.⁴ Respiratory and intestinal cryptosporidiosis occur in birds infected with *C. bayleyi* and *C. meleagridis*.⁵ Sneezing, coughing, or dyspnea are associated with infection of the nasal cavity and sinuses, trachea, or air sacs, whereas intestinal infection is manifested by diarrhea. Other cryptosporidia, such as *C. muris* in mice⁷ and *C. serpentis* in snakes,³ affect the gastric mucosa. In this study, we report the occurrence of concurrent gastric and biliary cryptosporidiosis in snakes.

A total of 13 snakes raised by a commercial breeder were evaluated for the presence of cryptosporidia. Two corn snakes (*Elaphe guttata*) purchased for inclusion in a reptile exhibit developed clinical signs typical of cryptosporidiosis...

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