



## Ectoparasites Infestation of native Chickens in Northwestern of Iran

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**Objective:** Poultry is one of the most intensively reared of the domesticated species and one of the most profitable animal production. Growing of native poultry due to simple keeping, good adaption to different climatic conditions and acceptable yield has boomed among villagers and some urbanites. Of the main pathogenic agents of poultry that threat health and products of them are parasites. This study was carried out in Piranshahr area in the northwestern of Iran to determine ectoparasite species infesting local chickens.

**Material & Methods:** Different parts of bird body (50 birds) was inspected for ectoparasites. Parasites were collected from the birds by displaying the feathers horizontally against their anatomical direction of alignment so as to expose them. Then, the separated parasites were identified according to diagnostic keys.

**Results & Conclusion:** Overall of fifty chickens examined 37 sample (74%) had one or more types of ectoparasites. Thirteen (35.1%) male and 24 (64.9%) females were showed infestation. This difference was not significant ( $p < 0/05$ ). Isolated ectoparasites were included of: Lice (81%), Mites (21.6%). *Menacanthus stramineus* was more frequent 2 (64.8%), the *Menopon gallinae* (48.6%), *Lipeurus caponis* (10.8%) chickens. The one mite species encountered was *Dermanyssus gallinae* (21.6%). This study has shown that ectoparasites are highly prevalent on chickens in the study areas. Further detailed study with particular reference to ectoparasitism and assessment of their impact is recommended.

**Keywords:** Ectoparasite, Poultry, Piranshahr