

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

SEASONAL PREVALENCE OF ASEPTATE GREGARINE PARASITES OF  
INDIAN EARTHWORM

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**Abstract:** An investigation was conducted to examine the prevalence, mean intensity, abundance and seasonality of acephaline gregarine parasites of earthworms in soil of different districts of West Bengal, India. A total 1011 of *Metaphire posthuma* earthworm have been collected from soil of three different districts of West Bengal, India and examined for acephaline gregarine parasites during pre-monsoon, monsoon and post-monsoon season of June 2021 to August 2023. Four genera of acephaline gregarine parasites have been found viz. *Monocystis*, *Stomatophora*, *Nematocystis* and *Apolocystis*. The highest gregarine infection has been observed during monsoon season, i.e. from July to October, followed by the pre-monsoon period while the lowest infection was observed during post-monsoon, i.e. from November to February.

**Keywords:** Earthworm, gregarine, aseptate, mean intensity, mean abundance

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