

عنوان مقاله:

First Report on *Karyolysus* sp. (Apicomplexa: Adeleorina) from Green Bellied Lizard *Darevskia chlorogaster* in the North of Iran

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نویسندگان:

Hossein Javanbakht - *Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, University of Guilan, Rasht, Iran*

Esmail Noghanchi - *Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, University of Guilan, Rasht, Iran*

Somaye Vaissi - *Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Razi University, Kermanshah, Iran*

خلاصه مقاله:

Parasites play a crucial role in ecosystems by interacting in population processes, shaping entire community structures and significantly reducing host fitness in the wild. The phylum Apicomplexa is a diverse group of obligate unicellular blood parasites with a vast distribution. Species of reptiles are exposed to apicomplexan blood parasites, mainly haemogregarines and haemosporidians. Haemogregarine parasites belonging to the suborder Adeleorina are common and widely distributed in lizards. The genus *Karyolysus* Labbe, ۱۸۹۴ (Apicomplexa: Adeleorina: Karyolysidae), is composed of intracellular haemogregarine parasites which can be found in various genera of Palearctic lizards. The vectors of the parasites are gamasid mites from the genus *Ophionyssus*. In the present study, we characterised molecularly the haemogregarine parasites from green bellied lizards, *Darevskia chlorogaster* in the north of Iran. The fragments of the ۱۸S rRNA gene of reptile haemogregarines were amplified using the primer set Hep۳۰۰ and Hep۹۰۰. DNA sequences of ۴۹۳ bp length were aligned with DNA sequences obtained from GenBank through blasting. The BLAST analysis revealed a ۱۰۰% identity with published sequences of the genus *Karyolysus*. Phylogenetic analyses indicated that the obtained haplotypes were identical to the *Karyolysus* sp. (KJ۴۶۱۹۴۴) sequence from *Ophionyssus* mites isolated from *Lacerta viridis* from Hungary. In addition to being the first molecular characterisation of a *Karyolysus* within the Iranian lizards, it was also the first report of a species of *Karyolysus* infecting the *Darevskia* genus. The present study provided additional information about the new host of *Karyolysus* species, its distribution and host specificity and provided further hints to clarify future phylogenetic relations between these parasites.

کلمات کلیدی:

Blood parasite, Haemogregarine, Protozoa, Reptile

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