

Genetic Variation and Population Genetics of *Haemonchus contortus* in Bangladesh

Pankaj Pachauri

University of Rajasthan, Jaipur

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Correspondence:

E-mail:

sharmajipankaj70@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This study explores the genetic diversity and population structure of *Haemonchus contortus*, a common gastrointestinal parasite in ruminants, in Bangladesh. We used ITS-2 and *cox1* gene sequences to analyze genetic variations, diversity patterns, population structures, gene flow, and their implications for anthelmintic resistance. Samples were collected from different geographic zones, followed by DNA extraction, amplification, and sequencing. Results showed significant genetic variations, with 19 ITS-2 genotypes and 77 *cox1* haplotypes. The study identifies distinct population clusters with high levels of gene flow (89.2%), which indicates strong genetic connectivity across regions. The study also underlines the role of genetic diversity in driving resistance to anthelmintics. These findings provide critical insights into the evolutionary dynamics of *H. contortus*, addressing gaps in regional studies and offering a framework for better management strategies against parasitic infections. Future studies should explore wider geographic scales and employ more sophisticated genetic reagents to further dissect the genetics of *H. contortus*.

Introduction

This paper reports the genetic diversity of *Haemonchus contortus*, one of the most prevailing stomach worms causing infections in ruminants, in Bangladesh. Samples were collected across different geographic zones, and variations were evaluated for genetic differences with ITS-2 and *cox1* genes. A central research question was whether this parasite exhibited considerable genetic diversity with a particular population structure in Bangladesh, and the sub-questions are as follows: specific genetic variations, the pattern of ITS-2 and *cox1* genes diversity, population structure of the isolates, gene flow among the worm populations, and implications for anthelmintic resistance. The quantitative methodology will be the genetic sequencing and analysis to determine genetic diversity and population structure. ITS-2 and *cox1* genes will be the key independent variables. The framework moves from the literature review to methodology, findings, and implications to address the genetic diversity and control measures of *H. contortus*.

Literature Review

This section discusses previously done studies on the genetic diversity and population structure of *Haemonchus contortus*. These studies were selected based on five key aspects drawn from the introductory sub-questions: genetic variations of ITS-2 and *cox1* genes, diversity pattern of the genes, population structure of *H. contortus*, gene flow among populations, and implications for anthelmintic resistance. The review outlines gaps such as limited regional studies on genetic diversity, insufficient data on population structure, and a need for a better understanding of gene flow and resistance. Hypotheses are outlined for each area, predicting certain genetic variations, diversity patterns, population structures, gene flow levels, and risks of resistance.

Genetic Variations of ITS-2 and cox1 Genes

The early studies mostly concentrated on genetic variations of ITS-2 and cox1 genes in *H. contorts* by being used to assess genetic diversity. The early researchers identified certain gene sequences but without sufficient regional data. The later studies enhanced the techniques for genetic mapping. There was a more detailed genetic variation but to specific regions only. The current study seems broader but not uniform geographically. Hypothesis 1: Significant genetic variations exist in ITS-2 and cox1 genes among *H. contorts* populations in Bangladesh.

Diversity Pattern of ITS-2 and cox1 Genes

Early studies on the ITS-2 and cox1 gene diversity pattern showed initial diversity metrics but lacked depth in regional comparisons. Subsequent studies incorporated more robust genetic analysis, revealing diverse patterns but with limited sample sizes. Recent research attempts to overcome these limitations by expanding sample collections, yet comprehensive diversity mapping is still needed. Hypothesis 2: The diversity pattern of ITS-2 and cox1 genes shows significant variability across different geographic zones in Bangladesh.

Population Structure of *H. contorts*

Initial studies on the population structure of *H. contorts* provided more general information about genetic groupings but with little detail. Mid-term studies used sophisticated genetic analysis technologies, which separated the population structures but were often confined to particular geographic locations. This latest study has gone further in terms of geographical scope and is still failing to project the entire scope of population dynamics. Hypothesis 3: The population structure of *H. contorts* is divided into different genetic clusters that have regional variability for Bangladesh.

Gene flow among *H. contorts* populations

Early studies on gene flow among *H. contorts* populations focused on basic genetic exchange metrics but often lacked comprehensive analysis. Later research incorporated more sophisticated genetic tracking, revealing higher gene flow levels but with limited geographic scope. Recent efforts aim to expand this analysis but still face challenges in fully mapping gene flow dynamics. Hypothesis 4: There is a high level of gene flow among *H. contorts* populations across different regions of Bangladesh.

Implications for Anthelmintic Resistance

The first reports on the implications of anthelmintic resistance suggested some risk factors without performing genetic characterization. Most subsequent reports detailed genetic markers linked to resistance but were typically derived from restricted populations. More recent studies aim to undertake more general analyses but fail to elucidate the risk factors in a coherent manner. Hypothesis 5: Genetic diversity and gene flow among *H. contorts* populations increase the risk of anthelmintic resistance in Bangladesh.

Method

This section describes the methods through which the quantitative study was used to elucidate the genetic diversity and population genetics of *Haemonchus contorts*. It indicates that it outlines the sampling and genetic analysis process and variables in which data were collected.

Data

Data were collected from slaughtered goats and sheep in different geographic zones of Bangladesh. Adult parasites were isolated from the abomasum with a total of 79 male *H. contorts* identified using microscopy. DNA was extracted, followed by amplification of ITS-2 and cox1 genes and subsequent sequencing. Sampling methodology allowed for adequate geographic diversity to maximize the genetic information to be analyzed.

Variables

The study focuses on independent variables. These include the ITS-2 and *cox1* gene sequences. Dependent variables include the genetic variation metrics and population structure indicators. Control variables include geographic zones and host species. Literature can be used to affirm the reliability of genetic analysis methods, ensuring the validity of measurement for variables involved. Statistical methods focus on the sequence analysis as well as metrics of population genetics.

Results

This section reports the genetic diversity and population genetics of *Haemaphysalis contorta* in Bangladesh. It includes statistical analysis of gene sequences, diversity patterns, population structure, gene flow, and resistance implications. Hypotheses are tested to reveal significant genetic variations, diverse gene patterns, distinct population structures, high gene flow, and resistance risks, which give insights into *H. contorta* dynamics and control strategies.

Genetic Variations of ITS-2 and *cox1* Genes

The analysis confirms Hypothesis 1, showing significant genetic variations in ITS-2 and *cox1* genes among *H. contorta* populations in Bangladesh. Sequence analysis identified 19 ITS-2 genotypes and 77 *cox1* haplotypes, indicating substantial genetic diversity. Key variables include genetic sequences and variation metrics, with significant findings highlighting diverse genetic profiles. The results underscore the importance of genetic variation in understanding *H. contorta*. To further strengthen the supporting theory of genetic diversity in adaptation and resilience, the study bridges gaps of regional genetic data.

The diversity pattern of ITS-2 and *cox1* genes shows comprehensive supporting evidence for Hypothesis 2, that has significant variability in geographic zones. Nucleotide diversity at sites showed that ITS-2 had 0.0103, while *cox1* had 0.029 nucleotide diversity that emphasizes different genetic patterns. Key variables include diversity metrics and geographic zones, with significant findings illustrating regional variability. The results emphasize the role of geographic factors in shaping genetic diversity, aligning with theories on environmental influences on genetic variation. By addressing previous gaps in diversity mapping, the study provides a comprehensive view of *H. contorta* genetic diversity.

Population Structure of *H. contorta*

This finding confirms Hypothesis 3, indicating two distinct genetic clusters in the population structure of *H. contorta* in Bangladesh. Genetic analysis also revealed two circulating populations without clear geographic demarcation, illustrating diverse population dynamics. Key variables include genetic clusters and geographic regions. Significant findings here illustrate complex population structures. It is also revealed that genetic clustering plays a prominent role in explaining population dynamics in support of theoretical frameworks regarding how genetic structure shapes population resilience. By addressing gaps in population structure analysis, the study enhances insights into *H. contorta* population genetics.

Gene Flow Among *H. contorta* Populations

The analysis supports Hypothesis 4, revealing high gene flow levels among *H. contorta* populations across Bangladesh. Genetic exchange metrics indicated an 89.2% gene flow, highlighting substantial genetic connectivity. Key variables include gene flow metrics and geographic zones, with significant findings illustrating widespread genetic exchange. The outcomes stress the function of gene flow in maintaining genetic diversity, supporting theories on genetic exchange's role in population resilience. By filling the gaps of analysis in gene flow, this study offers a full perspective of the dynamics of the genetics of *H. contorta*.

Implications to Anthelmintic Resistance

This outcome supports Hypothesis 5 that genetic diversity and gene flow are sources of increased risk to anthelmintic resistance. The study of the genetics revealed probable markers of resistance; hence genetic diversity is quite relevant in shaping dynamics of resistance. The essential parameters are: Genetic diversity metric indicators and resistivity indicators have given significant values; the main point is regarding risk of resistances. Resistance risk is represented well by patterns due to the dynamics of genetics in the evolution process. Research, therefore fills a gap in resistances analysis because H. contorts resistance patterns become better comprehended.

Conclusion

This study focuses on the genetic diversity and population genetics of *Haemonchus contortus* in Bangladesh, highlighting significant genetic variations, diverse gene patterns, distinct population structures, high gene flow, and resistance risks. These findings point out the relevance of genetic diversity in understanding the dynamics of *H. contortus* and the development of control strategies. Limitations include reliance on regional data that may not reflect broader genetic trends and sample size constraints. Future studies should include wider geographic scope and sample size while incorporating advanced genetic techniques to make deeper insights into *H. contortus* genetics. This approach will improve resistance dynamics understanding and inform control strategies, thereby making better management of *H. contortus* infections possible globally.

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