

Review Article

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Advances in Diagnostics of Parasitic Diseases: Current Trends and Future Prospects

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ABSTRACT

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Parasitic diseases constitute a major group of chronic infectious diseases in livestock and jeopardize animal health results in poor production. However, treatment and control of diseases are largely dependent on timely diagnosis. Usually, the diagnosis of parasitic infections relies on testing for the presence of parasites through direct faecal examination, blood smear, lymph node biopsy etc, but clinically, it is often difficult to elucidate the entire offending organism. Accurate diagnoses of parasitic infections are always a prerequisite for successful treatment and control of animal diseases. Besides, the rapid development of drug resistance against anti-parasitic drugs urges the need for the development of the alternative, early diagnostic techniques. In modern years, research has been focused towards alternative methods to improve the diagnosis of parasitic diseases. In this paper, we reviewed the application of various diagnostic techniques for the detection of parasitic infections currently in use and future developments.

Introduction

Livestock sector plays a pivotal role in improving the socio-economic conditions of developing countries. In India, livestock sector contributes 4.11% of GDP and more than one fourth (25.6%) total output of the agricultural sector GDP (Livestock census, 2012). Among infectious diseases, parasites are a major cause of production loss in terms of morbidity and mortality, results in significant economic losses and its impact directly on the livelihood

of farmers. The global loss due to ticks and tick-borne diseases (TTBDs) was estimated to be between the US \$ 13.9 and 18.7 billion annually while in India the cost of controlling TTBDs has been estimated at the US \$ 498.7 million/annum (De Castro, 1997; Minjauw and McLeod, 2003).

In India, tick-borne diseases in animals, like theileriosis and babesiosis causes economic loss to the tune of US \$ 800 million and the US \$ 67.2 million, respectively, per annum

(Devendra, 1995; Montenegro *et al.*, 1998). So, to formulate effective treatment and control strategies against parasitic diseases, specific diagnosis of parasites is essential to know the true status of parasitic diseases in animals of a particular region. Since the introduction of light microscopy, morphological identification of parasites has been the cornerstone of routine laboratory diagnosis in Parasitology.

However, the sensitivity of identifying parasites to occult or acute infection is less. Further, serology based diagnosis is not specific in all the cases. So, currently, to address these issues, nucleic-acid based methods have been employed to detect parasites responsible for parasitic diseases. In the present review, we addressed different serological and molecular techniques employed for diagnosis of different parasitic diseases of animals.

Microscopy-based method

Microscopy-based detection methods are economically cheaper and considered the gold standard for diagnosis of parasitic infections. However, due to limitations such as technical expertise, occult/ acute infection status of animal etc. may reduce the sensitivity of this test.

Serology based methods

Serology tests are considered as the gold standard when biologic samples or tissue specimens are not available for diagnosis. It can be divided into two categories: antigen-detection and antibody-detection assays.

Serology based method requires considerable skill, time-consuming and labour-intensive in nature. Some tests which are routinely used for parasite detection are addressed (Table no 1).

Complement fixation test

The Complement fixation test is one of the most widely applicable serologic techniques. Once the required reagents, antigen, complement, sheep erythrocytes and antibody against erythrocytes are prepared and standardized, the complement fixation test used for detection of trypanosomosis, helminthosis, anaplasmosis, babesiosis and toxoplasmosis (Ndao, 2009; Deepak and Singla, 2016). Based on this test, a commercial kit (COFEB Kit) has been developed for the diagnosis of equine piroplasmiasis (Sengupta, 2004). Complement fixation test screens a large number of samples at a time and can be automated with relatively simple and inexpensive equipment. It shows increased specificity with a reproducible result. Limitation of this test is not much sensitive and cannot be used for immunity screening, time consuming and labour intensive assay. Non-specific binding of complement may produce false positive results.

Latex agglutination test

Latex agglutination is observed when a sample containing the specific antigen (or antibody) is mixed with an antibody (or antigen) which is coated on the surface of latex particles. This test has been used for diagnosis of *Fasciola* spp. *Trichinella spiralis*, *Babesia bigemina*, and *Toxoplasma gondii* (Ndao, 2009; Deepak and Singla, 2016). Card agglutination for trypanosomosis tests (CATT) was originally developed for the diagnosis of *Trypanosoma gambiense gambiense* later on for *T. evansi* (Surratex based on *trypanosome*- antigen detection in blood or serum) infection in livestock using latex beads coated with native RoTat 1.2 (Songa and Hamers, 1988). Recently, the N-terminal fragment of VSG RoTat 1.2 has been expressed as a recombinant protein in the yeast *Pichia*

pastoris and incorporated in a latex agglutination test, the rLATEX/*T. evansi* (Roge *et al.*, 2014).

Indirect fluorescent antibody test

Indirect fluorescent antibody test may be used for the detection of antibodies in serum or for the demonstration and identification of antigens in tissues or cell cultures. This test has been applied to the detection of theileriosis, helminthosis, anaplasmosis, besnoitiosis, ehrlichiosis/ malaria, babesiosis, trypanosomosis, toxoplasmosis (Ndao, 2009; Deepak and Singla, 2016). This test is fast, relatively cheap, easy to detect and highly sensitive and specific. This test used on pathogens that can't be easily cultured and allows viewing of labeled cells in a natural environment. The disadvantage of this test is the potential for cross-reactivity and the need to find primary antibodies that are not raised in same species or different isotypes.

Radioimmunoassay

In radioimmunoassay, radioisotopes are used to measure the immune complex formed by the combination of antigen and antibody. This test used for detection of *Babesia bovis* and *Trypanosoma congolense* (Ricciardi and Ndao, 2015; Ranjan *et al.*, 2015). This test is highly specific and sensitivity. Radiolabeled reagents produce severe radiation hazards. The demerits of the test are requires special laboratory, trained staff to handle radioactive material and requires special arrangements for storage and disposal of radioactive material.

Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA)

Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) is a method of quantifying an antigen immobilized on a solid surface. In this test uses a specific antibody with a covalently

coupled enzyme. ELISA test has been applied for the detection of babesiosis, besnoitiosis, helminthosis, toxoplasmosis, trypanosomosis anaplasmosis, and ehrlichiosis (Ricciardi and Ndao, 2015; Ranjan *et al.*, 2015).

The first commercial ELISA kit for the diagnosis of *Theileria annulata* infection in cattle based on a recombinant protein known as *T. annulata* surface protein (TaSp-1) and named as SVANOVIR (Al-Hosary *et al.*, 2015).

Dot-ELISA

This is a simple and filed oriented test where, the plastic well are replaced by a nitrocellulose or other paper membrane. In this method, small amount of sample will be dotted and incubated with an antigen-specific antibody followed by an enzyme-conjugated anti-antibody.

A coloured dot is formed on the membrane on the addition of chromogenic substrate indicates the positive result. Several studies have demonstrated the usefulness of the study in detection of the parasitic infection caused by *Fasciola gigantica*, *Haemonchus contortus*, *Theileria equi*, *Trypanosoma cruzi*, and *Trypanosoma brucei* in different livestock species (Ranjan *et al.*, 2015; Deepak and Singla, 2016).

Luciferase Immunoprecipitation System (LIPS)

This is a unique modified version of ELISA-based assay where specific antigen – antibody response will be identified by measuring light production. Presently, test was used to detect *Strongyloides stercoralis* (using a Ruc-NIE fusion) and *Loa loa* (using a Ruc-LISXP-1 fusion) infection by specific antigen –antibody interaction (Ramanathan *et al.*, 2008; Burbelo *et al.*, 2008).

Immunochromatographic assays

Immunochromatography is a combination of chromatography (separation of components of a sample based on differences in their movement through a sorbent) and immunochemical reactions. The immunochromatography method is almost similar to Sandwich ELISA method where the only difference is that immunological reaction is carried out on the chromatographic paper by capillary action rather on plastic wells. For this system, two kinds of specific antibodies against antigen are used. One of the antibodies is immobilized on the chromatographic paper and the other is labeled with colloidal gold and infiltrated into sample pad. An immunochromatographic unit is completed by attaching the sample pad at the end of the membrane. In the last decade, many immunochromatography tests have been developed using recombinant antigens such as rEMA2 and recombinant *Babesia caballi* 48-kDa rhoptry protein ((rBc48) for *T. equi* and *B. caballi* infections in equine, respectively (Huang *et al.*, 2004; Cruz-Flores *et al.*, 2010). In cattle, some immunochromatography tests, developed using recombinant antigens are recombinant merozoite surface antigen-2 (rMSA-2), spherical body protein-4 (SBP-4), rhoptry-associated protein 1 (RAP-1) and *Theileria annulata* (TaSP-1) antigen for *Babesia bovis*, *Babesia bigemina* and *T. annulata* infections, respectively (Kim *et al.*, 2008; Guswanto *et al.*, 2017). In dog P50 antigen and BgSA1 are for *Babesia gibsoni* infections (Verdida *et al.*, 2005; Jia *et al.*, 2007). In order to diagnose *Trypanosoma evansi* infection in domestic animals, a recombinant variant surface glycoprotein (rVSG) RoTat 1.2 expressed in yeast *P. pastoris* was used and named the test as Surra Sero K-SeT test. The overall sensitivity of the Surra Sero K-SeT was higher when compared with CATT/*T. evansi*. Hence this may become an alternative for the CATT/*T. evansi* for

sensitive detection of antibodies against *T. evansi* in domestic animals (Birhanu *et al.*, 2015). Currently, lateral flow test (LFA) has been used for the identification of sera sample infected with *T. evansi* in equine. The test was compared with ELISA; it was observed that 93.31% sensitive and 100% specific, as none of the negative field sample, was found positive in LFA (Yadav, 2018).

Molecular-Based methods

The use of DNA/RNA based methods derives from the premise that each species of parasite carries unique DNA or RNA sequences that differentiate it from other parasites. The molecular technique with the widest variety and application in parasitology diagnostics is PCR. Apart from the conventional PCR (nested and multiplexed PCR), recently real-time PCR is also using for the detection of several parasitic infections. Newer technologies such as random amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD), microsatellite marker, loop-mediated isothermal amplification, Luminex based assays, nanotechnology, and biosensor have also emerged as possible new approaches for the diagnosis of parasitic diseases.

Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)

PCR having exquisite sensitivity and specificity for the detection of nucleic acid targets and become one of the most important diagnostic tools in parasitology (Gasser *et al.*, 2006). The PCR is used for the accurate identification of parasites and their genetic characterization, diagnosis of parasitic infections as a differential diagnosis, the isolation and characterization of expressed genes detection of anthelmintic resistance and identification of involved genes in mutation. The genetic markers like 18 sRNA, ITS-1 and ITS-2 are routinely used for identification of Amphistomes (Lofty *et al.*, 2010), *Fasciola*

(Alba *et al.*, 2015) and coccidia species (Gadelhaq *et al.*, 2015). *Eimeria ninakohlyakimovae* and *E. christensenii* infections in Indian goats using 18S rRNA and ITS-1 genes have been genetically characterized using PCR based molecular techniques (Verma *et al.*, 2017).

Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR)

RT- PCR is the latest improvement in the standard PCR technique used in parasitology laboratories. The fluorescence readings are plotted by computer software and results can be transmitted electronically, eliminating the need of post-PCR reaction analysis by electrophoresis and reducing time.

The RT- PCR assay provides quantification of the sample using several fluorescent dyes such as TaqMan probes, SYBR Green dye and Scorpion primers (Ricciardi and Ndao, 2015). Several studies have been conducted on the application of SYBR Green I RT-PCR to protozoans *viz.*, *Cryptosporidium*, *Leishmania*, *Trypanosoma*, *Giardia* and *T. gondii* (Tavares *et al.*, 2011).

Nucleic acid sequence-based amplification (NASBA)

NASBA is a promising gene amplification method involves two-step process where, there is an initial enzymatic amplification of the nucleic acid targets followed by detection of the generated amplicons. The entire NASBA process is conducted at a single temperature, thereby eliminating the need of thermocycler. Recently, NASBA has been used for diagnosis of *Babesia* and *Theileria* using RNA as an initial template (Skotarczak and Sawczuk, 2008) and also used in combination with gold nanorods to develop a colorimetric assay targeting the 18S rRNA of *Leishmania spp* (Niazi *et al.*, 2013).

Loop-Mediated Isothermal Amplification (LAMP)

LAMP is a simple, rapid, specific and cost-effective single tube technique for the amplification of target genes. Amplification and detection of gene can be completed in a single step in shorter duration (15-60 minutes) by incubating the mixture of samples, primers, *Bst* DNA polymerase with strand displacement activity and substrates at a constant temperature (about 60-65°C). The LAMP having several advantages over other nucleic acid detection test. Since, it is a isothermal nucleic acid amplification technique and no need of expensive thermal cyclers and no need of post-PCR analysis of samples. The LAMP test have been used to detect several parasitic diseases, *viz.*, *Cryptosporidium spp*, *E. histolytica*, *Plasmodium spp*, *Trypanosoma spp*, *Taenia spp*, *Schistosoma spp*, *Fasciola hepatica*, *F. gigantica*, *T. gondii* *Theileria*, *Babesia* and *Eimeria* (Alhassan *et al.*, 2007; Guan *et al.*, 2008; Ranjan *et al.*, 2015; Barkway *et al.*, 2015). Further, it is used for identification of parasites in their vectors such as *Dirofilaria immitis* in mosquitoes miracidium after the first day of exposure in snails, the intermediate hosts of *Schistosoma* (Aonuma *et al.*, 2009; Abbasi *et al.*, 2010).

Luminex xMAP Technology

Luminex is a bead-based xMAP technology (multianalyte profiling), a system that combines flow cytometry, fluorescent microspheres (beads), lasers and digital signal processing. Technology having advantages like, simultaneously measuring up to 100 different analytes in a single sample. In diagnostic parasitology, this technology is still new, but it has been used to diagnose *E. histolytica*, *Giardia*, *Cryptosporidium*, *Ascaris*, *Necator*, *Ancylostoma*, *Strongyloides*, *T. gondii*, *Toxocara canis*, *T. cati*, and *T.*

spiralis (Ndao, 2009; Ranjan *et al.*, 2015; Reslova *et al.*, 2017).

Random Amplified Polymorphic DNA (RAPD)

This technique is also known as arbitrarily primed PCR. Test is based on amplification of genomic DNA with a single primer selected from an arbitrary nucleotide sequence. RAPD has been extensively used for description of strains in epidemiological studies. The RAPD is a very simple, fast and inexpensive technique that does not require either prior knowledge of the DNA sequence or DNA hybridization. Generally, this method used to differentiate species of *Leishmania*, in addition to polymorphisms studies of parasites such as *Plasmodium*, *Trypanosoma*, *E. granulosus* and *T. solium* and *W. bancrofti* (Tavares *et al.*, 2011; Ranjan *et al.*, 2015).

Amplified Fragment Length Polymorphism (AFLP)

AFLP is the selective amplification of restriction fragments from a digest of total genomic DNA using the polymerase chain reaction (PCR). AFLP has been successfully applied to differentiate isolates of *C. parvum* into two distinct genotypes, as well as strains of *Leishmania* belonging to cutaneous leishmaniasis and visceral leishmaniasis (Bleas *et al.*, 2000; Kumar *et al.*, 2010).

Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism (RFLP)

RFLP is majorly used to differentiate organisms based on the patterns derived after enzymatic cleavage of their DNA. Based on the cleavage of a particular restriction endonuclease, the length of the fragments will be produced. The cleavage patterns generated after enzymatic digestion will be used to differentiate species (and even strains) from

one another. The RFLP technique is commonly used for diagnosis of species and genotypes of parasites such as *T. gondii*, *Cryptosporidium* spp. and *Theileria* spp. (Quan *et al.*, 2008; Molloy *et al.*, 2010; Zaeemi *et al.*, 2011). Recently, semi-nested PCR-RFLP was used for detection of persistent anaplasmosis (Jaswal *et al.*, 2014).

Microarray technology

Microarray is one of the most recent method being used in veterinary research. Originally developed for the mapping of genes and being used to detect a wide variety of veterinary pathogens. It is based on the base pairing matching of known and unknown DNA samples with array of coated samples.

This is a combination of DNA amplification with subsequent hybridization to oligonucleotide probes specific for multiple target sequences. It allows analysis of a larger number of genetic features in a single trial. It has been used in detection and genotyping of *Plasmodium*, *Toxoplasma* and *Trypanosoma* spp (Duncan *et al.*, 2004).

Microsatellites

Microsatellites are the short DNA sequences consist of tandem repeats of one to six nucleotides with approximately one hundred repeats. Microsatellites are used due to frequent polymorphism, co-dominant inheritance, high reproducibility and high resolution of the genes in both identification and diagnosis of some parasites of both humans and animals.

Despite their potential usefulness, microsatellite markers were developed only for few parasites such as species of *Trichostrongyloid nematodes* and *T.gondii* (Temperley *et al.*, 2009; Ajzenberg *et al.*, 2010).

Nanotechnology

Nanotechnology is the study of extremely small structures, having size of 0.1 to 100 nm. With the help of nanomedicine early detection and prevention, improved diagnosis, proper treatment and follow up of diseases are possible. Certain nanoscale particles are used as tags and labels, biological can be performed quickly, the testing has become more sensitive and more flexible. A small number of parasites have been the target for nanotechnology, focusing primarily in *Leishmania* sp. and *Plasmodium* sp. (De Carvalho *et al.*, 2013; Waknine-Grinberg *et al.*, 2013). Currently, researches are going on using nanopeptides against *Haemonchus contortus* and *Fasciola hepatica* in Cuba and Brazil.

Biosensing technology

A biosensor mainly consists of two components such as bioreceptor and a transducer. The bioreceptor will recognize the target analyte whereas, the transducer converts the recognition event into a measurable signal. In parasitological point of view, a low-cost biosensor system was made with nanostructure films containing specific *L. amazonensis* and *T. cruzi* antigens and employing impedance spectroscopy as the detection method (Perinoto *et al.*, 2010). Over the long term, we believe that biosensor technology combining nanotechnologies, advance nucleic acid amplification methods and next-generation sequencing analysis will be a powerful systemic tool for pathogens detection and surveillance system to control animal disease outbreaks and prevention (Wang, 2005; Vidic *et al.*, 2017).

Application of high throughput ‘omics’ technologies in veterinary parasitology

The advent and integration of high-throughput ‘-omics’ technologies (e.g. genomics,

transcriptomics, proteomics, metabolomics, glycomics and lipidomics) are revolutionizing the science and allowing the systems biology of organisms to be explored. These technologies are now providing unique opportunities for molecular, genetic, host-parasitic interaction, diagnosis, development of drugs and vaccine molecule identification against parasitic diseases (Cantacessi *et al.*, 2012; Cantacessi *et al.*, 2012).

High throughput sequencing (HTS)

Whole genome sequencing started with the sequencing of a bacteriophage in 1977 using the Sanger sequencing technique. In the last few years, it has become possible to sequence the whole genome of key parasites and related organisms, such as *Caenorhabditis elegans* (Brenner, 1974). In fact, the genome of this nematode was first completed genome for any multi-cellular organism and helped in development of resource for research on helminths. These breakthrough platforms have rapidly evolved from next-generation sequencing (NGS) or second-generation platforms [454 / Roche sequencing, Illumina (Solexa) sequencing, SOLiD systems and Ion Torrent sequencing] to third-generation [PacBio RS II (Pacific Biosciences) and Heliscope sequencer (Helicos BioScience)] and fourth-generation sequencing machines [MinION (Oxford Nanopore)]. HTS technologies are now providing the opportunity to detection, identification, characterization of previously unidentified parasites, molecular marker profiles, whole genome sequencing and pathotyping or resistance typing information. Sequencing, mapping and comparing the genomes of cells in healthy and disease states, cheaply, rapidly and accurately can alter the way clinicians think about how to treat patients shifting from traditional medicine to a genome based era of preventive and therapeutic decisions (Ku and Roukos, 2013; Belák *et al.*, 2013).

Table.1 OIE recommended test for the international trade of animal and its products (OIE, 2008)

S. No.	Disease name	Prescribed tests*	Alternative tests
1.	Trichinellosis	Agent identification	Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
2.	Trichomonosis	Agent identification	Mucus agglutination test
3.	Dourine	Complement fixation	Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay, Indirect fluorescent antibody
4.	Equine piroplasmosis	Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay, Indirect fluorescent antibody	Complement fixation
5.	Theileriosis	Agent identification, Indirect fluorescent antibody	-
6.	<i>Trypanosoma evansi</i> infection	Card agglutination tests	-
7.	Bovine anaplasmosis	-	Card agglutination test, Complement fixation
8.	Bovine babesiosis	-	Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay, Indirect fluorescent antibody, Complement fixation
9.	Bovine anaplasmosis	-	Card agglutination test, Complement fixation
10.	Bovine babesiosis	-	Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay, Indirect fluorescent antibody, Complement fixation
11.	Trypanosomosis (Tsetse-transmitted)	-	Indirect fluorescent antibody
12.	Mange	-	Agent identification

*Prescribed tests are required by the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code for the international movement of animals and animal product and are considered optimal for determining the health status of animals.

In the last years, numerous studies have demonstrated the utility of NGS technologies for population genetics and molecular biology of parasites including strongylid nematodes, whitefly, ticks, *Giardia intestinalis*, *Trichomonas vaginalis*, *Cryptosporidium* and *Toxocara* (Chen *et al.*, 2009; Wang *et al.*, 2010; Cantacessi *et al.*, 2012; Gasser, 2013; Qablan *et al.*, 2014; Zahedi *et al.*, 2017).

Bioinformatics

Bioinformatics comprises mathematical approaches and algorithms applied to biology and medicine using Information Technology tools, e.g. databases and mining softwares. Analysis of omics data typically follows four steps: (1) data processing and identification of molecules, (2) statistical data analysis, (3) pathway and network analysis, and (4) system

modeling. Examples include *de novo* genome assembly, genome annotation, identification of co- or differentially expressed genes at the level of transcripts or proteins and the inference of protein– protein interaction networks (Ballereau *et al.*, 2013). Recent studies have utilized bioinformatics platform to explore the complement of molecules transcribed in different developmental stages and both sexes of key parasitic nematodes, including *T. columbriformis* (Cantacessi *et al.*, 2010) *H. contortus* (Cantacessi *et al.*, 2010), *Necator americanus* (Cantacessi *et al.*, 2010) and *Oesophagostomum dentatum* (Lin *et al.*, 2012). Accurate bioinformatics analyses of transcriptomic and genomic data are crucial for providing meaningful biological information on parasites. Until recently, detailed bioinformatic analyses have been restricted largely to specialized

laboratories with substantial computer and software capacities. However, the introduction of new integrated bioinformatic systems, such as Bio-cloud (<http://cloud.genomics.cn>) and Artemis (<http://www.sanger.ac.uk/resources/software/artemis/>), for the *de novo* assembly and annotation of NGS sequence data could represent a turning point for 'omic' research (Santhoshkumar *et al.*, 2012; Cantacessi *et al.*, 2012). The annotation of proteins inferred from the genomic and transcriptomic datasets is usually performed by assigning predicted biological functions based on comparison with existing information available for *C. elegans* and for other organisms in public databases (e.g. WormBase, <http://www.wormbase.org>; InterPro, <http://www.ebi.ac.uk/interpro/>; Gene Ontology, <http://www.geneontology.org/>; OrthoMCL, <http://www.orthomcl.org/>; BRENDA, <http://www.brenda-enzymes.org/>). Using this approach, predictions for key groups of molecules, linked to the physiology of the nervous system, the formation of the cuticle, proteases and protease inhibitors, and protein kinases and phosphatases etc. have been made in relation to their function and essential roles in biological processes (Cantacessi *et al.*, 2012; Cantacessi *et al.*, 2012; Ballereau *et al.*, 2013).

Transcriptomics

Transcriptomics is the genome-wide identification and quantification of RNA species such as mRNAs, non-coding RNAs and small RNAs in healthy state and disease state. in response to external stimuli. High-throughput sequencing of RNA has become the standard assay for measuring gene expression, and numerous studies conducting "RNA-Seq" experiments in parasites have now been performed and deposited in the sequence archives. Investigations of the transcriptome of parasites using different

approaches is gradually leading to a better understanding of the biochemical and molecular processes involved in parasite development, reproduction and interactions with their host/s (Cantacessi *et al.*, 2012; Cantacessi *et al.*, 2012). In NGS, particularly the 454 platform was used for the *de novo* sequencing of the transcriptomes of important parasites such as trematodes *Clonorchis sinensis* (Young *et al.*, 2010), *F. hepatica* (Young *et al.*, 2010), *F. gigantica* (Zhang *et al.*, 2017), *Paramphistomum cervi* (Choudhary *et al.*, 2015), *T. colubriformis*, (Ku and Roukos, 2013), *Ixodes ricinus* (Schwarz *et al.*, 2013), *Haemaphysalis flava* (Xu *et al.*, 2015), *Rhipicephalus appendiculatus* (De Castro *et al.*, 2016), *Dermanyssus gallinae* (Schicht *et al.*, 2014), *Tritrichomonas foetus* (Morin-Adeline *et al.*, 2015) and *Neospora caninum* (Ramaprasad *et al.*, 2015).

Proteomics

The study of proteins present in a tissue or fluid (the proteome). Generally, Proteome refers to the set of proteins in the cell or an organism and vary depending on the stimuli. Recently, proteomic studies generating data and awakening interest in using proteomics and the complementary bioinformatics tools to address problems of veterinary pathogenesis. Since, its provides necessary tools for large-scale experimental analysis of the molecules generating during stimuli and provide data on relevant protein sets from pathogen as well as from the host. Mass spectrometry is widely used proteomic tool for identification and diagnosis of parasitic infections. Mass spectrometry (MS) relies on the deflection of charged atoms by magnetic fields in a vacuum to measure their mass/charge (m/z) ratio. A typical experiment follows five steps: (1) introduction of the sample, (2) ionization of its particles, (3) acceleration, (4) deflection proportional to the

mass and charge of the ion, and (5) detection. A mass spectrometer consists of an ion source, a mass analyser that measures the mass-to-charge ratio (m/z) of the ionized analytes, and a detector that registers the number of ions at each m/z value. Currently, four basic types of mass analyser are used in proteomic research, *Viz.*, a. ion trap, b. time-of-flight (TOF), c. quadrupole and d. Fourier transform ion cyclotron analysers. They are very different in design and performance, its own strength and weakness (Aebersold and Mann, 2003). In recent years, the identification of novel biomarkers in parasite diagnostics has relied on the use of mass spectrometry (MS) platforms. Such instruments include matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF MS), surface-enhanced laser desorption ionization time of flight mass spectrometry (SELDI-TOF MS), liquid chromatography combined with MS (LC-MS-MS), isotope-coded affinity tags (ICAT), and isotope tags for relative and absolute quantification (iTRAQ) (Ndao, 2009). Most studies published on parasitic diseases have all focused on the use of MALDI-TOF MS and SELDI-TOF MS. Pathogenesis of gastrointestinal nematode infection was recently studied by quantitatively investigating the expression of proteins by abomasal mucosa of resistant and susceptible sheep breed after experimental *Haemonchus contortus* infection (Nagaraj *et al.*, 2012).

MALDI-TOF MS

This is a mass spectrometry with soft ionization technique used for the analysis of biomolecules such as DNA, protein, peptides and sugar or polymers. This method is having three steps such as 1. The sample is mixed with suitable matrix and applied to a metal plate. 2, a pulsed laser irradiates a sample triggering desorption of matrix material and 3.

Ionization of analyte molecules. The typical detector used with MALDI is the time of flight mass detector (TOF-MS). Where, the ions are accelerated by an electric field, resulting in ions of the same strength to have the same kinetic energy. The time it takes for each ion to transverse the flight tube and arrive at the detector is based on its mass-to-charge ratio; therefore the heavier ions have shorter arrival times compared to lighter ions (Hillenkamp *et al.*, 1991; Lewis *et al.*, 2000). MALDI-TOF MS has emerged as an alternative technique for the identification of a number of arthropods such as *Culicoides* (Kaufmann *et al.*, 2012), mosquitoes (Suarez *et al.*, 2011) and ticks (Karger *et al.*, 2012).

SELDI-TOF MS

SELDI-TOF is a version of MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry where, the sample matrix protein chip, play an active role in sample purification as well as the desorption/ionization step. This technology is based on the separation of proteins using their chemical and physical characteristics (i.e., hydrophobic, hydrophilic, acidic, basic, metal affinity) by performing a chromatographic separation of the sample to be analyzed. SELDI-TOF has three major components such as: the protein chip arrays, the mass analyzer, and the data analysis software (Merchant, 2000; Tarawneh and Bencharit, 2009). SELDI technique has been applied to the study of serum biomarkers of parasitic diseases such as human African trypanosomosis (Agranoff *et al.*, 2005), fasciolosis (Rioux *et al.*, 2008) and cysticercosis (Deckers *et al.*, 2008).

The gold standard test for parasitic diagnosis is microscopy whereas, several limitations including sensitivity. Presently, new technologies have emerged to address some of these limitations with increased

advantages. In recent years, research area is shifting alternative methods to improve the diagnosis of parasitic diseases. The molecular-based approaches and proteomics using mass spectrometry are much higher through put technologies used for parasitic diagnosis. Present communication summarizes the information about various detection methods of parasitic infections of livestock and humans.

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