

Morphological observation of intestinal ciliates from Indian Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*)

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There are many reports on the entodiniomorphid ciliates inhabiting the intestines of large herbivorous mammals; however, the ciliate inhabitants of the Indian Rhinoceros intestine are hardly known. In the present study, material from feces of three Indian Rhinoceroses was observed by light and scanning electron microscopy. As a result, four species belonging to the genus *Triplumaria* (Cycloposthiidae) were found. Comparative examination revealed that these four species differed from all the formerly described *Triplumaria* species. In the observations with SEM showed that all species lacked a tail lobe, and two of them had a unique structure on the body surface. From these findings, it is suggested that the ciliate species composition of Indian Rhinoceros intestines differs from that of African rhinoceroses.