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HISTOPATHOLOGY OF *Rhabdias* AND *Raillietiella* INFECTED LUNGS OF *Sclerophrys maculata* (HALLOWELL'S TOAD), PORT HARCOURT, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT – The genera *Rhabdias* (Nematoda) and *Raillietiella* (Pentasomidea) are lung worms infecting anurans and some other vertebrates. They have been associated with several pathologies including reduced growth and death. Here we examine the pathological changes associated with these parasites in infected lungs of *Sclerophrys maculata* from Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Hosts were hand-picked from three locations (Bori in Ogoni, Isiokpo in Ikwerre, and Rivers State University campus, in Port Harcourt). They were euthanized in chloroform vapour and dissected. Histopathological examination of infected and uninfected lungs was done using standard procedures. Pathologies included congested pulmonary vessels and abnormal vascular dilatation in *Rhabdias*-infected lungs. Lungs infected with both parasites also presented with congested pulmonary vessels in addition to areas of pulmonary hemorrhage. We conclude that co-infection of both parasites results in pathological changes that could affect lung function and reduce wild populations of *S. maculata*.

Keywords: amphibians, histopathological changes, lung worm, Raillietiella, Rhabdias

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