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PAPASITES AND DISEASES OF ABDIM'S STORK *Ciconia abdimii* - In August 1984 a female Abdim's Stork was captured by students during a field practical class on the Ahmadu Bello University Farm, Zaria, Nigeria. The bird was very weak and unable to fly, and weighed only 913 g. A large and a small tick were attached to the right lores (Fig. 1), which were identified as female and male respectively of *Amblyomma variegatus*. Short-bodied lice *Anatocetus sp.* and long-bodied lice *Esthiopterum sp.* were crawling all over the body of the bird. In addition there were two necrotic growths on the left tibia (Fig. 2). Their pathology was not determined but they may have contributed indirectly to the bird's inability to fly. The left leg was stiff at the ankle joint, which may have made it impossible for the bird to lift off from the ground.



(left leg, rear view)

A specimen study skin of the bird was prepared. Blood smears from the heart and lungs stained with Giemsa stain revealed no blood parasites. However examination of the gut revealed bits of cestodes in the small intestine, probably of the family Davaineidae. Two nematodes of the family Trichostrongylidae were found between the muscle and cuticle of the gizzard.

I am grateful to Dr S.A. Apeji of the Institute of Agricultural Research who supplied the specimen, and to Professor G.K. Sweatman of the Department of (Veterinary) Parasitology, Ahmadu Bello University who helped with the identification of the parasites.

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