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CRICETULUS MIGRATORIUS (GRAY HAMSTER), ANOTHER POSSIBLE ANIMAL RESERVOIR OF KALA-AZAR IN MESHKIN-SHAHR, IRAN

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Abstract:

Altogether, 120 Rodents of 4 species were trapped alive in various parts of Meshkin-Shar district where visceral leishmaniasis is endemic. 13 of them were *Cricetulus migratorius* (gray hamste) that all were caught inside the living rooms. Nine of them showed *Leishmania* antibody in titers of $\geq 1:100$ in direct agglutination test (DAT) and amastigotes were found in the spleen smears of 2 *Cricetulus migratorius* One of them showed *Leishmania* antibody in titer of 1:400 and another one in titer 1:800 in DA test. This is the first report on the natural infection of a rodent with *Leishmania* in its internal organs in the endemic foci of visceral leishmaniasis in Iran.

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