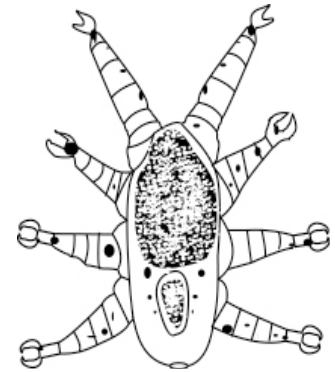


Air Sac Mite

(From Issue 2 VetaClub Magazine)

The air sac mite that severely affects the Gouldian Finch and other species causes respiratory distress and death. The mite (*Sternostoma tracheacolum*) lives and reproduces on the surface of the respiratory tract with the complete life cycle of the mite being 14 to 21 days. Transmission of the mite occurs through direct contact via the oral route commonly when infested adult birds feed regurgitated food to young nestlings. Another method of transmission occurs during courtship behaviour when males feed females. Transmission can also occur through contaminated water. Clinical signs are mouth breathing with a characteristic clicking sound. Also loss of voice, coughing, nasal discharge, tail bobbing with weakness and weight loss.

SCATT is used in the treatment of Air Sac Mite. One drop treats birds under 30 grams bodyweight. It is applied to the back of the bird between the shoulders. This may cause a little irritation for a few minutes. SCATT is absorbed through the skin to kill the parasite. While birds are undergoing treatment for Air Sac Mite, the aviary should be sprayed with Avian Insect liquidator. Generally only one application of SCATT is necessary but if re-infestation occurs, then treatments should be repeated as required.



Air Sac Mite,
Sternostoma tracheacolum

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