Toxoplasma have been described as the causative agents of various pathologic conditions in birds and mammals including man, and toxoplasmosis is one of the important anthropozoonosis.

However, reports on toxoplasmosis in primates is very scanty, only a few reports on spontaneous toxoplasmosis in primates having been published.

**Spontaneous toxoplasmosis in primates**

The toxoplasmosis in one *Alouatta seniculus* (*Stentor seniculus*) described by Thézé (1916) is the first report of spontaneous toxoplasmosis in primates. Thereafter, the cases of spontaneous toxoplasmosis have been reported in one *Papio* (*Cynocephalus*) by Levaditi and Shoen (1933), in one chimpanzee by Kopciowska and Nicolau (1938), and in one *Cebus capucinus* by Rodaniche (1954a).

In the monkey described by Thézé (1916), toxoplasma were found in the bone marrow, spleen, and liver. However, Thézé does not refer to any lesions associated with the presence of the parasites.

Levaditi and Shoen (1933) found large toxoplasmic “cysts” in the brain of a baboon, which had died of lymphogranuloma meningo-encephalitis caused by inoculation with material from the lymph nodes of two guinea pigs that had been injected with the lymphogranuloma virus in monkey brain. No reference was made to any reaction to these organisms.

Kopciowska and Nicolau (1938) found, in addition to neural lesions of the virus, a solitary cyst-like cluster of toxoplasma in the parietal cortex of the chimpanzee which was sacrificed 15 days after intracerebral inoculation with the virus of Aujeszky’s disease. They say that there was no associated cellular reaction and that this was evidence of a spontaneous chronic infection with toxoplasma.

Rodaniche (1954a) found a small toxoplasmic pseudocyst in the cerebral cortex...
of the *Cebus capucinus* which had been brought into his laboratory in a moribund condition by a local dealer and then sacrificed for examination.

**Experimental toxoplasmosis in primates**

A few attempts to infect primates with toxoplasma experimentally have been made by various methods, but most of those attempts did not succeed. For instance, two *Macaca irus* (*Macaca cynomolgus*) were inoculated with toxoplasma by Nicolle and Manceaux (1909), one *M. irus* (*M. cynomolgus*) and one *M. sinica* (*M. sinicus*) by Nicolle and Conor (1913), one *Cercopithecus patas*, one *M. mulatta*, and one *Papio sphynx* by Levaditi et al. (1929), one *Papio* (*Cynocephalus*) by Levaditi and Shoen (1933), an unstated number of *M. mulatta* by Sabin and Olitsky (1937), and three *M. mulatta* by Sabin and Ruchman (1942), and negative results were obtained except for the description of Sabin and Olitsky (1937), and Sabin and Ruchman (1942), which stated that these monkeys had antibodies in their blood that neutralized the toxoplasma.

Cowen and Wolf (1945) made an attempt using nine *M. mulatta*, one *Cercopithecus aethiopis sabaues* (*Cercopithecus sabaues*) and one *Papio doguera*, and obtained negative results except for one case among the *M. mulatta*. This young *M. mulatta* died of acute toxoplasmosis. This is the first case of a fatal experimental infection of primates with toxoplasma and the first toxoplasmosis with the production of pathological lesions. They say that the fact that only a single monkey developed acute fatal toxoplasmosis in a group of 11 animals indicates that primates are relatively insusceptible to toxoplasma.

On the other hand, Rodaniche (1954b) inoculated by various routes 31 *Oedipomidas spixi* (*Marikina Geoffroyi*) and 15 *Aotus trivirgates* (*Aotus zonalis*) with toxoplasma, isolated in mice from a spontaneous infection in an infant *Cebus capucinus*, and all the animals developed acute fatal toxoplasmosis, showing a high susceptibility. According to Rodaniche (1954b), toxoplasma were always found in abundance in impression smears of the spleen, liver, and lungs, but to a lesser extent in the blood, kidneys and mesenteric lymph nodes of the animals examined, but no reference to any reaction to these organisms was given.

As mentioned above, reports on toxoplasmosis in primates, especially on any lesions associated with Toxoplasma, are very scanty. And it is remarkable that most of the experimental toxoplasmosis in the Catarrhina did not succeed.

**Two cases of spontaneous toxoplasmosis in Lemur catta**

Two *Lemur catta* were imported from Bazizoo (Nice, France), September 13, 1962, and they were caged together at the Japan Monkey Centre. At the beginning of June 1963, both were found to be motionless. At June 3, they crouched throughout the day, having no appetite, and the friction sound of pleura was heard by stethoscope held at the breast of the two animals. The lemur no. 1 died on the