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## RESEARCH ARTICLE

## Complex posttraumatic stress disorder among formerly political prisoners in Iraq

Nabeel M. Al-Dakheely<sup>1</sup>, Saja H. Mohammed<sup>2</sup>, Jawad K. Al-Diwan<sup>3</sup>

1. BSc, MSc Dept. of Psychiatric Nursing, College of Nursing, Baghdad University

2. BSc, MSc, PhD Dept. of Psychiatric Nursing, College of Nursing, Babil University

3. MB ChB, MSc, DCN, FIBMS Dept. of Community Medicine, College of Medicine, Baghdad University

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#### \*Corresponding Author

Khajuria, M

### Abstract

In the present study, the chromosomes of a predatory fly, *Episyrphus balteatus* commonly called hoverfly were studied first time from Jammu (J&K). The larva of this hoverfly act as bio control agent for suppressing the populations of aphids. The observed diploid number of the species was  $2n=10$ . Observed meiotic stages included diplotene and diakinesis. Mitotic anaphase was also found. The sex chromosomes include sub telocentric X and acrocentric Y chromosome. The present study regarding the chromosomes might help in the solution of taxonomic problems with in the family syrphidae.

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## INTRODUCTION

To the editor,

Working group of World Health Organization proposed the inclusion of Complex posttraumatic stress disorder (CPTSD) a new diagnosis related to but separated from PTSD<sup>1</sup>. CPTSD is a sequela of prolonged repeated<sup>2</sup> or complex trauma (occurring under circumstances where escape is not possible due to physical, maturational, environmental and social constraint)<sup>1,3</sup>. Iraqi political prisoners (IPP) were subjected to regular repeated torture and prolonged imprisonment<sup>4</sup> i.e. prolonged repeated complex trauma. This work was carried out to report on CPTSD among IPP.

A total of 400 formerly political prisoners was participated in this study. Their age was  $55.4 \pm 12.6$  years with a male to female ratio of 4.6:1. They were selected randomly from the Political Prisoners Establishment (PPE). Iraqi version of Harvard Trauma Questionnaire (HTQ) was used for estimating symptoms of CPTSD (feeling of guilt, hopelessness, feeling of a shame and need for revenge).

CPTSD was noticed in 281 (70.3%) of IPP. No significant association between CPTSD and year of detention ( $p=0.9$ ) was observed (Table 1).

High prevalence of CPTSD was observed (70.3%). It is much higher than that reported among university students in Baghdad, Iraq (10%)<sup>5</sup>. The high figure might be explained by exposure to complex trauma (imprisonment, torture<sup>4</sup> in addition to the general exposure to complex trauma in Iraq i.e. wars, civil war and widespread violence<sup>5</sup>). It was reported that chronic trauma i.e. imprisonment and continuous torture is predictive of CPTSD than PTSD<sup>6</sup>. In previous communication<sup>7</sup> the prevalence of PTSD among IPP was 82.7%.

Year of detention was not significantly affecting CPTSD. Similar finding was reported with PTSD<sup>7</sup>. Literature<sup>1-3,5,6</sup> stressed that exposure to repeated or complex trauma predispose to CPTSD.

High rate of CPTSD among IPP was noticed.

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**Table 1 Complex PTSD distribution according to year of detention**

Year of detention	Total	Complex PTSD	
		No.	%
1963	60	43	71.6
1970s	130	89	66.9
1980s	120	86	71.6
1990s	90	63	70.0
Total	400	281	70.3

$$\chi^2 = 0.3, \text{ d.f.} = 3, \text{ p} = 0.9$$