

SHORT COMMUNICATION

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Helminth fauna of the wolf (*Canis lupus* Linnaeus, 1758) in Belorussian Polesie

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The substance of this report is the helminthologic examination (dissection and organ compression) of 52 wolves in Belorussian Polesie (southern part of Belarus) between 1981 and 1996.

The total rate of infection of wolves by helminths was 80.0%. These animals are hosts of 24 species of helminths. The results of our helminthologic examination are illustrated in Table 1. All species of wolf helminths are known

to be parasites of humans and domestic animals (dogs, cats, pigs). Most frequently, *Taenia hydatigena*, *Toxocara canis*, and *Trichinella spiralis* larvae were registered. The rate of infection of wolves by these helminths ranged from 19.2% to 26.9%. The number of parasites varied from 1 to 30 specimens. *Opisthorchis felineus*, *Pseudamphistomum truncatum*, *Trichuris vulpis*, and *Macracanthorhynchus catulinus* were rare species of helminths in wolves.

Table 1 Helminth infections of wolves in Belorussian Polesie

Species of helminths	Number of positive findings	Prevalence (%)	Number of helminths (min–max)
<i>Isthmiophora melis</i> (Schrank 1788)	3	5.8	1–2
<i>Alaria alata</i> (Goeze 1782)	9	17.3	2–150
<i>Opisthorchis felineus</i> (Rivolta 1884)	1	3.9	7
<i>Pseudamphistomum truncatum</i> (Rudolphi 1819)	1	3.9	3
<i>Spirometra erinacei</i> (Rudolphi 1819)	8	15.4	2–10
<i>Dipylidium caninum</i> (Linnaeus 1758)	8	15.4	1–7
<i>Taenia crassiceps</i> (Zeder 1880)	2	5.8	1–12
<i>T. hydatigena</i> (Pallas 1766)	14	26.9	1–30
<i>T. krabbei</i> (Moniez 1789)	4	7.7	1–4
<i>T. pisiformis</i> (Bloch 1780)	4	7.7	1–6
<i>T. polyacantha</i> (Leuckart 1856)	3	5.8	1–10
<i>Echinococcus granulosus</i> (Batsch 1782)	6	11.5	1–3
<i>Mesocestoides lineatus</i> (Goeze 1782)	4	7.7	1–5
<i>Capillaria plica</i> (Rudolphi 1819)	7	13.5	1–3
<i>Thominx aerophilus</i> (Creplin 1839)	4	7.7	1–5
<i>Trichuris vulpis</i> (Froelich 1789)	1	3.9	2
<i>Trichinella spiralis</i> (Owen 1835) larvae	9	19.2	2–15 in compressorium
<i>Ancylostoma caninum</i> (Ercolani 1859)	7	13.5	1–5
<i>Uncinaria stenocephala</i> (Railliet 1854)	8	15.4	2–60
<i>Crenosoma vulpis</i> (Rudolphi 1819)	4	7.7	1–7
<i>Toxascaris leonina</i> (Linstow 1902)	7	13.5	2–8
<i>Toxocara canis</i> (Werner 1782)	11	21.2	2–12
<i>Spirocerca lupi</i> (Rudolphi 1809)	4	7.7	1–6
<i>Macracanthorhynchus catulinus</i> (Kostylew 1927)	1	3.9	2

Besides *O. felinus*, *T. spiralis*, and *T. canis*, also *Dipylidium caninum*, *Echinococcus granulosus*, *Thominx aerophilus*, and *Toxascaris leonina* are very important in medicine and veterinary science. These species of helminths have periodically been found by medical and veterinary services in Belarus. *O. felinus* have been registered in humans and cats; *D. caninum*, *E. granulosus*, and *T. canis*, in humans and dogs; *T. aerophilus*, in humans; *T. spiralis*, in humans and pigs; and *T. leonina*, in dogs.