

Helminth fauna of birds of prey in Slovakia

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Parasitism in wild birds is common and most individuals are exposed to influence of many parasites but our knowledge of their occurrence in the birds in wildlife is only fragmentary. The aim of this study was to obtain updated information on the prevalence of helminths in birds of prey in Slovakia. In total 286 cadavers of birds of prey from the territory of Slovakia were examined for the presence of endoparasites. 23 avian species were studied, 5 belonging to the order Falconiformes, 11 Accipitriformes and 7 Strigiformes. Helminths were found in 156 birds (54.5%). The prevalence was the highest in order Accipitriformes (73.1 %), then Strigiformes (62.2 %) and Falconiformes (16.5 %). 12 different Trematoda species were found: *Conodiplostomum perlatum*, *C. spathula*, *Neodiplostomum attenuatum*, *N. canaliculatum*, *N. spathoides* (Diplostomidae), *Parastrigea flexilis*, *Strigea falconis*, *S. strigis*, *S. vandenbroekae* (Strigeidae), *Paracoenogonimus ovatus* (Cyathocotylidae), *Plagiorchis elegans* (Plagiorchiidae) and *Metorchis* sp. (Opisthorchidae). Findings of class Cestoda comprehended seven species: *Cladotaenia cirsi*, *C. globifera*, *C. spaskii*, *Paruterina candelabraria* (Paruterinidae), *Choanotaenia strigium*, *Spiniglans trapezoides* (Dilepididae) and *Mesocestoides perlatus* (Mesocestoididae). Birds of prey were infected with 9 different helminth species from the class Secernentea: *Cyrnea leptoptera*, *Cyrnea spinosa* (Habronematidae), *Microtetrameres cloacitectus*, *Tetrameres* sp. (Tetrameridae), *Physaloptera alata* (Physalopteridae), *Synhimatus laticeps* (Acuariidae), *Porrocaecum angusticolle*, *P. depressum* (Anisakidae) and one representative of the genus *Cyathostoma* (Syngamidae). Of the class Adenophorea the species *Baruscapillaria falconis* (Capillariidae) and *Trichinella pseudospiralis* (Trichinellidae) were confirmed. Of the class Paleacanthocephala 3 species were determined: *Centrorhynchus aluconis*, *Centrorhynchus buteonis* and *C. globocaudatus* (Centrorhynchidae). 23 helminth species were recorded for the first time in Slovakia.

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