

## A coproscopic examination of the parasites of squamates (Squamata)

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In recent years, the breeding of exotic animals, including various species of reptiles, has become more common. They are kept as pets or in breeding farms. Knowledge of the parasites of reptiles is insufficient and studies in this area are rare. The aim of this study was to determine the level of endoparasitic infection and identify the parasite species composition in exotic reptiles obtained by amateur breeding. The study included 21 species of lizards (Lacertilia) belonging to ten families, of which the most numerous were the Agamidae, Chamaeleonidae and Gekkonidae, and nine species of snakes (Serpentes) from two families: the Colubridae and Pythonidae. A total of 88 fecal samples were examined by the quantitative McMaster method.

Protozoa (Coccidia), nematodes of three pinworm species (with the most common being of the *Oxyuris* genus) and the Strongylidae family, and arthropods (mites - Gamasida) were found in the examined animals. Of all identified parasites, protozoa and pinworms were the most frequently reported. Among lizards, chameleons were the most commonly infected (Table 1). The examined samples also revealed the presence of worm eggs transmitted from food (insects, rodents). Although the animals do not usually show symptoms of disease despite intensive infection, some demonstrate aversion to food intake, anorexia and diarrhea.

Table 1. The level of parasitic infection in the reptiles examined coproscopically

	n examined	Coccidia		Pinworms	
		Prevalence [%]	Intensity (range of infection) [OPG]	Prevalence [%]	Intensity (range of infection) [EPG]
Agamidae	13	30.8	9038.5 (40-18026)	46.2	1633.3 (40-2600)
Chamaeleonidae	12	75.0	86437.6 (200-429600)	83.3	945.9 (20-6240)
Gekkonidae	22	22.7	141240 (10-384000)	27.3	2654.3 (40-12480)

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