

## Preliminary data on the incidence of *Alaria alata* mesocercariae in wild boars (*Sus scrofa*, Linnaeus, 1758) in north-eastern Poland

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The trematode *Alaria alata*, an intestinal parasite of many wild carnivore species is widely distributed throughout Europe. The life cycle of this parasite involves two intermediate hosts, with the option that mesocercarial stages can accumulate in a variety of vertebrates without developing into metacercariae. The presence of the mesocercarial stage of *Alaria alata* (Goeze, 1792) in wild boar meat represents a potential risk for humans, but little is known about the circulation of mesocercaria in wild boar populations. The objective of this study was to evaluate the prevalence of *A. alata* mesocercaria in wild boar hunted in Olsztyn district.

Boar (n=83) were shot during organized hunts carried out in 2015 and 2016 by the order of the Administration of State Forests in north-east Poland. Samples were obtained mostly from the pillar of the diaphragm not later than four hours after killing and analysed by the method originally developed for *Trichinella* meat inspection (conventional compression method = trichinelloscopy technics). From each carcass, 28 samples of muscle tissue (approx. 0.5 g each) were extracted and compressed between two glass plates of the compressorium until they became translucent. They were examined individually for *Distomum musculorum suis* (DMS), using a trichinoscope (with a horizontal table) at 15× and 40× magnification. Presumptive mesocercariae were identified by their motility and morphological characteristics.

Species percentiles are shown in the following table. In previous decades, this parasite had only been sporadically identified in wild boar. In this study, only 5 out of 83 wild boar (6%), all of them aged one year or older, were infected with *A. alata* mesocercaria.

Wild boars	Age class and positive		
	n = 23	n = 31	n = 29
n = 83	Piglet <1 year of age	1-2 years of age	>2 years of age
	0	2 (6.4%)	3 (10.3%)
Total	5 (6.0%)		