

Infestations of parasitic mites in domestic animals and pets on the territory of the Suski district in the Malopolska province

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Pets are often exposed to species of parasitic mites with medical and veterinary importance. One of the most significant is *Demodex canis*, which causes demodectosis in dogs. Moreover, mange mites of the genera *Sarcoptes*, *Psoroptes* and *Otodectes* are also widespread in animal world.

The examined material was collected from June 2012 to August 2013 from patients of veterinary clinic in Sucha Beskidzka (Malopolska province). Skin scrapings or hair and fur samples were collected from various animals including dogs, cats and guinea pigs. The study included 62 veterinary clinic patients from the Suski district. The studied material was placed on slides with the addition of paraffin oil or Hoyer's medium. Parasites were classified to species and life stage under a NIKON ECLIPSE E-200 optical microscope and analyzed with an Optika Vision Pro system (NIKON). In total, 999 parasitic mites were isolated.

The dominant species was *Otodectes cynotis* var. *cati*: 857 specimens of this species were found, which accounted for 85.8% of all collected mites. The second most abundant species was *Demodex canis* (52 specimens; 5.2% of total number of isolated mites). The next most abundant species were *Otodectes cynotis* var. *canina* (44 specimens; 4.4% of the total count of mites collected) and *Cheyletiella yasgouri* (35 specimens; 3.5% of the total count). Moreover, eight specimens of *Sarcoptes scabiei* var. *canis* (0.8% of total number of mites), two of *Notoedres cati* (0.2%) and one specimen of *Chirodiscoides caviae* (0.1%) were identified. All of these species are parasitic mites which play an important role in causing parasitic diseases in animals.