

## The occurrence of *Moniezia* sp. in farm-bred fallow deer (*Dama dama* L.)

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Keeping fallow deer under farm conditions may be an interesting alternative for Polish agriculture. However, a crucial element in deer husbandry is the monitoring of parasitic diseases, as keeping a large number of animals together in one place favors the occurrence of parasite infections.

The aim of this work was to assess the prevalence and intensity of *Moniezia* sp. tapeworm infections in farmed fallow deer. Fecal analysis was conducted in one of the organic fallow deer farms situated on the edge of the Notecka Primeval Forest in Lubuskie Voivodeship. The farm covers about 300 hectares of meadows and pastures, 150 ha of which were fenced and divided into grazing areas. A total of 165 fallow deer fecal samples (105 females, 60 males) were tested. Due to the high aggressiveness of the animals, feces for parasitological tests were collected from a pasture area immediately after defecation of the animal, and not directly from the rectum of each individual. The evaluation of the prevalence and intensity of infection was based on an analysis of feces according to Willis-Schlaf and McMaster (Ziomko and Cencek).

The main prevalence of *Moniezia* sp. infections in tested fallow deer reached 17.33%, but the prevalence varied with across an annual cycle. The highest prevalence was found in March and the lowest in February. The mean extensity of *Moniezia* sp. infections was 15.44% in females and 19.32% in males.

### References

- [1] Ziomko I, Cencek T, 1999, Parasitic invasions in farm animals, selected diagnostic methods (In Polish), Drukarnia Piotra Włodkowica, Warszawa.