

Helminths of vertebrate animals in fauna of Poland (current numerical data)

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Expanding knowledge about the biological diversity of parasites is aimed at their global mapping and determining the impact of climate change on their distribution also in the aspect of the health of hosts (Jorge & Poulin, 2018).

According to Fauna Europaea data from 2014, in Europe the number of helminth species is 4048, they belong to 214 families.

In Poland in 1952, prof. Gustaw Poluszyński (Wrocław) initiated work on the so-called *Parasitological picture of Poland*, which was a summary of information on parasites of domestic animals and fish in the country.

In the following years (from 1971), more than a dozen of Polish fauna catalogs were published concerning individual groups of helminths recorded in vertebrate animals.

Summary data contained in the *Pasożytnicze helminty Polski. Gatunki. Żywiciele. Białe plamy* (Pojmańska *et al.*, 2007) indicate that up to mid-2007 in Poland there were 1205 known species of helminths in the vertebrate animals, including 1 species of Aspidogastrea, 125 Monogenea, 338 Digenea, 279 Cestoda, 427 Nematoda and 35 Acanthocephala.

Among helminths, according to Pojmańska and Niewiadomska (2012), next to the native are: brought (unintentionally introduced) established species, brought no established, invasive, showing territorial expansion or host expansion (a total of 56 species), which change the image of parasitic fauna in Poland.

Currently (beginning of 2019) in our country the number of helminth species recorded in vertebrate animals is 1312; including 1 Aspidogastrea, 137 Monogenea, 357 Digenea, 312 Cestoda, 469 Nematoda and 36 Acanthocephala.

Most species of helminths were recorded in birds (550), most often they were digenic flukes (2012), while in mammals (including humans) nematodes dominated – 272 species. In the recent period (2011–2019) the most frequently recorded species were parasitic nematodes – 22.

The reason for the listing of new species of parasites is their bringing with hosts accidentally appear (migrating and wintering birds) or introduced (farmed fish, raccoon dog), some of which have acclimated, also are parasites of exotic animals in aquaculture (aquarium fish).