Variations in small mammal helminths structure during host population peak and decline periods and according to locality

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Abstract

Our results indicated that 64% (38/59) of small mammals (Apodemus flavicolis, A. sylvaticus, Myodes glareolus, Microtus agrestris, M. arvalis, Sorex araneus and S. minutus) studied in 2015 were infected with Syphacia, Trichuris, Aonchotheca, Heligmosomidae and tapeworms, and 64% (27/42) of animals investigated in 2018 were infected with Syphacia, Trichuris, Aonchotheca, Heligmosomidae and tapeworms. In 2018, prevalence of infection was 83% (15/18) in autumn in NW Bohemia and 50% (12/24) in autumn 2018 in South-East Bohemia. Regarding locality, total prevalence of infection and species richness were higher in North-West Bohemia. Total prevalence of infection according to season was 72% (18/25) in spring and 62% (47/76) in autumn. In NW Bohemia in 2015, 72% (18/25) of animals were infected in spring and 59% (20/34) in autumn. Statistically significant differences in parasite infection of Murinae and Arvicolinae were evident when comparing years and seasons.

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