

PARASITE FAUNA IN PYGMY FIELD MOUSE FROM VARIOUS BIOTOPES OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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The pygmy field mouse (*Apodemus uralensis*, Pallas, 1771) inhabits the forest edge, forest shelter belts and the open type biotopes: meadows, pastures, agrocenoses, fallow ground. It is well adapted to more arid conditions in comparison to other *Apodemus* species, therefore it is widely spread over the republic territory. It is a species with a lower frequency compared to other small rodents and has accessory ecological significance. The rodents are the basic trophic component of carnivorous mammals and prey birds, being the hosts (intermediate, definitive) that contain various invasive forms of a large range of parasitic species specific to other animals and humans.

The aim of the paper was the ecoparasitological study of *A. uralensis*, in order to establish the structural diversity of parasite fauna from various biotopes of the Republic of Moldova.

The results of parasitological investigations showed a prevalence of *Catenotaenia cricetorum* of 5.0%, respectively of *Hydatigera taeniaeformis larvae* – 10.0%, *Taenia pisiformis larvae* – 10.0%, *Rodentolepis straminea* – 5.0%, *Paranoplocephala omphaloides* of 10.0%, *Skrjabinotaenia lobata* – 10.0%, *Syphacia obvelata* – 20.0%, *Syphacia stroma* – 5.0%, *Capillaria hepatica* – 15.0%, *Heligmosomoides polygirus* – 5.0%, *Mastophorus muris* – 20.0%, *Trichocephalus muris* – 15.0% and invasion with *Strongyloides ratti* – 15.0%.

The taxonomic structure consists of 3 classes, 10 families, 12 genera and 13 species, of which 6 parasitic species belong to the Cestoda class (*T. pisiformis larvae*, *S. lobata*, *H. taeniaeformis*, *C. cricetorum*, *R. straminea*, *P. omphaloides*), with a share of 46.1% of the species, 5 species - to the Secernentea class (*S. obvelata*, *S. stroma*, *H. polygyrus*, *M. muris*, *S. ratti*) with a share of 38.5%, and 2 species - to the Adenophorea class (*T. muris*, *C. hepatica*), constituting 15.4% of the total identified species.

The data obtained prove the potential of the parasitic pollution risk of the interfering area between natural and anthropized ecosystems and as a result the transmission of invasive forms from wild animals to domestic animals and to humans. At the same time, the rodents as component of the trophic chain are vectors of invasive forms in the environment and ensure the functional stability of the host-parasitic systems within the investigated biocoenoses.

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Keywords: *Apodemus uralensis*, host-parasitic systems, parasite fauna, parasitic pollution risk.