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HELMINTHS FROM THE MOUNTAIN REEDBUCK, *REDUNCA FULVORUFULA* (AFZELIUS, 1815)

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ABSTRACT

BAKER, MAUREEN K. & BOOMKER, J. Helminths from the mountain reedbuck, *Redunca fulvorufula* (Afzelius, 1815). *Onderstepoort J. vet. Res.* 40 (2), 69–70 (1973).

Helminth parasites recovered from the mountain reedbuck in the Loskop Dam Nature Reserve and the Mountain Zebra National Park are recorded. The following species are new host records: *Moniezia expansa, Cooperia hungi, C. oncophora, C. pectinata, C. yoshidai, Gongylonema* sp, *Haemonchus krugeri, Impalaia tuberculata, Nematodirus spathiger, Oesophagostomum columbianum, Skrjabinema* sp.

INTRODUCTION

Although the helminth fauna of many African antelopes is relatively well known (Ortlepp, 1961; Round, 1968), there is a dearth of data on the rarer species such as the mountain reedbuck, *Redunca fulvorufula* (Afzelius, 1815). Round (1968) lists six helminths from this antelope, viz. *Paramphistomum bothriophoron* (Braun, 1892), *Paramphistomum cervi* (Zeder, 1790), *Cysticercus tenuicollis* Rudolphi, 1810, *Haemonchus contortus* (Rudolphi, 1803), *Setaria boulengeri* Thwaite, 1927, and *Setaria hornbyi* Boulenger, 1921.

During 1969 and 1970 this antelope was the subject of an ecological study in the Loskop Dam Nature Reserve in the Transvaal. This necessitated the regular culling of a number of animals and special efforts were made to collect the helminths from them. During 1971 helminths were also recovered from mountain reedbuck in the Mountain Zebra National Park at Cradock, in the Cape Province.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In the Loskop Dam Nature Reserve, helminths were recovered from the rumen, abdominal cavity and skeletal muscles of 42 reedbuck. Intestinal helminths were recovered from 11 of these animals, but it was possible to do total collections in four instances only.

In four reedbuck from the Mountain Zebra National Park the abdominal cavity and the intestinal tract were examined for helminths.

The descriptions of Ransom (1911), Mönnig (1931; 1932; 1939) and Travassos (1937) were used to identify the *Cooperia* spp.; Ransom (1911) and Ortlepp (1964) for *Haemonchus* spp.; Mönnig (1924) for the *Impalaia* sp.; Becklund & Walker (1967) for the *Nematodirus* sp.; Ransom (1911) for the *Oesophagostomum* sp. and Yeh (1959) for the *Setaria* sp.

RESULTS AND COMMENTS

The species of helminths recovered are listed in Table 1.

Conical flukes, *Paramphistomum* sp., were present in the rumen of 14 animals. Cysticerci were recovered from the skeletal muscles of 10 reedbuck. The rostellar hooks of these cysticerci resembled those of *Taenia crocutae* Mettrick & Beverley-Burton, 1961, in their number, size and shape (Verster, 1969).

Only one female of a *Gongylonema* sp. was recovered and it could not be identified specifically, nor could the five females and one severely damaged male of a *Skrjabinema* sp.

The apparent predominance of *S. boulengeri,* found in 42 of the 46 hosts, undoubtedly reflects the conditions under which the parasites were collected, i.e. in the field and often in poor light. Since *S. boulengeri* is a large nematode occurring in the abdominal cavity, it is more easily seen than the other smaller nematodes, particularly those inhabiting the intestine.

TABLE 1 Helminths recovered from the mountain reedbuck

Parasite	No. of Animals Infested
Loskop Dam Nature Reserve	
Paramphistomum sp.	14
Cysticercus sp.	10
*Cooperia hungi** Mönnig, 1931	3
*Cooperia oncophora** (Railliet, 1898)	1
*Cooperia pectinata** Ransom, 1907	1
*Cooperia punctata** Linstow, 1907	1
*Cooperia yoshidai** Mönnig, 1939	4
Cooperia sp.	2
*Gongylonema** sp.	1
Haemonchus contortus (Rudolphi, 1803)	7
*Haemonchus krugeri** Ortlepp, 1964	1
*Impalaia tuberculata** Mönnig, 1923	3
*Oesophagostomum columbianum** Curtice, 1890	2
Setaria boulengeri Thwaite, 1927	38
*Skrjabinema** sp.	4
Mountain Zebra National Park	
*Moniezia expansa** (Rudolphi, 1810)	1
Haemonchus sp.	1
*Nematodirus spathiger** (Railliet, 1896)	4
Setaria boulengeri Thwaite, 1927	4

*New host record.

Cooperia spp. occurred in eight animals and were the predominant nematodes in the total collections from the small intestine. The small intestine of one animal contained 1 107 specimens representing the species *C. hungi, C. oncophora, C. pectinata* and *C. yoshidai.* In this animal *C. yoshidai* outnumbered the other *Cooperia* spp. in a ratio of six to one. A second animal harboured *C. hungi, C. oncophora* and *C. yoshidai,* while a third had *C. hungi* and *C. yoshidai.* In two instances, only females were present and a specific diagnosis was therefore impossible.

H. contortus was recovered from seven animals. One reedbuck was simultaneously infested with *H. krugeri* and *H. contortus* in a ratio of one to 25. Female *Haemonchus* spp. only were present in one animal examined in the Mountain Zebra National Park.

N. spathiger was present in all the animals examined in the Mountain Zebra National Park but did not occur in those from the Loskop Dam Nature Reserve. Its absence from the latter animals is not unexpected as it has not yet been recorded from the Transvaal. It is, however, of major importance in sheep in the Karoo (Viljoen, 1964; 1968).

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