

Pathomorphological Features of Lungs from Brown Hares Infected with Parasites

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Abstract : 790 lungs from brown hares (*Lepus europeus* L.) from different regions of Bulgaria were investigated during the period 2009-2017. The parasitological status and pathomorphological features in the lungs were recorded. The following parasite species were established: one nematode - *Protostrongylus tauricus* (7.59% prevalence), one tapeworm – larva of *Taenia pisiformis* – *Cysticercus pisiformis* (3.04% prevalence) and one arthropod – larva of *Linguatula serrata* – *Pentastomum dentatum* (0.89% prevalence). Macroscopic lesions in the lungs were different depending on the causative agents. The infections with *C. pisiformis* and *P. dentatum* were attended with small, mainly superficial changes in the lungs. Protostrongylid infections were connected with different in appearance and burden macroscopic changes. In 77.7%, they were nodular, and in the rest of cases, they diffuse. The consistency of the lesions was compact. In most of the cases, alterations were grey in colour, rarely were dark-red or marble-like. In 91.7% of these cases, they were spread on the apical parts of large lung lobes. In 36.7% middle parts of the large lung lobes, and, in 26.7% small lung lobes, were also affected. The small lung lobes were never independently infected.

Keywords : *Cysticercus pisiformis*, *Lepus europeus*, lung lesions, *Pentastomum dentatum*, *Protostrongylus tauricus*

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