

## Investigations in selected helminths of raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) in North-eastern Germany

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Raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) are introduced species into Germany since 1930ies. We investigated raccoons from North-eastern German for the occurrence of selected endoparasites with zoonotic potential: *Alaria alata*, *Trichinella* spp., *Baylisascaris procyonis*.

The trematode *Alaria alata* has European carnivores as final hosts. Its life cycle includes two intermediate hosts. However, at the mesocercarial stage paratenic hosts can be infected. We examined 105 raccoons from a national park (NP) in North-eastern Germany and from Berlin metropolitan area for the occurrence of *A. alata* mesocercaria. Nine animals from the NP and one animal from Berlin were found to be positive for *A. alata*. These differences of *A. alata* infection between the NP and Berlin could be explained by differences the availability of intermediate hosts in the respective area.

*Trichinella* spp. has been described in various host species including raccoons in America. In our investigations we did not detect any evidence of *Trichinella* spp. in raccoons from Germany.

150 raccoons were investigated for *B. procyonis*. Despite the fact that in raccoons from Central and Western Germany a prevalence of up to 80% being infected by *B. procyonis* was shown, non of the animals in our study had evidence for this parasite. This indicates that the two core populations of raccoons in Germany have not yet overlapped to share this parasite.