Larval studies of trematodes in the snails *Limnaea stagnalis* (Gastropoda, Pulmonata) from Madatapa Lake, South Georgia

Lela Arabuli, Lali Murvanidze, Ketevan Nikolaisvili, Tsitsino Lomidze, Levan Mumladze and Ketevan Asatiani
Ilia State University, Georgia

For the first time *Limnaea stagnalis* is investigated in the ecologically important and parasitological uninvestigated region. Lake Madatapa is located on the Javakheti plateau and is one of the richest areas in Caucasus in terms of its waters and marshy lands. In September 2014, 192 individuals of *L. stagnalis* were investigated. 97.3% of mollusks were invaded by larval forms of trematodes on different stage of development (sporocists, rediae, cercariae, metacercariae). Immature forms of three trematoda species were found: *Molniella anceps* (Echinostomatidae Dietz, 1909); *Diplostomum spathaceum* (Strigeidae Railliet, 1919); *Notocotilus* sp. (Notocotylidae Luhe, 1909). As for dominant parasites larval forms of *M. anceps* are regarded that were frequently found together with *D. spathaceum*. On the Madatapa Lake, 36 species of water birds and numerous migratory birds are found which represent definitive hosts for trematodes. The lake’s fish population consisted only of *Carassius gibelio* which serves as additional host for *D. spathaceum*. Parasitological investigation of *C. gibelio* showed high percent of invasion by *D. spathaceum*. High percent of invasion of the population of *L. stagnalis* is provided by high number of mollusks and monopopulation, also by high number of definitive and additional hosts. It was found that *L. stagnalis* plays a significant role as an intermediate host in the life cycles of trematodes in the region Javakheti.

Biography

Lela Arabuli has completed the Master’s programme in 2005 from Tbilisi State University Faculty of Biology. Now, she is the student of Tbilisi Ilia State University School of Natural Sciences and Engineering in the Doctoral Program of Life sciences. Also, she works as an Assistant-Researcher in Ilia State University Institute of Zoology’s Parasitological research group. She has published 10 scientific articles and she is a participant of 7 International scientific conferences. Her research object is molluscs as helminths intermediate hosts investigation of spreading invasion diseases. She is a Member of Georgian Parasitological Association.

lela.arabuli.1@iliauni.edu.ge

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