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Helminthes in feral raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) as an alien species in IranMeysam Galyan Sharif Dini¹, Keyhan Ashrafi¹, Behnaz Rahmati¹, Omar M Amin², Nader Karamzadeh³ and Iraj Mobedi⁴¹Guilan University of Medical Sciences, Iran²Institute of Parasitic of Diseases, USA³Gilan Provincial Office of the Department of the Environment (DOE), Iran⁴Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Iran

Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) is a native mammal in North and Central America. At present, as a result of escapes and deliberate introductions in the mid-20th century, the raccoon is now distributed in several European and Asian countries such as Japan, Germany and Iran. Objective of this study was to determine prevalence of gastrointestinal and tissue helminths from feral raccoons in Guilan province. During 2015-2017, a total of 30 feral raccoons including 12 males and 18 females were collected from Guilan province, northern Iran. The gastrointestinal tracts and tissues such as lung, liver and muscles were examined for presence of helminths. 20 raccoons (66.7%) were found infected with five intestinal helminth species. The prevalence of infection with *Strongyloides procyonis* Little, 1966 (Nematoda) was 63.3%, *Plagiorchis koreanus* Ogata, 1938 (Trematoda) (13.3%), *Centrorhynchus sp.* Luhe, 1911 (Acanthocephala) (10.0%), *Camerostrongylus didelphis* Wolfgang, 1951 (Nematoda) (3.3%), and *Spirocerca lupi* Rudolphi, 1809 (Nematoda) (3.3%). No larvae or adult worms were found in other tissues of the examined raccoons. No larvae or adult worms were found in the tissues of examined raccoons. In current study, most of the raccoons were infected with *S. procyonis*. Concerning public health importance of zoonotic parasites transmittable through raccoons, the rapid control and decrease of population and distribution of raccoons in Iran is suggested.

Biography

Meysam Galyan Sharif Dini has completed his PhD in Medical Parasitology from Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Iran. He is currently working as an Assistant Professor of the Department of Medical Parasitology and Mycology at School of Medicine, Guilan University of Medical Sciences, Iran. His major research interest includes Strongyloidiasis and Trichostrongyliasis. He has published more than 25 papers in reputed journals and also has served as Reviewer of several national and international journals.

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