

## **The endoparasites of the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) in a protected landscape area**

**Gabriela Štrkolcová, Mária Goldová, Miloš Halán, Tatiana Orosová,  
Eva Bocková**

Department of Epizootology and Parasitology, University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice, Slovakia

Corresponding Author: Eva Bocková; e-mail: eva.bockova@uvlf.sk

The aim of our study was to determine the prevalence of endoparasites in brown bears in the Poľana Protected Landscape Area. During the year 2015, an examination was performed of 15 brown bear faecal samples and two gastrointestinal tracts of young female bears which had been hunted according to the 2015 regulations concerning the bear population in the Poľana Protected Landscape Area. The faecal samples were analysed by flotation concentration, and the gastrointestinal tracts were examined using total helminthological autopsy. The positive samples (13/17) were found to contain three protozoan species, *Eimeria* spp., *Cryptosporidium* spp. and *Sarcocystis* spp., and the eggs of two helminth species: *Baylisascaris transfuga* (46.15%) and *Ancylostoma* spp. (30.77 %). The greatest prevalence of parasites was observed during the autumn and winter months.

The study was supported by the project VEGA No. 1/0455/15.