

## The parasitic fauna of dormice (Gliridae) from the Gorce National Park, Poland

**Paweł Nosal<sup>1</sup>, Jerzy Kowal<sup>1</sup>, Marta Skalska<sup>1</sup>, Anna Wyrobisz<sup>1</sup>,  
Sławomir Kornaś<sup>1</sup>, Marta Basiaga<sup>1</sup>, Patrycja Bogaczyk<sup>1</sup>, Monika Famielec<sup>1</sup>,  
Marcin Matysek<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Environmental Zoology, Institute of Animal Sciences, University of Agriculture in Krakow, al. Mickiewicza 24/28, 30-059 Krakow, Poland

<sup>2</sup>Institute of Nature Conservation, Polish Academy of Sciences, A. Mickiewicza 33, 31-12 Krakow, Poland

Corresponding Author: Paweł Nosal; rznosal@cyf-kr.edu.pl

Dormice (Gliridae) are one of the few species of protected mammals occurring in Poland. The aim of this study was to determine the parasitic infection in three rodent species, i.e. the edible dormouse *Glis glis*, hazel dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius*, and forest dormouse *Dryomys nitedula*, living in Gorce, Southern Poland.

A total of 16 nests were checked for the presence of ectoparasites, and faecal samples were collected for McMaster analysis.

Coproscopic examination revealed the presence of oocysts specific for dormice *Eimeria* spp. in seven of 16 analyzed samples. In the case of insects, three species of fleas (i.e. *Atyphloceras nuperum palinum*, *Megabothris turbidus*, and *Chaetopsylla homoea*) were identified in nine nests. The fleas recognized were specific to small rodents, so there is little possibility that they were acquired from the tits or bats with which Gliridae shared the nests. The lack of fleas typical for birds suggests limited opportunities to exchange these parasites between birds and the rodents seasonally inhabiting their nesting boxes.

This research was financed by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Poland.