

## Short notes

## The prevalence of *Fasciola hepatica* L. infection in cattle in the Lublin province in the years 2009–2012

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**ABSTRACT.** Prevalence of *Fasciola hepatica* L. infection among cattle slaughtered in the Lublin province in from 2009–2012 was evaluated. The data were taken from annual reports of the Veterinary Inspectorate in Lublin. The results of the study are as follows: the prevalence of *Fasciola hepatica* infection in the cattle of the Lublin province between 2009 and 2012 is found to be 11.97%.

**Key words:** *Fasciola hepatica*, slaughtered cattle, Lublin province

### Introduction

*Fasciola hepatica* L. is one of the most common parasites of cattle and game animals (e.g. elks, deer, and roe deer) causing economic loss. This problem has been addressed in Poland for many years (1–8). Publications were primarily focused on the frequency of invasions and economic loss related to prevalence of fasciolosis in cattle and livestock. During the years 2009–2012, decreased *F. hepatica* infection prevalence was observed in the Lublin province, in comparison with the previous years, i.e. 1993–2008 [9–11].

### Materials and Methods

In order to determine the prevalence of *F. hepatica* in cattle in the Lublin province, annual reports of examinations of slaughter animals obtained from the Provincial Veterinary Inspectorate in Lublin were analysed.

### Results

*Fasciola hepatica* is the cause of severe disqualifying changes in the liver. The analysis of the reports indicated a 10.61–13.72% decline in the

*F. hepatica* invasion rate (Fig. 1) in the Lublin province in 2009–2012, compared with the analysis performed in 1993–2008 [9–11]. Among the 542,943 individuals examined, 64,540 (11.97%) were infected with the parasite (Table 1, Fig. 1). It can be assumed that the decrease of the prevalence of *F. hepatica* in the Lublin province was caused by dry and hot summers, which provided unfavourable conditions for snails, i.e. intermediate hosts.

The investigations conducted during the last two decades show varied frequency of fasciolosis in the country, which is related to the different breeding methods and climatic conditions [7–11].

Table 1. Number of animals infected with *Fasciola hepatica* in the Lublin province in the years 2009–2012

Years	Cattle ( <i>Bos taurus</i> )	
	No. examined animals	No. infected animals
2009	157,683	19,729
2010	157,763	17,383
2011	122,030	12,954
2012	105,487	14,474
<b>Total</b>	<b>542,943</b>	<b>64,540</b>

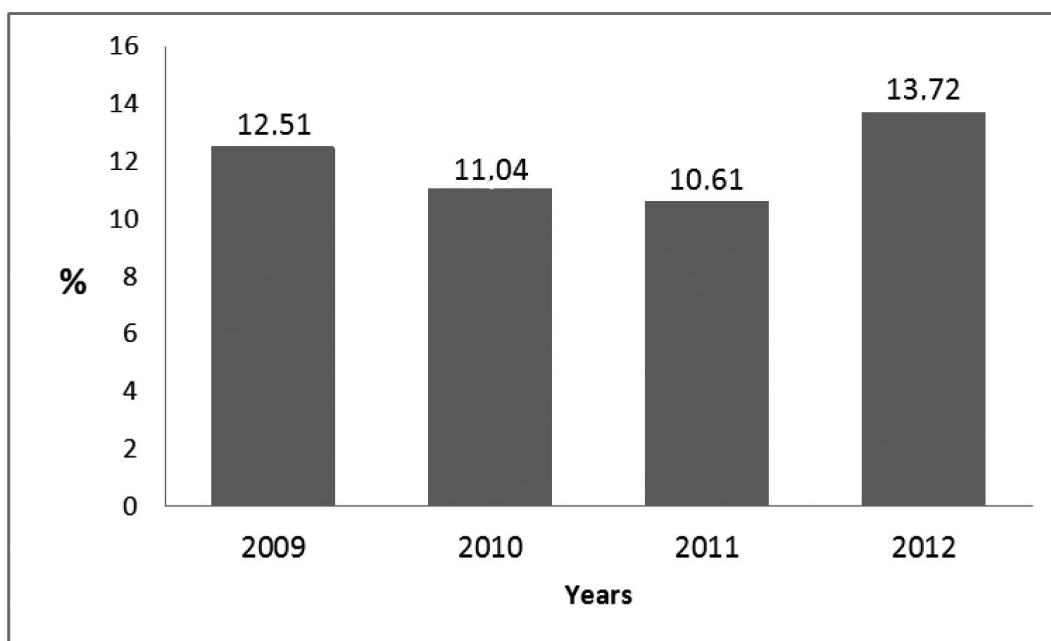


Fig. 1. Prevalence of *Fasciola hepatica* infection in cattle in the Lublin province in the years 2009–2012

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