

## **The protozoan parasites of *Vipera berus* from Southern Poland – a preliminary study**

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Parasites of common snakes from Poland territory are still partly recognized due to lack of data related to the occurrence of protozoa. The aim of the study was to identify coccidian infection in *Vipera berus* by means of coproscopy. Twenty faecal samples were collected in the field from captured snakes living in the vicinity of Krakow. The Willis-Schlaff simple flotation method supported by oocyst sporulation in 2% potassium dichromate for species recognition was used. Coccidia were found in 14 samples. Two species of coccidia were found: *Caryospora simplex* (in six samples) and *Cyclospora babaulti* (12). This is the first report of protozoan infection in *Vipera berus* from Poland territory.

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