Zootaxa 4057 (1): 106–114
www.mapress.com/zootaxa/

Article

ISSN 1175-5326 (print edition)
ZOOTAXA
ISSN 1175-5334 (online edition)

http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.4057.1.6
http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:48DFD89E-1BB1-47F8-91BC-6D22D7373B91

New hosts and localities for helminths of carnivores in Argentina

MARÍA SOLEDAD MOLEÓN[1], JOHN MIKE KINSELLA[2], PABLO GASTÓN MORENO[1], HEBE DEL VALLE FERREYRA[3], JAVIER PEREIRA[4], MÓNICA PÍA[5] & PABLO MARTÍN BELDOMENICO[1,6]

[1]*Laboratorio de Ecología de Enfermedades, Instituto de Ciencias Veterinarias del Litoral (IciVet-Litoral), Universidad Nacional del Litoral (UNL) / Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET). Kreder 2805, 3080 Esperanza, Santa Fe, Argentina. E-mail: soledadmoleon@yahoo.com.ar*

[2]*Helm West Laboratory, 2108 Hilda Avenue, Missoula, MT 59801, U.S.A. E-mail: Wormdwb@aol.com*

[3]*Global Health Program, Wildlife Conservation Society, Gaona 306, B° Alto Alberdi, Ciudad de Córdoba, C. P. 5003, Argentina. E-mail: hebeferreyra2005@yahoo.com.ar*

[4]*Grupo de Genética y Ecología en Conservación y Biodiversidad. División Mastozoología*
Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales "Bernardino Rivadavia". Angel Gallardo 470, 1405 Ciudad de Buenos Aires, Argentina. E-mail: javipereira@yahoo.com

[5]*Cátedra de Bioestadística, Facultad de Ciencias Exactas Físicas y Naturales de la Universidad Nacional de Córdoba. Los Pinos 47 (5153), San Antonio de Arredondo, Córdoba, Argentina. E-mail: monicavpia@yahoo.com.ar*

[5]*Facultad de Ciencias Veterinarias, Universidad Nacional del Litoral. Kreder 2805, 3080 Esperanza, Santa Fe, Argentina*

[6]*Corresponding author. E-mail: pbeldome@fcv.unl.edu.ar*

Abstract

A total of 111 samples (43 faeces and 79 gastrointestinal tracts) of 14 wild carnivore species from 12 Argentine provinces were analyzed. Helminth eggs were identified in 73% of the faecal samples and adult worms were recovered from 81% of the gastrointestinal tracts. We found 19 helminth species. Among the most frequent findings were parasites of domestic carnivores, namely *Toxocara canis*, *Toxocara cati, Toxascaris leonina, Ancylostoma caninum, Ancylostoma tubaeforme* and *Uncinaria stenocephala*. In addition, new hosts are reported for 6 nematode species and 5 helminth species are recorded for the first time in Argentina: *Aonchotheca putorii, Molineus brachiurus, Cyathospirura chevreuxi, Physaloptera praeputialis* and *Oncicola martini*.

Key words: Nematodes, wild carnivores, mammals, Argentina

Introduction

South America is home to a rich diversity of terrestrial carnivores (Fissipedia) (29 species in the continent). Argentina, in particular, is a country with exceptional terrestrial carnivore richness. For example, all Neotropical felids (10 species) are found in the country (Barquez *et al.,* 2006).

Improving our knowledge on wild carnivore parasites is important for several reasons. For example, it contributes to a better understanding of the natural history of the host species; it alerts us to potential harm that may be caused by introduced parasites (e.g. ascarids from domestic dogs and cats) (Rubel *et al.,* 2003); or it may help identify wild hosts that can play a role in the cycle of zoonotic parasites (e.g. echinococcosis, visceral larva migrans, cutaneous larva migrans) (Radman *et al*., 2000; Alonso *et al*., 2000; Scioscia *et al.,* 2013). However, our current knowledge on the parasite community of native and introduced carnivores in South America is very limited.

Only a few reports provide information on the helminths harboured by free-ranging wild carnivores in Argentina (i.e Szidat, 1960; Lucherini *et al.,* 2004; Beldomenico *et al.,* 2005; Martinez *et al.,* 2005; Soler *et al.,*2005, Lucherini & Luengos, 2008; Zanini *et al*., 2006; Scioscia *et al.,* 2013; Gonzalez *et al.,* 2013; Scioscia *et al.,* 2014). Here we report new data on the helminths present in free-ranging carnivores in Argentina.

 Accepted by R. Carreno: 30 Oct. 2015; published: 9 Dec. 2015