P10

PARASITES OF PLAGUE MICE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Michael O'Callaghan, Peter O'Donoghue* and Robert Stevenson

VETLAB, Primary Industries (SA), GPO Box 1671, Adelaide 5001 SA, and
*Department of Parasitology, The University of Queensland, St Lucia 4072 QLD.

Mouse plagues occur at irregular intervals in the cereal-growing areas of Australia and are responsible for serious damage and economic losses. The parasites of plague mice have been examined in eastern states but not in South Australia. A small-scale comprehensive survey was conducted on 38 plague mice (*Mus domesticus*) caught at 9 sites within the 4 main cereal-growing zones of South Australia during 1993. Endoparasites were detected by microscopy of tissues, digesta and faeces and ectoparasites by examination of alcohol washes. The results are summarized below:

PARASITE SPECIES	Number examined	Number infected	Percentage prevalence
PROTOZOA			
Giardia muris	38	10	26%
Spironucleus sp.	38	26	68%
Trichomonads	38	26	68%
Entamoeba muris	38	21	55%
Protoisotricha sp.	38	1	3%
Cryptosporidium parvum	38	28	74%
Cryptosporidium muris	38	4	11%
Eimeria spp. (*E. falciformis* and *E. pragensis*)	38	29	76%
NEMATODES			
Syphacia obvelata	38	34	89%
Aspicularis tetraptera	38	1	3%
CESTODES			
Vampirolepis fraterna	38	1	3%
Vampirolepis straminea	38	2	5%
MITES			
Myobia musculi	9	7	78%
Myocoptes musculinus	9	5	56%
Radfordia affinis	9	1	11%
Ornithonyssus bursa	9	1	11%
Dermanysus gallinae	9	1	11%
FLEAS			
Nosopsyllus londiniensis	9	6	67%