



Title	STUDIES ON HELMINTH AND PROTOZOAN PARASITES OF RATS IN SAPPORO
Author(s)	KASAI, Yumi
Citation	Japanese Journal of Veterinary Research, 26(1-2), 31-31
Issue Date	1978-04
Doc URL	http://hdl.handle.net/2115/2135
Type	bulletin (article)
File Information	KJ00003407849.pdf



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STUDIES ON HELMINTH AND PROTOZOAN PARASITES OF RATS IN SAPPORO

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The parasitic fauna of 258 Norway rats, *Rattus norvegicus*, and 11 black rats, *R. rattus*, were examined, and the 17 helminth and 11 protozoan species recognized were as follows: Trematoda: *Plagiorchis muris* TANABE, 1922, *Echinostoma hortense* ASADA, 1926, *Brachylaima* sp., Cestoda: *Taenia taeniaeformis* (BATSCH, 1786) (larva), *Hymenolepis diminuta* (RUDOLPHI, 1819), *Hymenolepis nana* (SIEBOLD, 1853), Nematoda: *Strongyloides ratti* SANDGROUND, 1925, *Nippostrongylus brasiliensis* (TRAVASSOS, 1914), *Orientostrongylus ezoensis* TADA, 1975, *Angiostrongylus cantonensis* (CHEN, 1935), *Aspiculuris tetraptera* (NITZSCH, 1831), *Syphacia muris* (YAMAGUTI, 1935), *Heterakis spumosa* SCHNEIDER, 1866, *Capillaria hepatica* (BANCROFT, 1893), *Capillaria gastrica* (BAYLIS, 1926), *Trichosomoides crassicauda* (BELLIGHAM, 1845), *Pterygodermatites* sp., Mastigophora: *Giardia muris* (GRASSI, 1879), *Giardia simoni* LAVIER, 1924, *Hexamita muris* (GRASSI, 1881), *Octomitus pulcher* (BECKER, 1926), *Tritrichomonas muris* (GRASSI, 1879), *Trypanosoma lewisi* (KENT, 1880), Rhizopoda: *Entamoeba muris* (GRASSI, 1879), Sporozoa: *Sarcocystis muris* (BLANCHARD, 1885), *Eimeria nieschulzi* DIEBEN, 1924, *Eimeria separata* BECKER & HALL, 1931, *Eimeria miyairii* OHIRA, 1912.

The incidence rate of *T. muris*, *Sarcocystis muris* and most of helminth species was found to increase with age. *E. muris* and coccidia occurred more frequently in young rats than in old ones. Seasonal variation in prevalence having no relation to age was observed in the trematodes and in the coccidia.