

This is an Accepted Manuscript for Parasitology. This version may be subject to change during the production process. DOI: 10.1017/S0031182024001471

Aonchotheca annulosa and *Aonchotheca murissylvatici*, which is which?

A reappraisal of the gastrointestinal *Aonchotheca* (Nematoda: Capillariidae) species common in wood mice and bank voles

Jerzy M. Behnke¹ and Joseph A. Jackson²

¹ School of Life Sciences, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD, U.K. and ² School of Science, Engineering and Environment, University of Salford, Manchester M5 4WT, U.K.

Corresponding author: Jerzy M. Behnke, Email: Jerzy.Behnke@Nottingham.ac.uk;
Joseph A. Jackson, Email: J.A.Jackson@Salford.ac.uk

This is an Open Access article, distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives licence (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>), which permits non-commercial re-use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is unaltered and is properly cited. The written permission of Cambridge University Press must be obtained for commercial re-use or in order to create a derivative work.

Abstract

Wood mice (*Apodemus sylvaticus*) and bank voles (*Myodes glareolus*) are often employed as natural study models in infectious disease ecology. Yet the identities of some elements of their parasite fauna have been subject to long-standing confusion. One instance of this relates to two nominal species of the capillariid nematode genus *Aonchotheca*: *Aonchotheca annulosa* (Dujardin, 1845) and *A. murissylvatici* (Diesing, 1851). Through literature review, analysis of recorded host- and site-specificity and tracing of taxonomic precedence, it is possible to confirm that *A. annulosa* is a valid species with a spicule c. 1000 microns long, a small intestinal site of infection, and a wide host range centred in murine rodents (with *A. sylvaticus* the most common host). On the other hand, tracing the provenance of *A. murissylvatici* through to the works of the early naturalists reveals it is best assigned as a *nomen nudum* (lacking sufficient establishing description) or a junior synonym of *A. annulosa* and does not have precedence for the other *Aonchotheca* morphotype commonly found in Eurasian rodents. The first description consonant with this other morphotype, which has a short spicule (200-250 microns in length) and occurs primarily in the stomach of bank voles and other cricetids, was as *Capillaria halli* by Kalantarian in 1924. We thus recommend the suppression of *A. murissylvatici* in favour of *Aonchotheca halli* (Kalantarian, 1924) for this gastric-specialist short-spicule morphotype, particularly as the use of the *A. murissylvatici* name and its variants has previously been associated with substantial inconsistency and misidentification with *A. annulosa*.

Keywords: *Aonchotheca annulosa*, *Aonchotheca murissylvatici*, *Aonchotheca halli*, *Apodemus* spp., *Myodes glareolus*, stomach, small intestine, spicule

Introduction

Wood mice (*Apodemus sylvaticus*) and bank voles (*Myodes glareolus*) have often been employed by parasitologists and infectious disease ecologists as natural study models. Despite this relatively high level of attention, however, the identities of some elements of their parasite fauna have been subject to long-standing confusion. One instance of this relates to two nominal *Aonchotheca* species that have frequently been reported in the gastrointestinal lumen of wood mice and bank voles, and in other Eurasian rodents. These are *Aonchotheca annulosa* (Dujardin, 1845) and *A. murissylvatici* (Diesing, 1851). Unfortunately, although two genuine species do seem to be involved, these appear to have been confused for one another in a substantial proportion of the literature, especially that relating to epidemiology and helminth community structure in wild European rodents.

Aonchotheca spp. are nematodes belonging to the trichinelloid family Capillariidae Railliet, 1915 which contains several species of medical or veterinary significance. Capillariids parasitize all five classes of vertebrates and comprise over several hundred described species (Moravec, 2000), each of which specialises in exploiting a particular host body organ (e.g., intestinal tract, liver, bladder etc.). Capillariid life cycles can be complex, involving up to two different intermediate, transport or paratenic hosts, but few have been documented in detail, and the range of hosts of some species is poorly known (Moravec *et al.*, 1987; Anderson, 2000). The taxonomy of this group is also complex, with many changes over the years of the scientific nomenclature of individual species, as well as revision of the structure of the taxon (Moravec, 1982, 2000). Moreover, the recent application of molecular tools has revealed cases of incongruence with phylogenetic studies based on classic morphology (Borba *et al.*, 2019; Deng *et al.*, 2022).

Capillariids frequently adopt histozoic infection habits, burrowing in the solid tissue of various organs (Anderson, 2000), and this may lead to an increased propensity to cause disease.

For example, the species considered here often burrow partially within the gastrointestinal mucosa (Roman, 1951). Sometimes they are associated with tumour-like formations in the stomach (Roman, 1951) or may build up to high population sizes, forming tangled aggregations that could physically interfere with digestion. Furthermore, a number of the better-studied capillariids lack narrow specificity to the definitive host and may cause transboundary or zoonotic outbreaks. Examples of this are *Paracapillaria philippinensis*, the agent of intestinal capillariasis (Lu *et al.*, 2006), *Calodium hepaticum*, the agent of hepatic capillariasis (Fuehrer *et al.*, 2011), and *Eucoleus aerophilus*, a lungworm primarily infecting canids that can also infect humans (Lalosević *et al.*, 2008). Even amongst the species considered here, *A. annulosa* is known to infect primates (Capuchin Monkeys and Baboons) in captivity and thus might have some zoonotic potential (Moravec and Baruš, 1991). Given these disease-causing and host-switching proclivities, and the past confusion that has affected the identification of the common gastrointestinal *Aonchotheca* nematodes occurring in rodents in Eurasia, our aim here is to clarify the systematics and nomenclature of these species.

Below we begin by reviewing the historic literature on *Aonchotheca*-like forms in the gastrointestinal lumen of wood mice, bank voles and other Eurasian rodents and then we identify the problems that have given rise to confusion. Finally, we propose a solution that is biologically representative and that also conforms to the rules of Zoological nomenclature, and we recommend how these species should be identified and referred to in future work.

***Aonchotheca annulosa* is a valid species**

The earliest record of capillariid nematodes from wild rodents is by Dujardin (1845), who described a species from the intestine of rats in Northern France, the males of which possessed a relatively long spicule (0.95 mm). Dujardin named these nematodes *Calodium annulosum*. Travassos (1915) moved the species to the genus *Capillaria*, as *Capillaria annulosa*, and then

López-Neyra (1947) to *Aonchotheca*. Hence this species is now usually known as *Aonchotheca annulosa*. The relatively long spicule of *A. annulosa* has been reaffirmed on multiple occasions (e.g., Mészáros, 1977 [1.00-1.02 mm], Mészáros, 1978 [1.00 mm], Bain and Wertheim, 1981 [1.14 mm], Moravec and Baruš, 1991 [1.11-1.27 mm]; Umur *et al.*, 2012 [0.86-1.08 mm]) in consonant material. Thus, the modern concept of *A. annulosa* is clearly linked to Dujardin's original record by the presence of a distinctive long spicule and by the typical site of infection in the small intestine of Eurasian rodents. *A. annulosa* may therefore be considered an uncomplicated and valid taxon.

***Aonchotheca halli* has precedence on a short-spicule morphotype mostly occurring in Eurasian cricetids**

In the same monograph of 1845, Dujardin also described female worms from the intestine (Diesing 1851) of *Mus sylvaticus* (= *Apodemus sylvaticus*) which he referred to as “Trichosome du mulot (*Mus sylvaticus*)”. Six years later Diesing (1851) created the name *Trichosomum muris sylvatici* Dujardin, based on some part of the specimens collected by Dujardin from wood mice. Diesing specified Dujardin as the authority for this taxon, but as Dujardin did not formally name his specimens, Diesing has been taken as the authority by subsequent authors. Diesing (1851) provided only very sparse and ambiguous information to add to the minimal description provided by Dujardin, and together these works lack any diagnostic morphological information useful in distinguishing between the *Aonchotheca* morphotypes found in present-day Eurasian rodents. In particular, no information was provided by either author on male worms, which were lacking in Dujardin's original collection. In all likelihood, Diesing's taxon was the same species, *A. annulosa*, as the specimens Dujardin had found in the intestine of rats, given the preference of *A. annulosa* for the small intestine of murine hosts (see also below). Thus, *T. muris sylvatici* of Diesing might be regarded as a junior synonym of *A. annulosa*.

Alternatively, it could be argued that the information surrounding *T. muris sylvatici* is so sparse and inconclusive that it should instead be considered a *nomen nudum* (i.e., effectively lacking an establishing description [International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, 1999]).

Despite its poor support in evidence, *T. muris sylvatici* Diesing (1851) was moved to the genus *Capillaria* Zeder, 1800 by Travassos (1915; see also Moravec, 1982). Thereafter it became stabilised within *Capillaria* or *Aonchotheca* (which is the generic classification we accept here) by later authors who arbitrarily linked it to small-spicule morphotypes that were not described for the first time until the early 20th Century. At times three different versions of the specific name have been employed: *muris sylvatici*, *muris-sylvatici* or *murissylvatici*. In fact, the earliest record of a rodent-infecting *Aonchotheca*-like capillariid clearly different to *A. annulosa* was by Kalantarian (1924) who described material with a short spicule (0.1928 mm; approximately one quarter of the length found in *A. annulosa*), that she recovered from the migratory or grey dwarf hamster (*Cricetulus migratorius* (Pallas, 1773)) in Armenia. This was named *Capillaria halli* by Kalantarian (1924) but was later synonymised with *C. murissylvatici*, by Teixeira De Freitas and Lent (1936). These latter authors gave the spicule length for *C. murissylvatici* as exactly the same as given earlier by Kalantarian (1924) for *C. halli*, although they did not attribute this measurement to her work. Teixeira De Freitas and Lent (1936) included bank voles and wood mice, alongside the migratory hamster, as hosts of *C. murissylvatici*, likely on the basis of records by Baylis (1926) and Elton *et al.* (1931) mentioned further below.

Following the work of Teixeira De Freitas and Lent (1936), reports of *C. halli*-like short-spicule morphotypes tended to be attributed to *C. murissylvatici*. Roman (1939) reported worms occurring in large numbers within tumour-like developments of the gastric mucosa of French voles (primarily bank voles). He provided comprehensive measurements of gastric specimens from bank voles that confirmed the relatively short spicule of the male worms

(0.187-0.247 mm and mean of 0.219 mm). In this publication and in his review of 1951 (Roman, 1951) Roman further established one concept of *C. murissylvatici* as a parasite of the gastric mucosa of microtine voles. This concept was followed by several later authors, who placed the species either in *Capillaria* or *Aonchotheca*. This included Justine and de Roguin (1990) who again confirmed the short spicule length (0.200-0.215mm) in stomach-dwelling forms.

***A. annulosa* in the small intestine has likely often been misidentified**

Aonchotheca nematodes are long, thin, filamentous worms that penetrate the intestinal mucosa. Because of their fragility, their length, and their location in the mucosa, they are easily fragmented upon recovery from the host. Moreover, they are not easy to identify precisely by those who are not closely familiar with the taxon. It is perhaps not surprising, therefore, that additional confusion has arisen in the literature about whether the worms observed in rodent intestines were *A. murissylvatici* or *A. annulosa*. This confusion has been further exacerbated by reports in journals that are not easily accessed even today (especially those from East European university and society journals), and hence relevant studies have not always been available to those describing and/or reporting on these species.

The stage for confusion between the stomach and small intestine-specialist *Aonchotheca* species may have been partly set by Elton *et al.* (1931). Following Baylis (1928) these authors reported what they called “*Capillaria? muris-sylvatici*” from the small intestines of both wood mice and bank voles. Given the site of infection, this is in fact likely to have been *A. annulosa*. Furthermore, Elton *et al.* (1931) reported “*Capillaria* or *Hepaticola* sp.indet.” from the stomachs of wood mice, but, given the site of infection, this is likely to have been the *A. halli* morphotype associated with *A. murissylvatici* by many authors (see above), or a *Eucoleus* species. Several authors working on the epidemiology of helminths in wild rodents

from the British Isles (Lewis, 1968a; Canning *et al.*, 1973; Langley and Fairley, 1982; O'Sullivan *et al.*, 1984; Montgomery and Montgomery, 1988, 1990, Abu- Madi *et al.*, 2000; Loxton *et al.*, 2016; Stuart *et al.*, 2020), as well as those working in continental Europe (Soltys, 1949; Erhardová and Ryšavý, 1955; Tenora and Baruš, 1955; Tenora and Zavadil, 1967; Bjelić-Čabrilo *et al.*, 2009; Bjelić-Čabrilo *et al.*, 2011; Movsesyan *et al.*, 2018) followed this lead, reporting *A. murissylvatici* from the small intestines of rodents (see Table 1). Thus, although *A. annulosa* has been recorded only rarely in the British Isles (James, 1954; Wakelin, 1968; Jackson *et al.*, 2009; Behnke unpublished observations) this likely reflects underreporting due to misidentification with *A. murissylvatici*. On the European mainland, despite some likely misidentification (discussed by Moravec [2000]), *A. annulosa* is nonetheless recognised as a frequent parasite of the small intestine from studies of bank voles (Tenora and Zejda, 1974; Mészáros, 1978; Milazzo *et al.*, 2003a; Grzybek *et al.*, 2015), and of other rodent species (Moravec, 2000).

In contrast to authors who understood *A. murissylvatici* to be a small intestinal parasite, others, following Texeira De Freitas and Lent (1935) and Roman (1951), were quite definite that *A. murissylvatici* is a parasite of the stomach. Among the earliest was Thomas (1953) who found heavy infections in the stomachs of bank voles in Scotland, and then the work of Kisielewska (1970 a,b, 1983) in Poland emphasized that *A. murissylvatici* is a bank vole stomach specialist. Others include Murúa (1978), Justine and de Roguin (1990) and more recently, Miljević *et al.* (2022).

Other relevant *Aonchotheca* species in Europe

A. annulosa and *A. halli* are the only *Aonchotheca* species to be frequently reported in Eurasian rodents (with nominal records of *A. murissylvatici* most likely to be one or the other), if *A. wioletti* (Rukhlyadeva, 1950) is accepted as a junior synonym of *A. halli* (following Justine and

de Roguin, 1990). However, an assemblage of *Aonchotheca*-like species is known in glirids (dormice) (Justine *et al.*, 1987; Veciana *et al.*, 2016) whose members could potentially be confused with *A. halli* and should be kept in mind given the low specificity of many capillarids. Of these forms in glirids, both *A. myoxinitelae* (Diesing, 1851) and *A. legerae* (Justine *et al.*, 1987) appear to have a longer spicule than *A. halli* (>0.26 mm). Furthermore, both have more prominent structures around the vulval opening and shorter ejaculatory ducts (Pisanu and Bain, 1999), amongst other potential differentiating features (Justine *et al.*, 1987; Pisanu and Bain, 1990). *Tenoranema alcoveri* Mas-Coma and Esteban, 1985, also from glirids, which is close to *Aonchotheca* and whose generic characters require further clarification, has a spicule that overlaps that of *A. halli*, but is distinguished by the presence of complex digitiform rays supporting the bursa (Mas-Coma and Esteban, 1985; Justine *et al.*, 1987). Apart from the species in glirids, two additional species occur in Eurasia. This includes the relatively poorly known *A. armeniaca* (Kirschenblat, 1939), which has a long spicule (1.10 mm) and infects the small intestine of *Citellus* spp. in Armenia (Veciana *et al.*, 2016), and the more recently described *Aonchotheca yannickchavali*, Veciana, Chaisiri, Morand and Ribas, 2016 which is distinguished by a very large, tube-like projection associated with the vulva and infects the intestine of *Bandicota* species in Thailand (Veciana *et al.*, 2016). Moreover, it should be borne in mind that several poorly known species with some similarity to *A. halli* have been recorded in a variety of non-rodent mammalian hosts in Eurasia. This includes *A. musimon* Pisanu and Bain, 1999 and *A. bilobata* (Bhalerao, 1933) in ungulates and *A. speciosa* (Beneden, 1873) in bats. The existence of this additional sympatric diversity emphasises the importance of future molecular studies to further elucidate the relationships of *A. halli* to similar forms in non-rodent hosts.

Recommendations

In order to survive in the hostile environment of the mammalian intestine, helminths evolve to become specialists in parasitizing specific regions of the intestine where they can best resist acidity, host enzymes and other defences against invasion by microorganisms (Schad, 1963; Crompton, 1973; Sukhdeo and Sukhdeo, 1994; Sukhdeo and Bansemir, 1996). In our view it is unlikely, therefore, that a species that has become a specialist for survival in the duodenum, will be able to cope equally well in the stomach.

As justified in the sections above, the most parsimonious explanation of the confusion in the literature is that the gastrointestinal *Aonchotheca* fauna of Eurasian rodents is made up of two site-specialist species. One is a gastric mucosal specialist, living intertwined in the glandular, pyloric region of its host's stomach and while perhaps occasionally worms in heavy infections may spill over into the duodenum, this nematode is not usually a resident of the small intestine. The other is an intestinal specialist species, *A. annulosa*, also usually with a mucosal burrowing habit. We propose that most of the previous reports of "*A. murissylvatici*" from the small intestine were in fact *A. annulosa*. We further propose that the stomach-dwelling species should be referred to by the name *Aonchotheca halli* (Kalantarian, 1924). As explained above, this has precedence on the stomach-dwelling short-spicule, cricetid-specialist morphotype, replacing "*A. murissylvatici*" which has very dubious support in evidence. Although the type specimens of *A. halli* and its original description are not available (despite our efforts to locate these), Texeira De Freitas and Lent's redrawings of Kalantarian's specimens are sufficient to link these to the small-spicule gastrointestinal *Aonchotheca* morphotype occurring in Eurasian cricetids. This shift in nomenclature is in line with rules on precedence in the International Zoological Code of Nomenclature ([International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, 1999). Moreover, rather than disturbing stability and precedent, this in fact draws a line under more than 100 years of incorrect, inconsistent and biologically confusing use of the name *A.*

murissylvatici and its variants, within which a large proportion of nominal records are likely to have been misidentifications of *A. annulosa*. One additional advantage of suppressing *A. murissylvatici* will be that the instability associated with the exact form of the name (*muris sylvatici* / *muris-sylvatici* / *murissylvatici*) will also be curtailed.

The host-specificity, geographical distribution, zoonotic potential and identification of *A. annulosa* and *A. halli*

Given clarification of the species concepts for these *Aonchotheca* morphotypes common in wood mice and bank voles, a clearer picture can be formed of their broader host and geographical distributions. To this end we carried out a literature search of host and geographical records. We accepted all records of *A. annulosa* from the intestine of hosts. For *A. halli*, we only accepted records of “*A. murissylvatici*” from the stomach of hosts, or in the case of intestinal records, where a positive identification had been made based on morphological criteria. From summaries of the resulting data (Figs 1-2) it can be seen that *A. annulosa* (Fig. 1) has the wider host range of the two species. Whilst it is most often recorded in *Apodemus* and *Rattus* it can also infect a range of other murines but also cricetids, sciurids, mustelids and insectivores. Moreover, it has been recorded more than once in primates (baboons and monkeys) in zoological park settings (Moravec, 2000; Umur *et al.*, 2012). As previously recognised, this wide host range could be indicative of transboundary and zoonotic potential. The distribution of this species extends across a very wide area of Eurasia, with records from Atlantic islands likely indicating a propensity to be spread anthropogenically via commensal murine hosts (rats). In contrast to *A. annulosa*, *A. halli* has narrower specificity infecting primarily bank voles, but also some other cricetids and, in fewer cases, murines. Although reliable records of this species are less numerous, it also seems to have a very wide distribution within Eurasia.

For the practical purposes of future identification, these two species differ in several morphological criteria (and accurate descriptions can be found in Moravec [2000] and Justine and de Roguin [1990]) but, if male worms are available, can be most easily distinguished by the difference in the length of spicules: *A. annulosa* has spicules that are about fourtimes longer than those of *A. halli*(c. 0.20-0.25 mm vs c. 1.00 mm). In females, *A. halli* has a small vulval appendage (Justine and de Roguin, 1990; see also Read, 1949) and *A. annulosa* lacks such an appendage but usually has an elevated anterior vulval lip (Moravec and Baruš, 1991). A key for the identification of the *Aonchotheca* species found in European rodents is provided in Table 2. For unambiguous differentiation of *A. annulosa* and *A. halli* that does not depend on skilled microscopic observation, the use of 18S rRNA gene DNA sequencing might be recommended. Our preliminary molecular results (manuscript in prep.) suggest this will easily distinguish between these two species. In a forthcoming study, we will be depositing reference sets of sequences for both species that will facilitate molecular identification.

Acknowledgements. We thank the staff at the University of Nottingham library for their efforts to help us trace some of the less accessible literature. We are grateful to Sally and Ian Montgomery, Derek Wakelin, Celia Holland and J. Mike Kinsella for their comments and suggestions on earlier drafts of this Manuscript.

Author's contribution. This paper was written jointly by the authors.

Financial support. This research received no specific grant from any funding agency, commercial or not-for-profit sectors.

Competing interests. The authors declare there are no conflicts of interest.

Ethical standards. Not applicable.

Accepted Manuscript

References

- Abu-Madi MA, Behnke JM, Lewis JW and Gilbert FS** (2000) Seasonal and site specific variation in the component community structure of intestinal helminths in *Apodemus sylvaticus* from three contrasting habitats in south-east England. *Journal of Helminthology* **74**, 7-16.
- Afonso-Roque MM** (1995) The helminth fauna of the terrestrial vertebrates from S. Miguel island (Azores): An annotated checklist of known species. *Arquipélago. Life and Marine Sciences* **13**, 99-104.
- Anderson RC** (2000) Nematode parasites of vertebrates: their development and transmission. 2nd edition. CABI Publishing, Wallingford, Oxon, UK. 650 pp. ISBN : 978-0-85199-421-5
- Asakawa M, Hasegawa H, Ohnuma M, Tatsushima T and Ohbayashi M** (1992) Parasitic nematodes of rodents on the off-shore islands of Hokkaido. *Japanese Journal of Parasitology* **41**, 40-45.
- Asakawa M, Koyasu K, Harada M, Krishna SC, Mekada K and Oda SI** (1997) Parasitic helminths from Himalayan field mice, *Apodemus gurkha* and Sikkim vole, *Microtus sikimensis*, in the Himalayas, Nepal. *Japanese Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine* **2**, 81-85.
- Asakawa M and Tenora F** (1996) A checklist of epidemiology of nematode parasites of the genus *Apodemus* (Murinae: Rodentia) throughout the world excluding Japan. *Journal of the Rakuno Gakuen University* **20**, 181–213.
- Asakawa M, Yokoyama Y and Fukumoto SI** (1983) A Study of the internal parasites of *Clethrionomys rufocanus bedfordiae* (Thomas). *Japanese Journal of Parasitology* **32**, 399-411.
- Balfour A** (1922) Observations on wild rats in England, with an account of their ecto- and endoparasites. *Parasitology* **14**, 282-298.

- Bain O and Wertheim G** (1981) Helminthes d'oiseaux et de mammifères d'Israël. IX. Compléments morphologiques sur quelques *Capillaria* (Nematoda, Trichinelloidea). *Bulletin du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, 4e Sér. A*, **3**, 1061–1075.
- Baylis HA** (1928) Records of some parasitic worms from British vertebrates. *The Annals and Magazine of Natural History, Series 10*, **1**, 329-343.
- Baylis HA** (1939) Further records of parasitic worms from British vertebrates. *The Annals and Magazine of Natural History, Series 11*, **4**, 473-498.
- Behnke JM, Lewis JW, Mohd Zain SN and Gilbert FS** (1999) Helminth infections in *Apodemus sylvaticus* in southern England: interactive effects of host age, sex and year on the prevalence and abundance of infections. *Journal of Helminthology* **73**, 31-44.
- Behnke JM, Rogan MT, Craig PS, Jackson JA, and Hide G** (2021) Long-term trends in helminth infections of wood mice (*Apodemus sylvaticus*) from the vicinity of Malham Tarn in North Yorkshire, England. *Parasitology* **148**, 451-463.
- Bernard J** (1961) Liste des nématodes parasites des micromammifères de la faune belge. *Annales de Parasitologie Humaine et Comparée* **36**, 775-784.
- Bjelić-Čabrilo O, Popović E, Šimić SD and Kostić DS** (2009) Nematofauna of bank voles – *Clethrionomys glareolus* (Schreber, 1780) – from Mt. Fruška Gora (Serbia). *Archives of Biological Sciences, Belgrade* **61**, 555-561.
- Bjelić-Čabrilo O, Kostić D, Popović E, Cirković M, Aleksić N and Lujić J** (2011) Helminth fauna of the bank vole *Myodes glareolus* (Rodentia, Arvicolinae) on the territory of Fruška Gora Mountain (Serbia) – a potential sources of zoonoses. *Bulgarian Journal of Agricultural Science* **17**, 829-836.
- Borba VH, Machado-Silva JR, Le Bailly M and Iniguez AM** (2019) Worldwide paleodistribution of capillariid parasites: paleoparasitology, current status of phylogeny and taxonomic perspectives. *PLoS ONE* **14** e0216150.

- Čabrilo B, Jovanović VM, Bjelić-Čabrilo O, Budinski I, Blagojević J and Vujošević M** (2016) Diversity of nematodes in the yellow-necked field mouse *Apodemus flavicollis* from the Peripannonic region of Serbia. *Journal of Helminthology* **90**, 14–20.
- Čabrilo B, Jovanović VM, Bjelić-Čabrilo O, Budinski I, Blagojević J and Vujošević M** (2018) Is there a host sex bias in intestinal nematode parasitism of the yellow-necked Mouse (*Apodemus flavicollis*) at Obedska bara pond, Serbia? *Helminthologia* **55**, 247–250.
- Canning EU, Cox FEG, Croll NA and Lyons KM** (1973) The natural history of Slapton Ley Nature Reserve: VI Studies on the parasites. *Field Studies* **3**, 681-718.
- Casanova JC, Miquel J, Fons R, Molina X, Feliu C, Mathias MDL, Torres J, Libois R, Santos-Reis M, Collares-Pereira M and Marchand B** (1996) On the helminthfauna of wild mammals (Rodentia, Insectivora and Lagomorpha) in Azores archipelago (Portugal). *Vie et Milieu/Life and Environment* **46**, 253-259.
- Crompton DWT** (1973) The sites occupied by some parasitic helminths in the alimentary tract of vertebrates. *Biological Reviews* **48**, 27-83.
- Debenedetti Á, Sáez-Durán S, Sainz-Elipse S, Galán-Puchades M and Fuentes M** (2014) Hepatic parasitosis in two wood mice, *Apodemus sylvaticus* (Rodentia: Muridae), due to *Aonchotheca annulosa* (Nematoda: Trichuridae), and *Eucoleus bacillatus* (Nematoda: Trichuridae). Erratic parasitism or *post mortem* migration?" *Acta Parasitologica* **59**, 610-614.
- Debenedetti AL, Sainz-Elipse S, Sáez-Durán S, Galicia D, Imaz A, Galán-Puchades MT, and Fuentes MV** (2015) The helminth community of the wood mouse *Apodemus sylvaticus* from the Erro River valley, Navarre, Spain. *Journal of Helminthology* **89**, 727–733.
- Deng Y-P, Suleman, Zhang X-L, Li R, Li L-Y, Fu Y-T, Liu G-H and Yao C** (2022) *Aonchotheca* (Nematoda:Capillariidae) is validated as a separate genus from *Capillaria* by both mitochondrial and nuclear ribosomal DNA. *Parasites and Vectors* **15**, 493.

- Diesing KM** (1851) *Systema Helminthum*, V 2. Vindobonac: W. Braumüller, 588pp.
- Dujardin F** (1845) *Histoire Naturelle des Helminthes ou Vers Intestinaux*. Paris: Librairie encyclopédique de Roret, 654 pp.
- Elton C, Ford EB, Baker JR and Gardiner AD** (1931) The health and parasites of a wild mouse population. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1931**, 657-721.
- Erhardová B and Ryšavý B** (1955) [Contribution to the knowledge of parasitic worms of our mice and voles] *Zoologické a Entomologické Listy* **4**, 71-90 (In Czech with Russian summary).
- Feliu C, Renaud F, Catzefflis F, Hugot J-P, Durand P and Morand S.** (1997) A comparative analysis of parasite species richness of Iberian rodents. *Parasitology* **115**, 453-466.
- Fuentes MV, Sáez S, Trelis M, Galán-Puchades MT and Esteban JG** (2004) The helminth community of the wood mouse, *Apodemus sylvaticus*, in the Sierra Espuna, Murcia, Spain. *Journal of Helminthology*, **78**, 219–223.
- Fuentes MV, Sainz-Elipse S, Sáez-Durán S and Galán-Puchades MT** (2010) The helminth community of the wood mouse *Apodemus sylvaticus* in a Mediterranean ecosystem in regeneration ten years after a wildfire. *Journal of Helminthology* **84**, 39–48
- Fuehrer HP, Igel P and Auer H** (2011) *Capillaria hepatica* in man—an overview of hepatic capillariosis and spurious infections. *Parasitology Research* **109**, 969-979.
- Galán-Puchades MT, Sanxis-Furió J, Pascual J, Bueno-Marí R, Franco S, Peracho V, Montalvo T and Fuentes MV** (2018) First survey on zoonotic helminthosis in urban brown rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) in Spain and associated public health considerations. *Veterinary Parasitology* **259**, 49–52.
- Grzybek M, Bajer A, Bednarska M, Alsarraf M, Behnke-Borowczyk J, Harris PD, Price S, Brown GS, Osborne S-J, Siński E and Behnke JM** (2015) Long-term spatiotemporal

stability and dynamic changes in helminth infracommunities of bank voles (*Myodes glareolus*) in NE Poland. *Parasitology* **142**, 1722-1743.

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (1999). International code of zoological nomenclature. 4th Edn. The Natural History Museum, London: International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature.

Islam MM, Farag E., Hassan MM, Enan KA, Mohammadi A, Aldiqs AK, Alhussain H, AlMusalmani E, Al-Zeyara AA, Al-Romaihi H, Yassine HM, Sultan AA, Bansal D and Mkhize-Kwitshana Z (2024) Rodent-borne parasites in Qatar: A possible risk at the human-animal-ecosystem interface. *One health (Amsterdam, Netherlands)* **18**, 100708.

Jackson JA, Friberg IM, Bolch L, Lowe A, Ralli C, Harris PD, Behnke JM and Bradley JE (2009) Immunomodulatory parasites and toll-like receptor-mediated tumour necrosis factor alpha responsiveness in wild mammals. *BMC Biology* **7**, 16.

James PM (1954) On some helminths from British small mammals, with a re-description of *Echinorhynchus rosai* Porta, 1910. *Journal of Helminthology* **28**, 183-188.

Jirouš J (1985) Qualitative structure of intestinal helminth fauna of small rodents in successive stages of spoil banks in the Most basin (northern Bohemia) and in their surroundings. *Věstník Československé Společnosti Zoologické* **49**, 87-100.

Justine J-L (1989) Liste des *Capillaria* (Nematoda, Capillariinae) parasites de mammifères africains. *Bulletin du Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris* **11**, 755-762.

Justine J-L, Ferté H and Bain O (1987) Trois *Capillaria* (Nematoda) de l'intestin du lérot en France. Rapports avec un *Capillaria* de l'estomac du sanglier. *Bulletin du Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle*, **9**, 579-604.

Justine J-L and de Roguin L (1990) *Capillaria murissylvatici* (Nematoda, capillariinae), parasite d'un Rongeur du Baluchistan iranien. *Bulletin du Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Ser 4*, **12**, 19-33.

- Kalantarian EV** (1924) [Sur la faune des vers parasites des rongeurs d'Arménie]. *Trudy Tropicheskiegvo Instituta Armenii* **1**, 18-33 (in Russian). Armenian summary, pp16-17 (in Armenian Supplement), French summary pp 4-5 (in French Supplement).
- Kirillova NY** (2011) Helminthofauna of mammals of Samara Luka. Report 1. Yellow-necked mouse *Sylvaemus flavicollis* (Melchior) (Rodentia, Muridae). *Samara Luka: Problems of Regional and Global Ecology* **20**, 172-176.
- Kirillova NY** (2012) Helminthofauna of mammals of Samara Luka. Report 2. Field mouse *Apodemus agrarius* (Pall.)(Rodentia, Muridae). *Samara Luka: Problems of Regional and Global Ecology* **21**, 143-147.
- Kisielewska K** (1970a) Ecological organization of intestinal helminth groupings in *Clethrionomys glareolus* (Schreb.) (Rodentia). 1. Structure and seasonal dynamics of helminth groupings in a host population in the *Bialowieza National Park*. *Acta Parasitologica Polonica* **18**, 121-147.
- Kisielewska K** (1970b) Ecological organization of intestinal helminth groupings in *Clethrionomys glareolus* (Schreb.) (Rodentia). V. Some questions concerning helminth groupings in the host individuals. *Acta Parasitologica Polonica* **17**, 197-208.
- Kisielewska K** (1983) Ecological Characteristics of Parasitic worm (helminth) communities. *Acta Theriologica* **28** Suppl 73-88.
- Klimpel S, Forster M and Schmahl G** (2007) Parasite fauna of the bank vole (*Clethrionomys glareolus*) in an urban region of Germany: reservoir host zoonotic metazoan parasites? *Parasitology Research* **102**, 69-75.
- Lalosević D, Lalosević V, Klem I, Stanojev-Jovanović D and Pozio E** (2008) Pulmonary capillariasis miming bronchial carcinoma. *The American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene* **78**, 14-6.

- Langley R and Fairley JS** (1982) Seasonal variations in infestations of parasites in a wood mouse *Apodemus sylvaticus* population in the west of Ireland. *Journal of Zoology, London* **198**, 249-261.
- Lewis EA** (1927) A survey of Welsh helminthology. *Journal of Helminthology* **5**, 121-132.
- Lewis JW** (1968a) Studies on the helminth parasites of the long-tailed field mouse, *Apodemus sylvaticus sylvaticus* from Wales. *Journal of Zoology, London* **154**, 287-312.
- Lewis JW** (1968b) Studies on the helminth parasites of voles and shrews from Wales. *Journal of Zoology, London* **154**, 313-331.
- Lewis JW and Twigg GI** (1972) A study of the internal parasites of small rodents from woodland areas in Surrey. *Journal of Zoology (London)* **166**, 61-77.
- López González M** (2014) Helminthofauna de roedores de Canarias: estudio faunístico, ecológico y molecular. PhD thesis, Universidad de La Laguna, Spain.
- López-Neyra RP** (1947) Los Capillariinae. *Memorias de la Real Academia de Ciencias de Madrid* **12**, 1-248.
- Loxton KC, Lawton C, Stafford P and Holland CV** (2016) Reduced helminth parasitism in the introduced bank vole (*Myodes glareolus*): More parasites lost than gained. *International Journal for Parasitology: Parasites and Wildlife* **5**, 175-183.
- Loxton KC, Lawton C, Stafford P and Holland CV** (2017) Parasite dynamics in an invaded ecosystem: helminth communities of native wood mice are impacted by the invasive bank vole. *Parasitology* **144**, 1476-1489.
- Lu LH, Lin MR, Choi WM, Hwang KP, Hsu YH, Bair MJ, Liu JD, Wang TE, Liu TP and Chung WC** (2006) Human intestinal capillariasis (*Capillaria philippinensis*) in Taiwan. *The American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene* **74**, 810-813.

- Mascato FA, Rey J, Bos J, Peris D, Paniagua E and Blanco P** (1993) Parásitos Capillariinae (Nematoda) de algunas especies de micromamíferos Gallegos. *Nova Acta Cientifica Compostelana (Biología)* **4**, 111-120.
- Martínez-Rondán FJ, Ruiz de Ybáñez MR, Tizzani P, López-Beceiro AM, Fidalgo LE and Martínez-Carrasco C** (2017) The American mink (*Neovison vison*) is a competent host for native European parasites. *Veterinary parasitology* **247**, 93–99.
- Mas-Coma S and Esteban JG** (1985) *Tenoranema alcoveri* gn, sp. n.(Trichuridae: Capillariinae), a nematode parasitizing *Eliomys quercinus* (Rodentia: Gliridae). *Folia Parasitologica* **32**, 35-42.
- Mas-Coma S and Feliu C** (1981) *Erinaceus (Aethechinus) algirus*, a new host for *Capillaria annulosa*. *Circular Farmaceutica* **35**, 323-326.
- Mazhari N, Moosavi P, Mostafavi E, Esfandiari B, Mobedi I, Rahimi Esboei B and Mowlavi G** (2019). Intestinal parasitic helminths of *Rattus* spp. in Caspian Sea littoral, Iran. *Journal of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases* **7**, 32-36.
- Meshkekar M, Sadraei J, Mahmoodzadeh A and Mobedi I** (2014) Helminth Infections in *Rattus rattus* and *Rattus norvegicus* in Tehran, Iran. *Iranian Journal of Parasitology* **9**, 548-52.
- Mészáros F** (1977) Parasitic nematodes of the hamster (*Cricetus cricetus* L.) in Hungary. *Acta Zoologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae* **23**, 133-138.
- Mészáros F** (1978) Parasitic nematodes of *Clethrionomys glareolus* (Rodentia) in Hungary. *Parasitologica Hungarica* **11**, 87-100.
- Mészáros F, Habijan V and Mikes M** (1983) Parasitic nematodes of rodents in Vojvodina (Yugoslavia). *Parasitologia Hungarica* **16**, 103-110.
- Mészáros F and Murai E** (1979) Contribution to the knowledge of helminths of rodents in Romania. *Parasitologica Hungarica* **12**, 55-70.

- Mészáros F and Štollmann A** (1984) Results of complex parasitological investigations on small mammals in the Cergov Mountains (Western Carpathians, Czechoslovakia). *Miscellanea Zoologica Hungarica* **2**, 7-11.
- Milazzo C, Aloise G, Cagnin M, Di Bella C, Geraci F, Feliu C and Casanova JC** (2005) Helminths of *Apodemus sylvaticus* (Muridae) distributed on the Southern European border (Italian Peninsula). *Vie et Milieu* **55**, 45-51.
- Milazzo C, Casanova JC, Aloise G, Ribas A and Cagnin M** (2003a) Helminths of the bank vole *Clethrionomys glareolus* (Rodentia, Arvicolinae) in southern Italy. *Italian Journal of Zoology* **70**, 333-337.
- Milazzo C, de Bellocq JG, Cagnin M, Casanova JC, di Bella C, Feliu C, Fons R, Morand S and Santalla F** (2003b) Helminths and ectoparasites of *Rattus rattus* and *Mus musculus* from Sicily, Italy. *Comparative Parasitology* **70**, 199-204.
- Miljević M, Čabrilo B, Budinski I, Rajčić M, Bajić B, Bjelić-Čabrio O and Blagojević J** (2022) Host-parasite relationship-nematode communities in populations of small mammals. *Animals* **12**, 2617.
- Montgomery SSJ and Montgomery WI** (1988) Cyclic and non-cyclic dynamics in populations of the helminth parasites of wood mice *Apodemus sylvaticus*. *Journal of Helminthology* **62**, 78-90.
- Montgomery SSJ and Montgomery WI** (1990) Structure, stability and species interactions in helminth communities of wood mice *Apodemus sylvaticus*. *International Journal for Parasitology* **20**, 225-242.
- Moravec F** (1982) Proposal of a new systematic arrangement of nematodes of the family Capillariidae. *Folia Parasitologica* **29**, 119-132

- Moravec F** (2000) Review of capillariid and trichosomoidid nematodes from mammals in the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. *Acta Societatis Zoologicae Bohemicae* **64**, 271-304.
- Moravec F and Baruš V** (1991) Systematic status of *Thominx platyrrhinorum* Baruš, 1961 (Nematoda: Capillariidae). *Folia Parasitologica* **38**, 155–162.
- Moravec F, Prokopic P and Shilkas AV** (1987) The biology of nematodes of the family Capillariidae Neveu-Lemaire, 1936. *Folia Parasitologica* **34**, 39-56.
- Movsesyan SO, Nikoghosian MA, Petrosian RA, Vlasov EA and Kuznetsov DN** (2018) Nematodes of rodents of Armenia. *Annals of Parasitology* **64**, 173-180.
- Murúa RE** (1978) Studies on the ecology of parasites of *Apodemus sylvaticus* (L.) and *Clethrionomys glareolus* (Schreb.) (Rodentia): analysis of the parasite populations and their seasonal variation in the Bristol area. *Acta Parasitologica Polonica* **25**, 149-161.
- Ondriková J, Miklisová D, Ribas A and Stanko M** (2010) The helminth parasites of two sympatric species of the genus *Apodemus* (Rodentia, Muridae) from south-eastern Slovakia. *Acta Parasitologica* **55**, 369-378.
- Pisanu B. and Bain O** (1999) *Aonchotheca musimon* n. sp. (Nematoda: Capillariinae) from the mouflon *Ovis musimon* in the sub-Antarctic Kerguelen archipelago, with comments on the relationships with *A. bilobata* (Bhalerao, 1933) Moravec, 1982 and other species of the genus. *Systematic Parasitology* **43**, 17-27.
- Pisanu B, Jerusalem C, Huchery C, Marmet J and Chapuis J-L** (2007) Helminth fauna of the Siberian chipmunk, *Tamias sibiricus* Laxmann (Rodentia, Sciuridae) introduced in suburban French forests. *Parasitology Research* **100**, 1375-1379.
- Pisanu B, Lebailleux L and Chapuis JL** (2009) Why do Siberian chipmunks *Tamias sibiricus* (Sciuridae) introduced in French forests acquired so few intestinal helminth species from native sympatric Murids? *Parasitology Research* **104**, 709–714.

- Read CP** (1949) Studies on North American helminths of the genus *Capillaria* Zeder, 1800 (Nematoda): II. Additional capillarids from mammals with keys to the North American Mammalian species. *Journal of Parasitology* **35**, 231-239.
- Ribas A, Torre I, Feliu C, Arrizabalaga A and Casanova JC** (2009) Helminth communities of the bank vole *Myodes glareolus* (Rodentia, Arvicolinae) in two populations: Montseny Natural Park (north-eastern Spain and Pi Natural Reserve (French Pyrenees). *Revista Ibero-Latinoamericana de Parasitologia* **1**, 73-81.
- Roman E** (1939) Adénome pylorique chez un campagnol parasité par *Capillaria muris-sylvatici*. *Annales de Parasitologie* **17**, 167-169.
- Roman E** (1951) Etude écologique et morphologique sur les acanthocéphales et les nématodes parasites des rats de la region Lyonnaise. *Mémoires du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (Serie A. Zoologie)* **2**, 49-269.
- Romeo C, Ferrari N, Saino N, Wauters LA and Lanfranchi P** (2012) Parasites and biological invasions: do helminths play a role in facilitating grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) settlement and in its competition with native red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*)? *Mappe Parassitologica* **18**, 145-145.
- Romeo C, Wauters LA, Ferrari N, Lanfranchi P, Martinoli A, Pisanu B, Preatoni DG and Sainu N** (2014). Macroparasite fauna of alien grey squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*): composition, variability and implications for native species. *PLOS One* **9**, e88002.
- Salvador AR, Guivier E, Xuéreb A, Chaval Y, Cadet P, Poulle ML, Sironen T, Voutilainen L, Henttonen H, Cosson JF and Charbonnel N** (2011) Concomitant influence of helminth infection and landscape on the distribution of Puumala hantavirus in its reservoir, *Myodes glareolus*. *BMC microbiology* **11**, 30.
- Schad GA** (1963) Niche diversification in a parasitic species flock. *Nature* **198**, 404-406.

- Sharpe GI** (1964) The helminth parasites of some small mammal communities. I. The parasites and their hosts. *Parasitology* **54**, 145-154.
- Sołtys A** (1949) Pasożyty wewnętrzne drobnych gryzoni leśnych (*Muridae*) Parku Narodowego w Białowieży. *Annales Universitatis Mariae Curie-Skłodowska Lublin-Polonia*. Section C. **4** (10), 233-259.
- Stuart P, Paredis L, Henttonen H, Lawton C, Ochoa Torres CA and Holland CV** (2020) The hidden faces of a biological invasion: parasite dynamics of invaders and natives. *International Journal for Parasitology* **50**, 111-123.
- Sukhdeo MVK and Bansemir AD** (1996) Critical resources that influence habitat selection decisions by gastrointestinal helminth parasites. *International Journal for Parasitology* **109**, 483-498.
- Sukhdeo MVK and Sukhdeo SC** (1994) Optimal habitat selection by helminths within the host environment. *Parasitology* **109**, S41-S55.
- Teixeira De Freitas JF and Lent H** (1936). Estudo sobre os Capillariinae parasitos de mamíferos (Nematoda: Trichuroidea). *Memórias do Instituto Oswaldo Cruz*, **31**, 85-160.
- Tenora F and Baruš V** (1955) Helminthofauna myši a hrabošů státní přírodní rezervace v Lednici a okolí. *Práce Brněnské Základny Československé Akademie Věd* **28**, 461-482.
- Tenora F, Meszaros F and Wiger R** (1977) Further records of nematodes in small rodents in Norway. *Parasitologia Hungarica* **10**, 85-89.
- Tenora F and Zejda J** (1974) The helminth synusy of *Clethrionomys glareolus* in a lowland forest and its changes. *Acta Scientiarum Naturalium - Academiae Scientiarum Bohemoslovacaе* Brno **6**, 1-48.
- Tenora F and Zavadil R** (1967) A contribution to the evaluation of capillariid nematodes found in rodents in Czechoslovakia. *Sbornik Vysoke Skoly zemedelske v Brne* **15**, 357-368.

- Thomas RJ** (1953) On the nematodes and trematode parasites of some small mammals from the Inner Hebrides. *Journal of Helminthology* **28**, 143-168.
- Travassos L** (1915) Contribuição para o conhecimento de fauna helminthologia brasileira. V. Sobre as especies brasileiras do genero *Capillaria* Zeder 1900. *Memórias do Instituto Oswaldo Cruz* **7**, 146-172.
- Umur S, Moravec F, Gurler A, Bolukbas C and Acici M** (2012) First report on *Aonchotheca annulosa* Dujardin, 1845 (Nematoda, Capillariidae) in a hamadryas baboon (*Papio hamadryas*) from a zoo in Northern Turkey. *Journal of Medical Primatology* **41**, 384-387.
- Veciana M, Chaisiri K, Morand S and Ribas A** (2016) *Aonchotheca yannickchavali* n.sp. (Nematoda: Capillariidae) in *Bandicota indica* (Bechstein, 1800) and *Bandicota savilei* (Thomas, 1916) (Rodentia: Muridae) collected from Thailand. *Agricultural and Natural Resources* **50**, 470-473.
- Wakelin D** (1968) Nematodes of the genus *Capillaria* Zeder, 1800 from the collection of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine III. Capillariids from mammalian hosts. *Journal of Helminthology* **42**, 383-394.

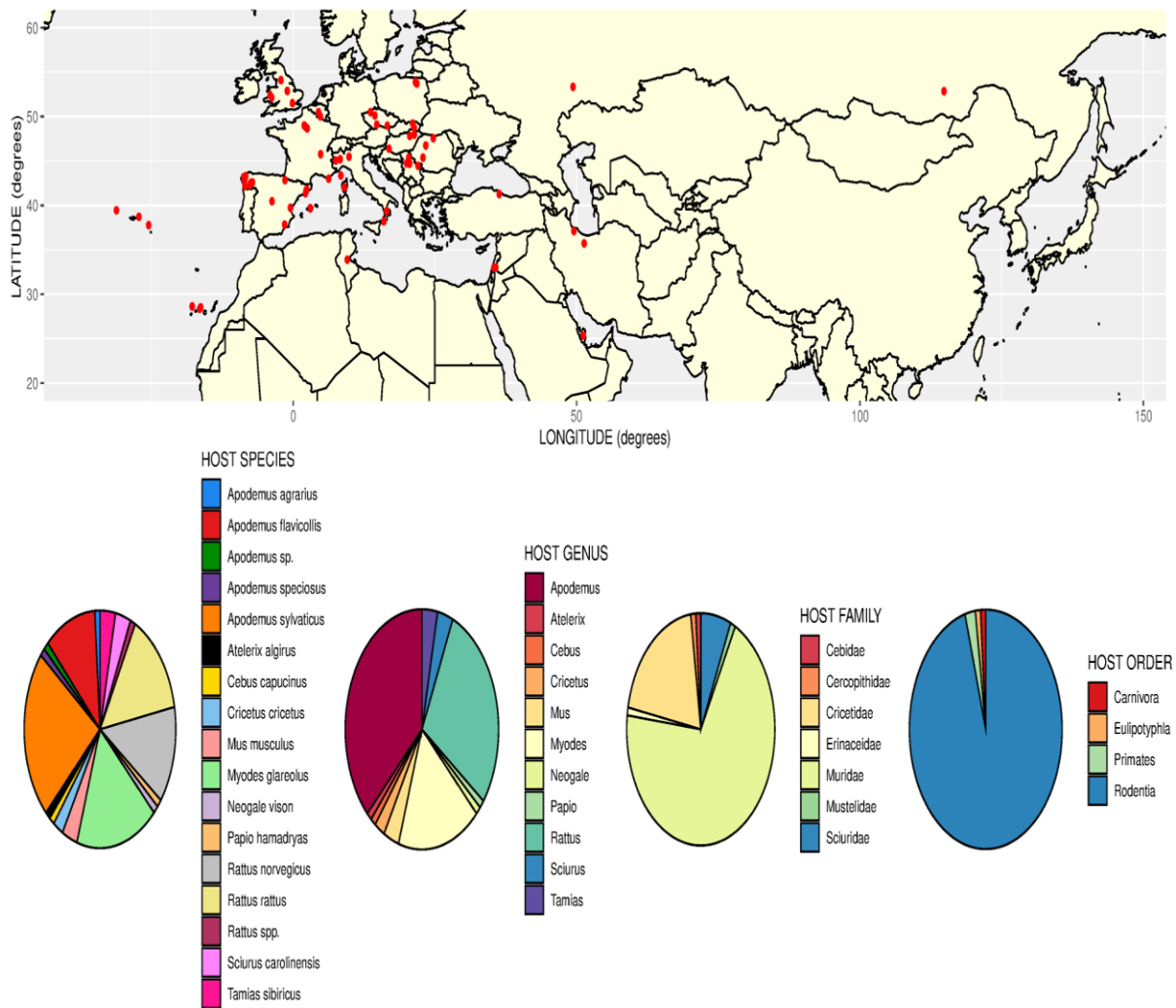


Figure 1. Geographical and host distribution of *Aonchotheca annulosa* (Dujardin, 1845). Top panel shows locations of nominal records of *A. annulosa* in Eurasia. Bottom panels show pie charts representing the proportional frequency of records of *A. annulosa* at different host taxonomic levels. Based on 91 records drawn from publications cited in the main text and also Balfour (1922), Lewis (1927), Bernard (1961), Mas-Coma and Feliu (1981), Mészáros *et al.* (1983), Jirouš (1985), Justine (1989), Mascato *et al.* (1993), Afonso-Roque (1995), Asakawa and Tenora (1996), Casanova *et al.* (1996), Milazzo *et al.* (2003b), Fuentes *et al.* (2004, 2010), Pisanu *et al.* (2007, 2009), Ondříková *et al.* (2010), Salvador *et al.* (2011), Kirillova (2011, 2012), Romeo *et al.* (2012, 2014), Debenedetti *et al.* (2014, 2015), López González (2014),

Meshkekar *et al.* (2014), Čabrilo *et al.* (2016, 2018), Martínez-Rondán *et al.* (2017), Galán-Puchades *et al.* (2018), Mazhari *et al.* (2019), Islam *et al.* (2024). Points either represent records from specific localities or central points for a general area, depending on the precision given in the respective publications.

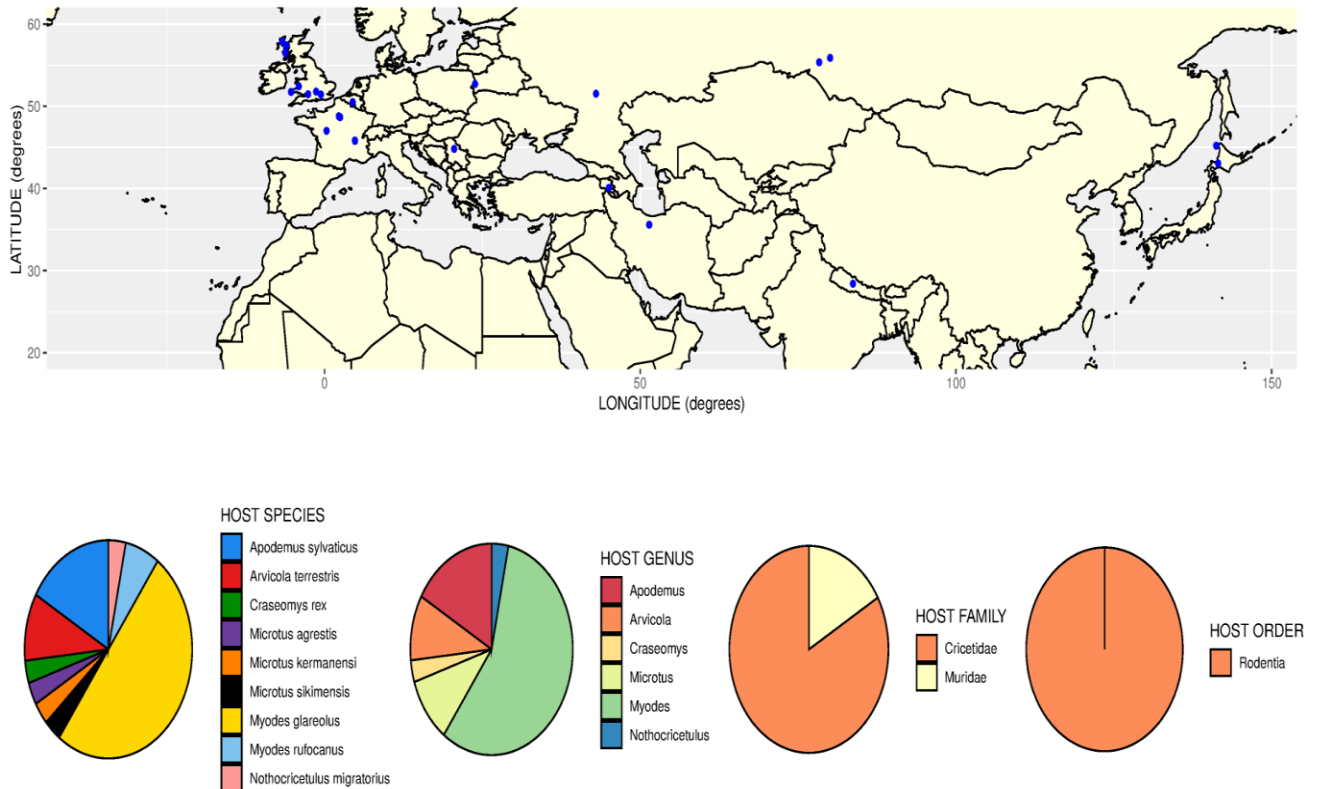


Figure 2. Geographical and host distribution of *Aonchotheca halli* (Kalantarian, 1924). Top panel shows locations of records of “*A. murissylvatici*” where these were from the stomach, or where there was a definite morphological identification. Bottom panels show pie charts representing the proportional frequency of records of *A. halli* at different host taxonomic levels. Based on 30 records drawn from publications cited in the main text or Fig. 1 and also Asakawa *et al.* (1983, 1992, 1997).

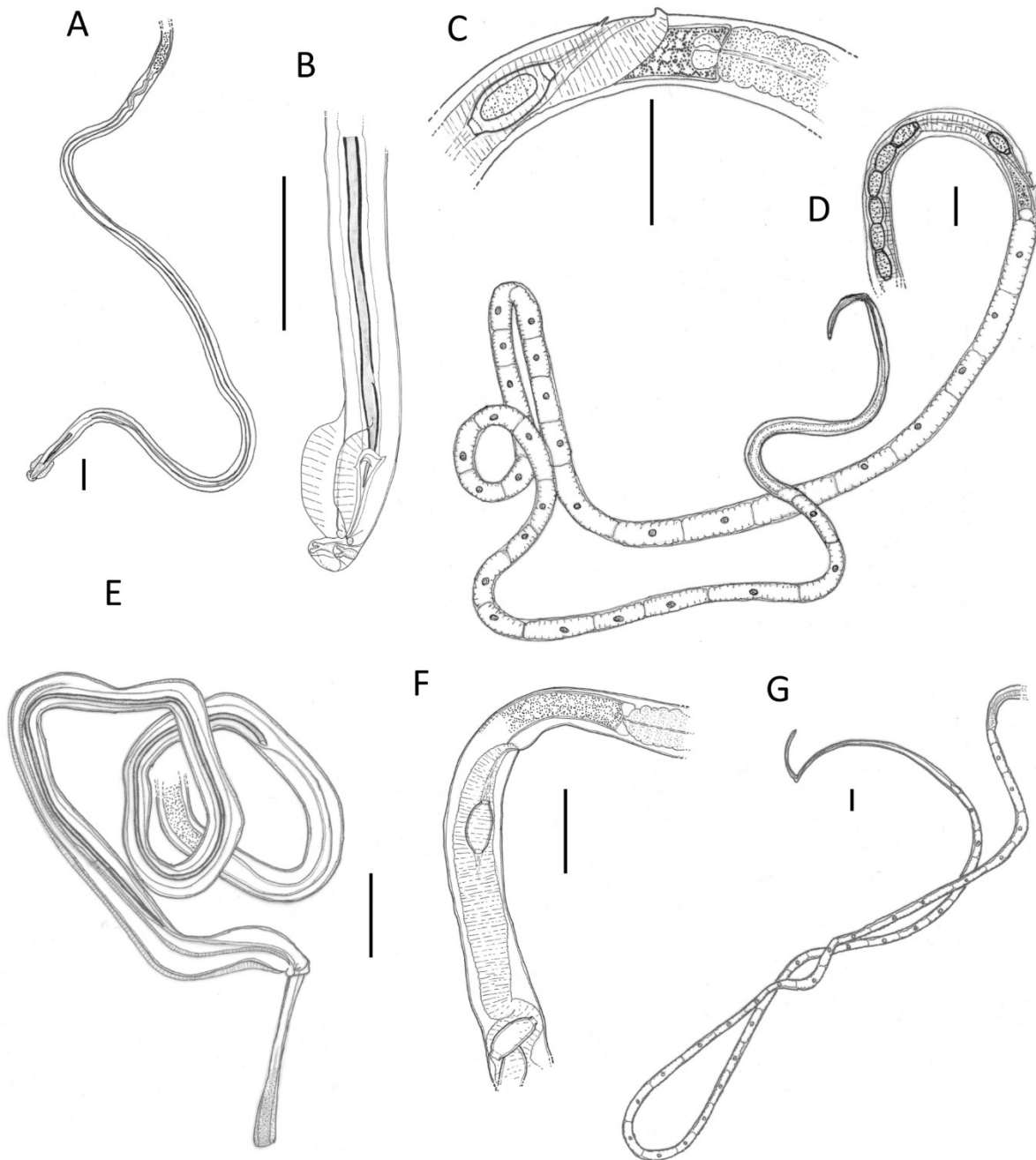


Figure 3. Diagnostic features in *Aonchotheca halli* (Kalantarian, 1924) (A-D) and *Aonchotheca annulosa* (Dujardin, 1845) (E-G). Scale bars indicate 0.1 mm. A, posterior region of male worm. B, posterior extremity of male worm with spicule in lateral view. C, terminal region of female reproductive tract. D, anterior region of female worm. E, posterior region of male worm, with partly evaginated spicule sheath, in sublateral view. F, terminal region of female reproductive tract. G, anterior region of female worm. A-D are based on specimens

from the stomach of bank voles in Cornwall, U.K.; E-G are based on specimens from the intestine of wood mice (*Apodemus sylvaticus*) in Nottinghamshire, U.K.

Accepted Manuscript

Table 1. Chronological list of papers reporting *Aonchotheca murissylvatici*. For each publication, we give the name of the parasite as stated in that paper. Note, that this is not intended to be a comprehensive list of all papers, but the majority of studies undertaken in the British Isles are covered, and representative/key studies from abroad have also been included. We have not included all recent studies where no information was given on the criteria for species assignment nor on the gastrointestinal site from which the worms were recovered. Initially, the species was recorded as *Trichosomum muris sylvatici* by Diesing (1851). It was then moved to the genus *Capillaria* Zeder, 1800 by Travassos (1915), and subsequently to a new genus, *Aonchotheca*, by López-Neyra in 1947, although as is evident below, for over 60 further years many authors continued to refer to *Capillaria murissylvatici*. The hosts reported below are: *Apodemus sylvaticus*, *Apodemus uralensis*, *Rattus norvegicus*, *Cricetulus migratorius* (syn. *Cricetulus accedula*), *Microtus arvalis*, *Microtus pennsylvanicus* and *Myodes glareolus*. *Clethrionomys* is taken to be a junior synonym of *Myodes*.

| Author | Date | Prevalence and Host | and Location | <i>Aonchotheca</i> sp.* | Intestinal site |
|-----------------------|------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Diesing not stated | 1851 | <i>A.sylvaticus</i> | not stated | <i>Trichosomum muris sylvatici</i> | intestine |

This is an Open Access article, distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives licence (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>), which permits non-commercial re-use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is unaltered and is properly cited. The written permission of Cambridge University Press must be obtained for commercial re-use or in order to create a derivative work.

| | | | | | | |
|---|------|--|-------------|---|-----------------|-----|
| Travassos not stated (Review) | 1915 | <i>A.sylvaticus</i> | not stated | <i>Capillaria muris-sylvatici</i> | not stated | |
| Baylis stated not stated | 1928 | <i>A.sylvaticus</i> | Oxfordshire | <i>Capillaria? muris-sylvatici</i> | not stated | not |
| | | <i>M.glareolus</i> | Oxfordshire | <i>Capillaria? muris-sylvatici</i> | not stated | |
| Elton et al. and low 0.1% and low rare and low | 1931 | <i>A.sylvaticus</i> | Oxfordshire | <i>Capillaria? muris-sylvatici</i> | small intestine | 4% |
| | | <i>A.sylvaticus</i> | Oxfordshire | <i>Capillaria? Hepaticola sp.indet.</i> | stomach | |
| | | <i>M.glareolus</i> | Oxfordshire | <i>Capillaria? muris-sylvatici</i> | small intestine | |
| Teixeira De Freitas & Lent 1936 not stated (Review) | | <i>A. sylvaticus</i> <i>C. migratorius</i> <i>M. glareolus</i> | Europe | <i>Capillaria muris-sylvatici</i> | intestine | |
| Baylis not stated | 1939 | <i>A.sylvaticus</i> | Westmorland | <i>Capillaria? muris-sylvatici</i> | not stated | |
| Read not stated | 1949 | <i>M. p. pennsylvanicus</i> | USA | <i>Capillaria muris-sylvatici</i> | small intestine | |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|------|-----------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Roman | 1939 | <i>M. glareolus</i> | France | <i>Capillaria muris-sylvatici</i> | stomach |
| not stated | | | | | |
| Sołtys | 1949 | <i>A. flavicollis</i> | Poland | <i>Capillaria muris-sylvatici</i> | small intestine |
| not stated | | | | | |
| | | <i>M. glareolus</i> | Poland | | |
| Roman | 1951 | <i>M. glareolus</i> | France | <i>Capillaria muris-sylvatici</i> | stomach |
| not stated | | | | | |
| Thomas | 1953 | <i>A. sylvaticus</i> | Scotland | <i>Capillaria muris-sylvatici</i> | stomach |
| 37.8% and low | | | | | |
| 64.3% and high | | <i>M. glareolus</i> | Scotland | <i>Capillaria muris-sylvatici</i> | stomach |
| James | 1954 | <i>A. sylvaticus</i> | W. Wales | <i>Capillaria muris-sylvatici</i> | not stated |
| not stated | | | | | |
| not stated | | <i>M. glareolus</i> | W. Wales | <i>Capillaria muris-sylvatici</i> | not stated |
| Erhardová & Ryšavý | 1955 | <i>Apodemus spp.</i> | | | |
| not stated and 1-22 | | <i>Microtus spp.</i> | Slovakia | <i>Capillaria murissylvatici</i> | small intestine |
| | | <i>Myodes spp.</i> | | | |
| Tenora & Baruš | 1955 | <i>A. flavicollis</i> | Czechia | <i>Capillaria muris-sylvatici</i> | small intestine |
| 2.1% and 0-36 | | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---------|--|-----------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------|
| Sharp low and rare | 1964 | <i>A. sylvaticus</i> | Bristol | <i>Capillaria muris-sylvatici</i> | not stated | |
| Tenora & Zavadil 1967 (Review) not stated | | <i>Apodemus spp.</i> <i>Microtus spp.</i> <i>Myodes spp.</i> <i>Rattus spp.</i> | | <i>Capillaria murissylvatici</i> | small intestine | |
| Lewis and 1-5 | 1968a | <i>A. sylvaticus</i> | W. Wales | <i>Capillaria muris sylvatici</i> | small & large intestine | 1.4 % |
| Lewis 14.9% and 4-187 | 1968b | <i>M. glareolus</i> | W. Wales | <i>Capillaria muris sylvatici</i> | stomach & small intestine | |
| Kisielewska and 1.0 -12.9 | 1970a,b | <i>M. glareolus</i> | E. Poland | <i>Capillaria muris sylvatici</i> | stomach | 17.1-32.2% |
| Kisielewska 32.2% and 1.0 -12.9 | 1983 | <i>M. glareolus</i> | E. Poland | <i>Capillaria muris sylvatici</i> | stomach | 17.1- |
| Lewis & Twigg 69.3% and 1-96** | 1972 | <i>M. glareolus</i> | Surrey | <i>Capillaria muris sylvatici</i> | stomach & small intestine | |
| Canning et al. common | 1973 | <i>M. glareolus</i> | S. Devon | <i>Capillaria muris sylvatici</i> | intestine | |
| common | | <i>A. sylvaticus</i> | S. Devon | <i>Capillaria muris sylvatici</i> | intestine | |

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------|---|-------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|
| Tenora & Zejda stated | 1974 | <i>M. glareolus</i> | Czechoslovakia | <i>Capillaria muris-sylvatici</i> | small intestine | not |
| Murúa 92% and 189.1 | 1978 | <i>M. glareolus</i> | Bristol | <i>Capillaria muris-sylvatici</i> | stomach | |
| 5% and 0.25 | | <i>A. sylvaticus</i> | Bristol | <i>Capillaria</i> spp. | small intestine | |
| Langley & Fairley and 0-113 | 1982 | <i>A. sylvaticus</i> | W Ireland | <i>Capillaria muris sylvatici</i> | small intestine | 10% |
| O'Sullivan et al. 32% and 0-96 | 1984 | <i>M. glareolus</i> | SW Ireland | <i>Capillaria muris-sylvatici</i> | small intestine | |
| 12% and 0-7 | | <i>A. sylvaticus</i> | SW Ireland | <i>Capillaria muris-sylvatici</i> | small intestine | |
| Montgomery et al. 5.8 | 1988 | <i>A. sylvaticus</i> | N. Ireland | <i>Capillaria murissylvatici</i> | small intestine ³ | 0-75% and |
| Montgomery et al. 5.8 | 1990 | <i>A. sylvaticus</i> | N. Ireland | <i>Capillaria murissylvatici</i> | small intestine ³ | 0-75% and |
| Feliu et al not stated | 1997 | <i>A. sylvaticus</i> <i>M. glareolus</i> <i>R. norvegicus</i> | Spain Spain Spain | <i>Aonchotheca muris-sylvatici</i> | not stated | |
| Tenora et al. 2.0% | 1977 | <i>A. sylvaticus</i> | Norway | <i>Capillaria muris-sylvatici</i> | small intestine | |
| Behnke et al. 8.2% and 0-18 | 1999 | <i>A. sylvaticus</i> | Surrey | <i>Capillaria murissylvatici</i> | not stated | |

| | | | | | |
|--|--|----------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Abu-Madi et al. 2000 and 0-8 | <i>A. sylvaticus</i> | Sussex | <i>Capillaria murissylvatici</i> | small intestine ³ | 2.5% |
| Moravec (Review) 2000 not stated | <i>Apodemus spp.</i> <i>Microtus spp.</i> <i>Myodes spp.</i> | | <i>Capillaria murissylvatici</i> | small intestine rarely in stomach | |
| Milazzo et al. 2005 1.9% and 1-24 | <i>A. sylvaticus</i> | Italy | <i>Aonchotheca muris-sylvatici</i> | intestine (not stomach) | |
| Klimpel et al. 2007 51.7% and 2-204 | <i>M. glareolus</i> | Germany | <i>Aonchotheca murissylvatici</i> | digestive tract | |
| Bjelić-Čabrilo et al 2009 and 1-13 | <i>M. glareolus</i> | Serbia | <i>Capillaria murissylvatici</i> | small intestine | 25% |
| Ribas et al. 2009 1.1% and 1-2 | <i>M. glareolus</i> | Spain | <i>Aonchotheca muris-sylvatici</i> | not stated | |
| Bjelić-Čabrilo et al. 2011 and 1-271 | <i>M. glareolus</i> | Serbia | <i>Capillaria murissylvatici</i> | small intestine | 16.4% |
| Knowles et al. 2013 1.7% and not given | <i>A. sylvaticus</i> | Cheshire | <i>Aonchotheca murissylvatici</i> | not stated | |
| Bjelić-Čabrilo et al. 2013 and 0.05 | <i>A. sylvaticus</i> | Serbia | <i>Capillaria murissylvatici</i> | intestine | 2.27% |
| Loxton et al. 2016 and 33.1 | <i>M. glareolus</i> | Ireland | <i>Aonchotheca murissylvatici</i> | small intestine ³ | 28.2% |

| | | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 15.8% and 10.2 | <i>A. sylvaticus</i> | Ireland | <i>Aonchotheca murissylvatici</i> | small intestine ³ |
| Loxton et al. 2017 9.77 and 0.2/1.6 | <i>A. sylvaticus</i> | Ireland | <i>Aonchotheca murissylvatici</i> | small intestine |
| Movsesyan et al. 2018 (Review) not stated | <i>A. uralensis</i> <i>C. migratorius</i> <i>M. musculus</i> <i>M. arvalis</i> | Armenia Armenia Armenia | <i>Aonchotheca murissylvatici</i> | small intestine |
| Stuart et al. 2020 19.3 % and 2.9 13.7 % and 1.9 | <i>M. glareolus</i> <i>A. sylvaticus</i> | Ireland Ireland | <i>Aonchotheca murissylvatici</i> <i>Aonchotheca murissylvatici</i> | large intestine large intestine |
| Behnke et al. 2021 6.4 % and 0.34 | <i>A. sylvaticus</i> | Yorkshire | <i>Aonchotheca murissylvatici</i> | not stated |
| Miljević et al. 2022 9.5 and 3.3 | <i>M. glareolus</i> | Serbia | <i>Aonchotheca murissylvatici</i> | stomach ^{***} |
| Lewis et al. 2023 0.2 % and <0.01 | <i>A. sylvaticus</i> | S. England | <i>Aonchotheca murissylvatici</i> | not stated |

* the original version of the name as in publication

** not stated whether the high frequency and intensity were for worms in the stomach or small intestine. Sympatric wood mice were not infected.

***. In these studies the intestinal site is not given in the paper but has been confirmed by correspondence with the authors.

Table 2. A dichotomous key for the identification of *Aonchotheca* species in European rodents. Note: not included in the key, in wider Eurasia other records include the poorly known *A. armeniaca*, which has a spicule c. 1.1 mm in length and infects the small intestine of *Citellus* spp. and *A. yannickchavali* which infects the stomach of *Bandicota* spp. in Thailand and is distinguished by a very large tube-like projection associated with the vulva (see Veciana *et al.*, 2016). Measurements are given in mm.

| Parent node | Dichotomy | Child node |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Capillariids from European rodents | Spicule sheath spiny (see Moravec, 1982) | 2 |
| | Spicule sheath non-spiny and well-developed bursa | 3 |
| 2. <i>Eucoleus</i> spp. Predominantly infecting the stomach. | Spicule length < 1.1 | <i>Eucoleus bacillatus</i> |
| | Spicule length > 1.1 | <i>Eucoleus gastricus</i> |
| 3. <i>Aonchotheca</i> -like species spp. | Bursa containing simple pedunculate papillae | 4 |
| | Bursa supported by a complex of digitiform rays | <i>Tenoranema alcoveri</i> Only recorded in the small intestine of glirids. Genus-level characters require clarification. |
| 4. <i>Aonchotheca</i> spp. | Spicule short < 0.350 | 5 |
| | Spicule long > 0.9 | <i>Aonchotheca annulosa</i> Infecting the small intestine. |
| 5. Short-spicule <i>Aonchotheca</i> spp. species | Spicule length < 0.260 | <i>Aonchotheca halli</i> Predominantly infecting the stomach. |
| | Spicule length > 0.260 | 6 |
| 6. Short-spicule <i>Aonchotheca</i> spp. with spicule > 0.260 | Two pairs of bursal papillae | <i>Aonchotheca legerae</i> Only recorded in the small intestine of glirids. |

This is an Open Access article, distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives licence (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>), which permits non-commercial re-use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is unaltered and is properly cited. The written permission of Cambridge University Press must be obtained for commercial re-use or in order to create a derivative work.

One pair of bursal papillae

*Aonchotheca
myoxinitelae*

Amongst rodents,
only recorded in the
small intestine of
glirids.

Accepted Manuscript