

Summary of the DVM thesis No ?, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Urmia University.

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Title of thesis: Investigation on infection of alimentary tract parasites in gulls

Summary: Gulls are water birds with a wide distribution worldwide and habitats very close to the human environment. Due to being a migrant and omnivorous diet of these birds, they have the ability to contract and transmit many diseases all over the world. This research aimed to investigate the parasitic fauna of the black-headed gulls (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) for the first time in Iran to show the importance of the transmission of common diseases between different species of animals and zoonoses by these migratory birds.

Sampling was conducted during the winters of 2022 and 2023 in the urban areas of Tehran, Iran and west Azarbiejan. A total number of 200 stool samples were collected and stored in 2.5% potassium dichromate and 4°C. The samples were examined by flotation, direct slide from the sample, staining with Modified Ziehl-Neelsen to identify *Cryptosporidium* spp. and acetic alum carmine staining to identify cestodes. In this survey, 11 species of parasites found were identified by the morphological evaluation. In total, four species of trematodes including *Cryptocotyle* spp. (2%), *Echinoparyphium recurvatum* (2%), *Echinostoma revolutum* (4.5%), and *Opisthorchis* spp. (1.5%), three species of cestodes such as *Diphyllobothrium dendriticum* (2.5%), *Wardium* spp. (0.5%) and Cestode spp. (1%), three species of nematodes include *Capillaria carbonis* (3.5%), *Eucoleus contortus* (27%) and *Tetrameres* spp. (2%) moreover one type of *Eimeria* spp. (8%) as protozoa were identified. Six species of these helminths were reported for the first time in Iran. The four species were also found for the first time in the black-headed gull. *Opisthorchis* spp. is identified for the first time in gulls and the second report of this parasite in birds.

Key words: Gastrointestinal parasites, gull, zoonosis