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BRIEF COMMUNICATION

INCIDENCE OF HELMINTH PARASITES IN SHREW MOLES

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Two species of shrew moles are endemic to Japan: the Japanese shrew mole, *Urotrichus talpoides* TEMMINCK, and the furry snouted shrew mole, *Dymecodon*

TABLE 1 *Incidence of helminths in shrew moles*
(No. positive/examined)

HELMINTH & HABITAT	HOST & LOCALITY		
	<i>D. pili-rostris</i>	<i>U. talpoides</i>	
	Mt. Fuji ¹⁾	Nikko ²⁾	Mt. Fuji ³⁾
Nematoda			
<i>Thominx urotrichi</i> OHBAYASHI, MASEGI & KUBOTA, 1972 Mouth and esophagus	3/4	4/8	7/9
<i>Capillaria himizu</i> OHBAYASHI, MASEGI & KUBOTA, 1972 Urinary bladder	0/4	1/8	1/13
<i>Angiostrongylus minutes</i> OHBAYASHI, MASEGI & KUBOTA, 1973 Lungs	2/4	1/1	12/13
<i>Spirura nipponensis</i> OHBAYASHI, MASEGI & KUBOTA, 1972 Stomach	3/4	0/8	4/13
<i>Rhabditis</i> sp. Stomach	0/4	1/8	0/13
Rhabditoidea gen. sp. (larva) Nasal cavity and lungs	3/4	0/1	3/13
<i>Toxocara canis</i> (WERNER, 1782) (larva) Viscera	0/4	0/8	1/13
<i>Porrocaecum</i> sp. (larva) Lymphnodes	0/4	1/8	0/13
Acanthocephala			
<i>Centrorhynchus elongatum</i> YAMAGUTI, 1935 (juvenile) Mesentery and greater omentum	1/4	0/8	0/13
Trematoda			
<i>Ectosiphonus</i> sp. Small intestine	0/4	0/8	1/13
Cestoda			
<i>Hymenolepis</i> sp. Small intestine	0/4	2/8	1/13
Date captured: 1) Oct. 27, 1972 2) Oct. 22 & 23, 1970 3) Sept. 9~Nov. 16, 1971, & Oct. 25~28, 1972			

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pilirostris TRUE. From *U. talpoides*, YAMAGUTI (1954) described a new trematode, *Brachylaima tokudai*, and OHBAYASHI et al. (1972 & 1973) reported ten helminth species including four new ones (tab. 1). On the other hand, CHABAUD et al. (1963) found *Strongyloides* sp. from *D. pilirostris*.

Recently, the author had a chance to examine parasites of *D. pilirostris*. The study was based on four animals made available by the courtesy of Dr. Toshiaki MASEGI, Anatomical Section, Institute of Stomatognathic Science, Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Tokyo. From these cases, four nematode and one acanthocephalan species were collected, and the incidence was compared with that of *U. talpoides* (tab. 1). The data concerning *U. talpoides* were obtained from the materials used in the serial studies by OHBAYASHI et al. above noted.

As shown in the table, a considerably high incidence of helminths was obtained in three nematodes, *Thominox urotrichi*, *Angiostrongylus minutus* and *Spirura nipponensis*, and it can be concluded that the helminth faunae of the two host animals are quite similar to each other. The juvenile form of *Centrorhynchus elongatum* is the first record from the shrew moles in Japan, but it can be commonly found soricine hosts in this country. MACHIDA and FUJIMAKI (1965) detected it in a specimen of *Sorex unguiculatus* DOBSON in Hokkaido. On the other hand, the author could find this form in all 4 *Sorex shinto* THOMAS and 6 *S. unguiculatus* collected in the suburbs of Sapporo during a period from February to May, 1973 (data unpublished).

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