The protozoan parasites of *Vipera berus* from Southern Poland – a preliminary study

Jerzy Kowal, Andrzej Wycisk, Anna Wyrobisz, Paweł Nosal

Department of Environmental Zoology, Institute of Animal Sciences, University of Agriculture in Krakow, al. Mickiewicza 24/28, 30-059 Krakow, Poland

Corresponding Author: Jerzy Kowal; e-mail: j.kowal@ur.krakow.pl

Parasites of common snakes from Poland territory are still partly recognized due to lack of data related to the occurrence of protozoa. The aim of the study was to identify coccidian infection in *Vipera berus* by means of coproscopy. Twenty faecal samples were collected in the field from captured snakes living in the vicinity of Krakow. The Willis-Schlaff simple flotation method supported by oocyst sporulation in 2% potassium dichromate for species recognition was used. Coccidia were found in 14 samples. Two species of coccidia were found: *Caryospora simplex* (in six samples) and *Cyclospora babaulti* (12). This is the first report of protozoan infection in *Vipera berus* from Poland territory.

This research was financed by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Poland.