

Parasite infection of elks in natural areas of Central region of Russia

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Losiny Ostrov National Park, with its area of 12881 ha, is situated in the north-east of Moscow. Its territory is divided into forest-parks, namely Mytishchinsky, Losino-pogonny, Shchelkovsky, Alekseevsky, Losinoostrovsky and Yauzsky forest-parks. The total number of elks is from 45 to 50 specimens.

The Kostroma region can boast a unique and single Russian elk farm situated on the territory of Sumarokovsky wildlife preserve of the Kologriv forest, near Sumarokovo village, 27 km away from Kostroma. The reserve has up to 40 elks, 12 of them make up the milking herd.

Both the LosinyOstrov and Kostromskaya Elk Farm belong to the Russian natural areas of preferential protection.



METHODS:

Conventional methods parasitological studies of animals (life and death).

RESULTS:

Carrying out long-term observations for the state of the ecosystems in general and their single components in natural areas of preferential protection is the main direction of research. Besides, routine observations can help to determine changes in ecosystems at an early stage, when their negative consequences can still be prevented.

Found that that adult animals may be infected less seriously than youngsters, they are an important source of spreading invasion and promote epizootia.

CONCLUSION:

Summing up the research results, it should be noted that the elks in the LosinyOstrov national Park and Kostromskaya Elk Farm are infested with various parasite species in the form of polyinvasion, and common for them are *Dicrocoelium lanceatum*; *Moniezia benedeni*; *Dictyocaulus filaria*; *Strongyloides papillosus*; *Eimeria bovis* and *E. ellipsoidal*. In the helminth fauna of elks nematodes predominate. The infection in elks reached: nematodes – 100%, trematodes – 40% and cestodes – 16%. The infection with lungs nematodes made 46,5% (*Varestrongylus capriole* – 35%, *Dictyocaulus filaria* – 11,5%). Protostrongylidae larvae were found in 4 mollusc species: *Bradybaena fruticum*; *Cochlicopa lubrica*; *Succinea putris*; *Zonitoides nitidus*.