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Author: Muza Kirjušina Eduards Bakasejevs Patrizio Pezzotti

Edoardo Pozio

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Trichinella britovi biomass in naturally infected pine martens (Martes martes) of Latvia

Muza Kirjušina<sup>1</sup>, Eduards Bakasejevs<sup>1</sup>, Patrizio Pezzotti<sup>2</sup>, Edoardo Pozio<sup>2\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Institute of Live Science and Technology, Daugavpils University, Daugavpils, Latvia;

<sup>2</sup>Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, Italy

\*Corresponding author. Tel.: +39 06 4990 2304; Fax +39 06 4990 3561.

Email address: edoardo.pozio@iss.it (E. Pozio)

Highlights

• Estimation of *Trichinella* larva biomass in a naturally infected host population

The number of larvae per gram of a muscle is representative of the total biomass

Total larval burden and larvae/g coefficients were established for the pine marten

**Abstract** 

Parasites of the genus Trichinella are cosmopolitan nematodes infecting primarily wild

animals, which represent the main reservoirs of these zoonotic pathogens. To investigate the

transmission patterns of *Trichinella* spp. from wild to domestic animals and to humans and for the

risk assessment of these parasites in a geographical area, it is important to know the number of

possible transmission events deriving from carcasses of infected hosts. For this purpose, the

evaluation of the larval biomass in reservoir hosts is needed. No data is available on how to estimate

the biomass of *Trichinella* spp. larvae in muscles of naturally infected animals. The aim of this

study was to evaluate the larval biomass in naturally infected pine martens (Martes martes) of

Latvia, in which the prevalence of *Trichinella britovi* infection was over 50%. Single muscles or

group of muscles (abdomen, back, diaphragm, intercostal muscles, muscles from the head, left and

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