

# Trematoda *Metorchis Bilis* (Braun 1790) as the Remaining Problem of Sanitation in the Regions of the North Caucasus

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## ABSTRACT

In the last decade in the North Caucasus region, the number of street dogs and wild carnivores increased 3-5 times, which led to an increase in soil contamination with eggs *Metorchis bilis* (Braun 1790). In particular, the number of samples soil and feces with the presence of trematode eggs of the *Metorchis bilis* (Braun 1790) species in the watering places of animals increased to 95.71%, in the soil of pasture territories increased to 97.81%, in the soil of vegetable gardens increased to 95.00%, in the soil of the coastal areas of the rivers up to 93.22- 100%, which indicates a high level of pollution of the infrastructure areas of Kabardino-Balkaria with ) eggs *Metorchis bilis* (Braun 1790) the current sanitary condition of the flat areas of Kabardino-Balkaria, when of the soil is polluted with eggs *Metorchis bilis* (Braun 1790), requires urgent measures to reduce the number of patients with metorchosis dogs by organizing deworming of the entire population of carnivores 4 times a year (in spring, summer, autumn and winter ) with the use of drugs based on praziquantel, albendazole, triclabendazole and fenbendazole and other highly effective drugs.

## Introduction

Metorchosis carnivores, caused by the trematode of the species *Metorchis bilis* (Braun 1790), of wild canids in the Russian Federation belong to almost forgotten invasions, since the 1980s there have been few works on the problems of the epidemiology of this invasion [1-7]. Over the past 20 years, the incidence of metorchosis of dogs and wild canines has increased by 6-10 times [6-10]. The invasion of the larval metorchosis in animals (pig, wild boar) became enzootic for the regions of the North Caucasus. The epizootic situation on metorchosis is dynamically complicated by the formation of regional foci of invasion, especially in dogs in rural areas with inland water bodies [11-16]. Currently, in 10 species of animals, metorchosis has a high prevalence rate [17-20]. In the regions of the North Caucasus, the infection by canids with

trematodes of the species *Metorchis bilis* (Braun 1790) is 15-27% [21-35]. In Russia, the species *Metorchis xanthosomus* is often found in predatory animals in the Ob-Irtysh basin of the Russian Federation with an EI of 19-35% [1-35].

## Materials and Methods

The work was carried out on the basis of the laboratory of parasitology of the Caspian Zonal Veterinary Research Institute in 2015-2018. For this, more than 1,500 soil samples were taken, samples of feces dogs for identifying trematode *Metorchis bilis* (Braun 1790) from different places in the lowland zone (Tersky, Maysky, Prokhladnensky areas). The experiments were carried out using modern methods MUK "Methods of sanitary-parasitological studies." Data subjected to statistical processing of the program "Biometrics".

## Results

The sanitary and hygienic state of the soils of the flat zone (Tersky, Maysky, Prokhladnensky districts) is poorly studied due in terms of their contamination with eggs of *Metorchis bilis*. Studies of soil samples and feces of dogs in the context of areas for contamination with eggs of *Metorchis bilis* are presented in Table 1. It can be seen in the flat zone 31,40-45,20% of soil and feces samples of dogs are contaminated with eggs of *Metorchis bilis* (an average of  $10,90 \pm 0,70$  specimens per g soil and feces) (Table 1).

**Table 1:** Sanitary and hygienic condition of soils in the flat zone of Kabardino-Balkaria due to their contamination with eggs of *Metorchis bilis* (Braun 1790).

Study area	% contaminated samples soil and feces	% contaminated samples soil and feces	% contaminated samples soil and feces	Number of eggs species <i>Metorchis bilis</i> in 1 g samples soil and feces, ekzemplyar
of Tersky	500	157	31,40	7,8±0,5
of Maysky	500	193	38,60	8,6±0,7
of Prokhladnensky	500	226	45,20	10,3±0,9
Total:	1500	576	-	-
Average:	-	-	38,40	10,90±0,70

Relatively more eggs of *Metorchis bilis* (Braun 1790) were found in the soils of the Prokhladnensky district (38.40% of soil samples), which is associated with a high density of dogs and wild carnivorous animals infected with metorchosis, and the formation of a large number of biotopes of intermediate hosts in the near-lake reservoirs (rivers, lakes, fish ponds). In addition, about 90% of the dogs in the villages of the Tersky, Maysky and Prokhladnensky districts do not degelminate and they worsen the epizootic situation on metorchosis caused by trematodes *Metorchis bilis* (Tables 1-3).

**Table 2:** Dynamics of soil and feces contamination in the flat zone by eggs of the species *Metorchis bilis* (Braun 1790) (according to coproovoscopy).

Year	Investigated soil and feces samples, ekzemplyar	Discovered soil and feces samples with eggs species <i>Metorchis bilis</i> (Braun 1790), ekzemplyar	% contaminated samples soil and feces	Amount eggs species <i>Metorchis bilis</i> (Braun 1790) in 1 g samples soil and feces, ekzemplyar
2015	100	28	28,0	8,4±0,4
2016	100	34	34,0	9,6±0,6
2017	100	42	42,0	11,9±0,8
2018	100	49	49,0	13,7±1,0
Total:	400	153	-	-
Average:	-	-	38,30	10,90±0,70

**Table 3:** Dynamics of contamination of soil and feces of dogs on pastures of the flat zone with eggs of the species *Metorchis bilis* (according to coproovoscopy data).

Year	Investigated soil and feces samples, ekzemplyar	Discovered soil and feces samples with eggs species <i>Metorchis bilis</i> (Braun 1790), ekzemplyar	% contaminated samples soil and feces	Amount eggs species <i>Metorchis bilis</i> (Braun 1790) in 1 g samples soil and feces, ekzemplyar
2015	100	37	37,0	11,3±0,7
2016	100	48	48,0	12,5±0,9
2017	100	60	60,0	14,8±1,1
2018	100	82	82,0	17,6±1,3
Total:	400	227	-	-
Average:	-	-	56,75	13,80±1,00

When studying the dynamics of soil pollution in 2015–2018 the invasive elements of *Metorchis bilis* (Braun 1790) in the flat zone (Tersky, Maysky, Prokhladnensky districts) show a gradual increase in contamination of soil samples and feces of dogs from 28.0 to

49.0% (average 38.30%). The increase in the number of eggs of *Metorchis bilis* (Braun 1790) in 1 g of soil samples and feces from  $8.4 \pm 0.4$  ekz. up to  $13.7 \pm 1.0$  ekz. (on average  $10.90 \pm 0.70$  ekz. per 1 g of soil and feces) is associated with complete non-compliance with

the rules for keeping dogs in the local population, non-compliance with sanitary and hygienic norms, terms and frequency of deworming of carnivorous animals against metorchosis, approved by the Rosselkhoznadzor and the Veterinary Department of the Ministry Agriculture of the Russian Federation (Table 2).

The dynamics of contamination of pasture soils and of feces dogs with eggs *Metorchis bilis* (Braun 1790) in the lowland zone (Terek, Maysky, Prokhladnensky districts) was characterized by an increase in soil contamination and samples fecal from 37.0 to 82.0% (on average 56.75% ), with an increase in the number of eggs per 1 g of soil and feces from  $11.3 \pm 0.7$  to  $17.6 \pm 1.3$  ekz. (average value of  $13.80 \pm 1.00$  ekz. per 1 g of soil and feces), which indicates the

likely formation of persistent epizootically dangerous for dogs, wild carnivores' animals, pigs and wild boars of metorchosis invasion in the North Caucasus region (Table 3). In the last decade in the North Caucasus region, the number of street dogs and wild carnivores increased 3-5 times, which led to an increase in soil contamination with eggs *Metorchis bilis* (Braun 1790). In particular, the number of samples soil and feces with the presence of trematode eggs of the *Metorchis bilis* species in the watering places of animals increased to 95.71%, in the soil of pasture territories increased to 97.81%, in the soil of vegetable gardens increased to 95.00%, in the soil of the coastal areas of the rivers up to 93.22- 100%, which indicates a high level of pollution of the infrastructure areas of Kabardino-Balkaria with eggs *Metorchis bilis* (Braun 1790) (Table 4).

**Table 4:** Objects contaminated with eggs *Metorchis bilis* (Braun 1790) in the Kabardino-Balkarian Republic (according ovoscopy soil and feces).

Objects	Number of objects, units	Investigated samples soil and feces, units	Samples soil and feces with eggs species <i>Metorchis bilis</i> (Braun 1790), units	% contaminated samples soil and feces
Animal Watering Places	28	560	536	95,71
Pasture areas	16	320	313	97,81
Garden territories	32	640	608	95,00
Household territories	56	1120	1044	93,22
Riverside	14	280	280	100
Average:	-	-	56,75	13,80±1,00

## Discussion

The data obtained indicate a constant from year to year dynamic soil pollution in the flat zone in the territories of pastures, watering places for animals, in the coastal strip, and also in the territories of homeowners with eggs *Metorchis bilis* (Braun 1790), which is consistent with the data of A.V.Uspensky, S.Sh. Kabardiev, 2014., on the need for continuous monitoring of the problems of regional pathology of dangerous zoonoses in the Central Caucasus region and the sanitary status of the steppe of regions the of North Caucasus regarding contamination with trematode eggs *Metorchis bilis*.

## Conclusion

The current sanitary condition of the flat areas of Kabardino-Balkaria, when of the soil is polluted with *Metorchis bilis* (Braun 1790), requires urgent measures to reduce the number of patients with metorchosis dogs by organizing deworming of the entire population of carnivores 4 times a year (in spring, summer, autumn and winter ) with the use of drugs based on praziquantel, albendazole, triclabendazole and fenbendazole and other highly effective drugs.

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