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Preliminary analysis on gastrointestinal helminths parasitizing *Darevskia* spp. (Lacertidae) from North and Eastern Turkey

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Caucasian rock lizards genus *Darevskia* (Arribas, 1977) are small lacertids inhabiting saxicolous environments from Western Asia and Southeastern Europe. Unlike other lacertid genera, *Darevskia* includes both bisexual and parthenogenetic forms, which are now object of an integrated study to elucidate the patterns of reticular evolution and coexistence within this group. From the helminthological point of view, data available for the most are partial and scarce, mainly focused on taxonomy and faunistics. Recently, voucher contents of the gastrointestinal helminth fauna were available ten *Darevskia* species from Northern and Eastern Anatolia. Hosts were dissected, and their digestive tracts were sent to the Laboratory of Parasitology (University of Valencia) for analysis. Of all the hosts analysed, eight helminth species were found, one cestode, *Nematotaenia tarentolae* López-Neyra, 1944, and seven nematodes, *Skrjabinodon* sp., *Spauligodon saxicolae* Sharpilo, 1961, Pharyngodonidae gen sp1, Pharyngodonidae gen sp2, *Skrjabinelazia hoffmanni* Li, 1934, *Strongyloides* sp. and *Oswaldocruzia* sp. Both Pharyngodonidae (only females found) showed characteristics of the genera *Spauligodon* or *Skrjabinodon*. Values of global prevalence and mean intensity and abundance were low. Comparison with the deeply analyses previously conducted for the lacertids of Iberian Peninsula showed that *Darevskia* spp. are less infected by gastrointestinal helminths than *Podarcis* spp. Only *P. bocagei* (Seoane, 1884) and *P. carbonelli* Pérez-Mellado, 1981 from Northwestern (Portugal) displayed similarly low infection prevalences than searched *Darevskia* spp. As in *Podarcis* spp., Pharyngodonidae nematodes found in *Darevskia* spp. belong to the evolutionary lineage of carnivorous reptiles, in accordance to the carnivorous diet reported for *Darevskia* spp. From a geographical point of view, it seems that helminthfauna of species of this genus, is mainly composed by Eurasiatic species, together with oriental and endemic elements, and lacking of typical Mediterranean and north African helminth elements.

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