

Dermatoxys veligera

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Dermatoxys veligera infests wild lagomorphs throughout the USA, and is occasionally found in house rabbits, *D. vlakhaasi* parasites hares in South Africa, while *D. hispaniensis* is found in Spain. *Dermatoxys* sp does not represent a public health danger.

The biology and life cycle of *D. veligera* is not well known, but is probably direct. The eggs are oval (110 * 50 µm) and slightly flattened on one side. They embryonate when oviposited. The L₄ stage larvae are usually found attached by hooks to the mucosa of the cecum. The males (8 - 11 mm long) are characterized by a small spicule, while the females (16 mm long) have a vulva located in the cranial half of their body. The worms live free in the lumen of the cecum.

The clinical sign of *Dermatoxys* spp. infestation is typhlitis (inflammation of the cecum), due to the attachment of the L₄ stage larvae. No clinical signs are ascribed to the infection by adult worms. Their presence can be identified by fecal flotation for the presence of the eggs in the feces.

Treatment

Piperazine	piperazine adipate	200 mg/kg PO, repeated in 14 days
Macrolides	ivermectin	200-400 µg/kg, PO, SC

Further Information

1. J. Moomker, I.G. Horak, D.G. Booysse (1997) Parasites of South African Wildlife. XV. Helminths of Scrub Hares, *Lepus saxatilis* in the Kruger National Park. *Onderstepoort J. of Veterinary Res.* 64: 285-290.
2. R. Wetzel (1931) On the Biology of the Four-Stage Larva of *Dermatoxys veligera* (Rudolphi, 1819) Schneider 1866, an Oxyurid Parasitic in the Hare. *J. Parasitol.* 10: 40-43.

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