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Lung parasites of the genus *Metastrongylus* Molin, 1861 (Nematoda: Metastrongilidae) in wild boar (*Sus scrofa barbarus*) in Middle Atlas Region of Morocco: an epidemiological study

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ABSTRACT:

Although the helminth parasites of domestic hogs are well documented worldwide, no information is available about the digestive and pulmonary helminth infections of wild boar in Morocco. The lungs of 33 wild boars (*Sus scrofa barbarus*) (19 females and 14 males) from four area of El Hajeb province (Middle Atlas) hunted officially for wildlife damage control, from October 2014 to March 2015 were examined for lung nematodes. Twenty eight out of 33 wild boars, (84.4%) were positive for three species of *Metastrongylus* and their prevalence was as follows: *Metastrongylus pudendotectus* (84.4%), *Metastrongylus confusus* (72.7%) and *Metastrongylus salmi* (51.5%). In most cases, multi-species infection was observed. Prevalence and infection intensity were found greater in juvenile females less than 1 year old than in adults and males. Prevalence and intensity of infection were higher in wild boars collected from range lands and forest than in wild boars collected in the cultivate area. Further studies are needed to understand the factors structuring *Metastrongylidae* communities.

Keywords:

Parasite, helminth, *metastrongylus*, *sus scrofa*, Morocco.