

Capillaria hepatica IN A GROUNDHOG (Marmota monax)

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Capillaria hepatica IN A GROUNDHOG
(*Marmota monax*)

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This note describes a natural *C. hepatica* infection in a groundhog shot at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The only grossly observable lesions were in the liver. Thirteen, yellowish-white, slightly raised lesions approximately 2 to 4 mm in diameter and extending into the liver parenchyma approximately 4 mm,

were scattered over all lobes of the liver. Upon histological sectioning, the liver lesions revealed *C. hepatica* adults and their characteristic eggs trapped in the liver parenchyma (Fig. 1). Each adult was surrounded by macrophages, causing considerable damage to the hepatica parenchyma.

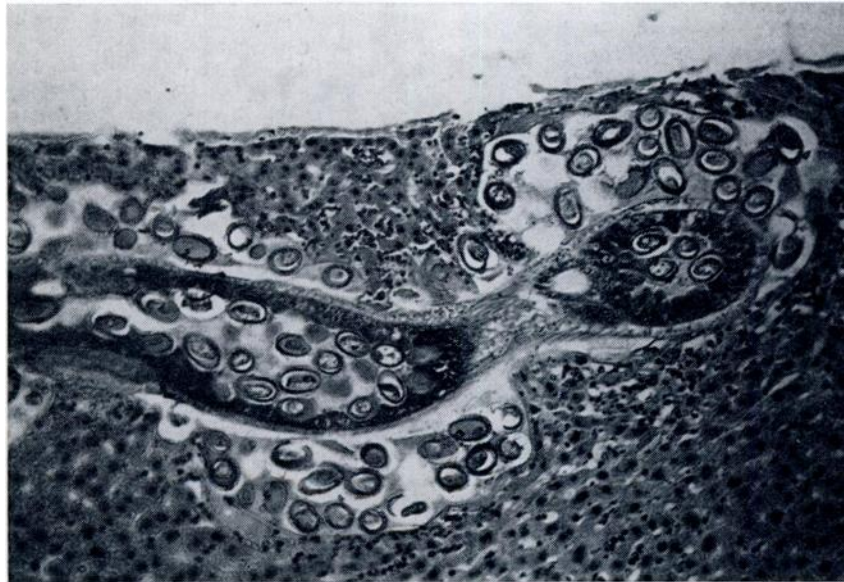


FIGURE 1. Section through a liver lesion containing *C. hepatica*. Notice the amount of tissue damage to the liver parenchyma surrounding the parasite. H & E stain; X 120.

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