HELMINTHS OF BLACK-TAILED JACK RABBITS IN NEW MEXICO 1

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To determine if hares were reservoir hosts for helminth parasites of cattle and sheep, 25 black-tailed jack rabbits, *Lepus californicus,* were collected in Lincoln and Chaves counties, New Mexico, and examined for parasites by standard parasitological procedures. The results of these examinations are summarized in the table below.

The only parasite collected that was common to the rabbits and domestic ruminants was *Trichostrongylus colubriformis* which I recovered from the small intestines of 20 of the 25 rabbits. No parasites were recovered from the stomachs, hearts, livers, kidneys, lungs, or spleens.

The small intestines from 10 of these rabbits were cut into small pieces and digested in artificial gastric juice as described by Herlich (1956, Proc. Helm. Soc. Wash. 23:102-103). The residue was examined for nematode larvae; no larvae were found.

Although no regular examination was made for ectoparasites, the ear tick, *Dermacentor parumapertus,* was recovered from the ears of some rabbits.

Dikmans (1937, Proc. Helm. Soc. Wash. 4:65-67) described *Nematodirus neomexicanus,* a nematode parasite, from the small intestine of *Lepus californicus texianus,* collected near Albuquerque, New Mexico. To my knowledge, this is the only report of parasites of rabbits in New Mexico.

TABLE 1. *Helminths of Black-Tailed Jack Rabbits.*

Helminths	Number infected	Location	Worms recovered
Nematodes:			
Trichostrongylus colubriformis	20	Small intestine	2 to 125
Nematodirus neomexicanus	22	Small intestine	1 to 241
Nematodirus sp. (larvae)	6	Small intestine	2 to 44
Dermatoxys veligera	15	Large intestine	1 to 13
Passalurus nonanulatus	12	Large intestine	1 to 9360
Micipsella brevicauda	1	Abdominal cavity	1
Cestodes:			
Raillietina retractilis	14	Small intestine	1 to 290
Mosgovoyia pectinata	4	Small intestine	1 to 3

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