

Geographic Distribution of Raccoon Roundworm, *Baylisascaris procyonis*, Germany and Luxembourg

Mike Heddergott, Peter Steinbach, Sabine Schwarz, Helena E. Anheyer-Behmenburg, Astrid Sutor, Annette Schliephake, Diana Jeschke, Michael Striese, Franz Müller, Elisabeth Meyer-Kayser, Michael Stubbe, Natalia Osten-Sacken, Susann Krüger, Wolfgang Gaede, Martin Runge, Lothar Hoffmann, Hermann Ansorge, Franz J. Conraths, Alain C. Frantz

Author affiliations: Musée National d'Histoire Naturelle, Luxembourg, Luxembourg (M. Heddergott, P. Steinbach, A.C. Frantz); Georg-August University, Göttingen, Germany (P. Steinbach); Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, Greifswald-Insel Riems, Germany (S. Schwarz, A. Sutor, F.J. Conraths); Lower Saxony State Office for Consumer Protection and Food Safety, Hannover, Germany (H.E. Anheyer-Behmenburg, M. Runge); State Office for Consumer Protection Saxony-Anhalt, Stendal, Germany (A. Schliephake, W. Gaede); Senckenberg Museum of Natural History Görlitz, Görlitz, Germany (D. Jeschke, M. Striese, H. Ansorge); Justus-Liebig-University Giessen, Giessen, Germany

(F. Müller); Thuringia Office for Consumer Protection, Bad Langensalza, Germany (E. Meyer-Kayser, L. Hoffmann); Martin-Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Halle/Saale, Germany (M. Stubbe); Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń, Poland (N. Osten-Sacken); Fondation Faune-Flore, Luxembourg (N. Osten-Sacken); German Hunting Association, Berlin, Germany (A. Sutor, S. Krüger); International Institute Zittau, Technische Universität Dresden, Zittau, Germany (H. Ansorge)

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Infestation with *Baylisascaris procyonis*, a gastrointestinal nematode of the raccoon, can cause fatal disease in humans. We found that the parasite is widespread in central Germany and can pose a public health risk. The spread of *B. procyonis* roundworms into nematode-free raccoon populations needs to be monitored.

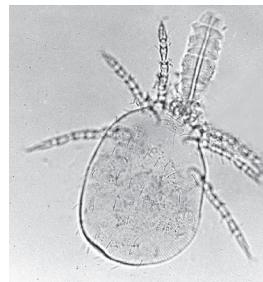
The raccoon roundworm (*Baylisascaris procyonis*) is a gastrointestinal parasitic nematode of the raccoon (*Procyon lotor*). It is common in its native range in North America, where its prevalence in raccoons can reach 82% (1). Through their feces, infested raccoons can shed millions of *B. procyonis* eggs, which may remain infective in the environment for years (2). Paratenic hosts can acquire the parasite when ingesting nematode eggs from raccoon latrines (3).

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Trombiculiasis [trom-bik"u-li'ə-sis]

Ronnie Henry

Infestation with mites of the family *Trombiculidae* (from the Greek *tromein*, "tremble," and Latin *culex*, "gnat") in their larval form (chiggers, from the Carib *chico*). A wide variety of livestock and wild animals, as well as humans, can become infested with chiggers. Trombiculid mites are vectors of *Orientia tsutsugamushi*, which causes scrub typhus. References to these mites appear as early as the sixth century in China. Linnaeus described the species *Trombicula batatas* in 1758.



Photograph of a parasitic mite of domestic animals. Wikimedia Commons, Alan R. Walker, 2014.

Sources

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Address for correspondence: Ronnie Henry, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Rd NE, Mailstop V18-2, Atlanta, GA 30329-4027, USA; email: boq3@cdc.gov