



Ss. CYRIL AND METHODIUS UNIVERSITY IN SKOPJE
FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE - SKOPJE

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

**“Days Of Veterinary Medicine”
10th International Scientific Meeting
and
2nd European Conference on
Veterinary and Medical Education 2024**

22-25 September 2024,
Republic of North Macedonia

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O34**INTESTINAL PARASITE DIVERSITY IN WILD AND DOMESTICATED TURTLES IN NORTH MACEDONIA: A BASELINE STUDY**

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This study investigates the intestinal parasite diversity in *Testudo hermanni* and *Testudo graeca* from the "Gazi Baba" Park in Skopje and a turtle farm in Prilep, North Macedonia. With the increasing popularity of exotic pets, there is a pressing need for research data to support small animal clinicians. In the period between April and May 2024 fecal samples from 13 turtles (12 from "Gazi Baba" Park and 1 domesticated from Prilep), were collected and analyzed using fecal flotation to determine the presence of parasites. The analysis revealed a diverse range of intestinal parasites in both species. *Angusticaecum holopterum* was found in 53.85% (7/13) of the samples, while *Giardia* spp. and *Oxyuris* spp. were detected in 92.3% (12/13), indicating a high prevalence in both wild and domesticated turtles. Additionally, *Trichuris* spp. and *Cystoisospora* spp. were present in 7.69% (1/13) of the samples, suggesting a lower, but still significant presence. The sample taken from the turtle farm tested positive for *Cystoisospora* spp, *Trichuris* spp., *Angusticaecum holopterum*, *Giardia* spp, and *Oxyuris* spp. These findings provide essential baseline data on the diversity of intestinal parasites in *Testudo hermanni* and *Testudo graeca* in North Macedonia, highlighting the potential for zoonotic transmission and raising public health concerns. The presence of these parasites may impact the health, conservation, and welfare of turtle populations. Future research with larger sample size and broader geographic coverage is recommended to gain further insights into the parasite diversity of these turtle species in North Macedonia.

Keywords: *Testudo hermanni*, *Testudo graeca*, parasites, zoonotic transmission, turtle health