

## Gastrointestinal Nematodes in Domestic Pigeons in Some Areas of Albania

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**Abstract.** The presence of nematodes in parasite burden and their identification among pigeons were the scope of work carried out in 6 cages where they were kept and for 44 post mortem examined samples during the period 2010-2012. Gastrointestinal nematodes were highly prevalent among pigeons (*Columbia livia domestica*) in Albania. All controlled cages were infested by them. *Ascaridia columbae* was frequent in all areas and the most harmful for the pigeons of our country. The average parasitic burden was 76 eggs per gram faeces, with significant variations at the values of 48-120 eggs per gram faeces. *Capillaria* spp. was ranked as the second nematode in terms of the distribution among pigeons. The burden for capillarids was 26 eggs per gram faeces, with variations of 12-36. The genus found according to the prevalence and parasite burden included *Ascaridia columbae*, *Capillaria* spp. *Ascaridia galli* and *Heterakis gallinarum* were present in a small number and in restricted values and areas.

**Key words:** *Columbia livia domestica*, Nematods, *Ascaridia columbae*, *Capillaria* spp. prevalence.

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