

MARKED DIFFERENCES IN THE NEMATODE FAUNA BETWEEN WILD AND ARMED RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGES (*Alectoris rufa*)

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Abstract

The introduction of new diseases and parasites has been claimed as one of the main problems associated with the introduction of exotic species (1). It has been proposed that an autochthonous pheasant-species can be displaced by an introduced one through parasite-mediated competition (3). However, there is a lack of research regarding the hazard of introducing autochthonous farm-reared individuals without sanitary guarantees. More than 4 million farm-reared juvenile red-legged partridges (*Alectoris rufa* L.) are released yearly in Spain to supplement stocks for shooting (2). Most of them are released without sanitary control. In this study, we compared the nematode fauna of 135 farmed partridges (belonging to ten facilities placed in distant parts of the country), and 159 wild partridges from seven hunting areas where releases of farm-reared birds have not taken place recently. Nine different nematode species were found, but both groups shared not one. In breeding facilities we found *Eucoleus contortus* (5 farms), *Ascaridia* sp. (5 farms), *Aonchoteca caudinflata* (2 farms), *Heterakis gallinarum* (4 farms), and *Heterakis tenuicauda* (1 farm). In hunting areas we found *Cheilospirura gruweli* (4 areas), *Seurocyrnea seurati* (1 area), and *Trichostrongylus tenuis* (2 area). Implications of the findings for the conservation and management of the red-legged partridge and its habitats are discussed.

Zusammenfassung (????optional?????)

Über vier Millionen junge gezüchtete Rothühner (*Alectoris rufa* L.) werden jährlich auf Spanischen Jagdrevieren ausgelassen, davon die Meisten ohne einer Kontrolle bezüglich ihres Gesundheitszustandes. In dieser Studie werden die Nematoden von 135 Zuchtrothühnern (aus neun Zuchtanstalten aus verschiedenen Regionen), mit denen von 159 wilden Rothühnern aus sieben Jagdrevieren verglichen. In keinem der Untersuchungsreviere wurden in den letzten Jahren Zuchthühner ausgelassen. In den Zuchtvoögeln fanden wir *Eucoleus contortus* (5 Zuchten), *Ascaridia* sp. (5 Zuchten), *Aonchoteca caudinflata* (2 Zuchten), *Heterakis gallinarum* (4 Zuchten), und *Heterakis tenuicauda* (1 Zucht). In Jagdrevieren fandern wir dagegen *Cheilospirura gruweli* (4 Reviere), *Seurocyrnea seurati* (1 Revier), und *Trichostrongylus tenuis* (2 Reviere). Die Implikationen für die Erhaltung und Hege des Rothuhns in dessen natürlichen Habitaten werden diskutiert.

Résumé (??)

Key words: (??)

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