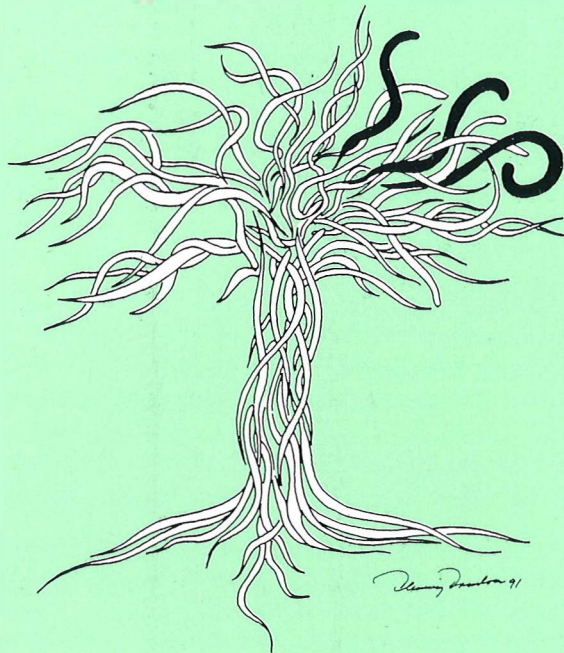


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BULLETIN OF THE SCANDINAVIAN SOCIETY FOR PARASITOLGY

The Bulletin is a membership journal of the Scandinavian Society for Parasitology. Besides membership information, it also presents articles on all aspects of parasitology, with priority given to contributors from the Nordic countries and other members of the Society. It will include review articles, short articles/communications. Comments on any topic within the field of parasitology may be presented as Letters to the Editor. The Bulletin is also open for a short presentation of new projects. All contributions should be written in English. Review articles are commissioned by the editor, however, suggestions for reviews are welcomed.

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Tor Atle Mo
National Veterinary Institute
P.O. Box 8156 Dep.
N-0033 Oslo, NORWAY, e-mail: tor-atle.mo@vetinst.no
Postal giro account number: 0814 3937489

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Cover: In Norse mythology, the giant ash tree - Yggdrasill - spreads its limbs over the entire mankind. The ash has three roots, each of them sucking water from its own spring.

The first spring- Hvergelmir - is found in the ice cold North; next to the spring, the serpent Níðhoggr is ceaselessly gnawing at the roots of the ash. The second spring - Mímisbrunnr - is the source of wisdom and is guarded by Mímir. The third spring - Urðarbrunnr - is guarded by three women, the Norns, which mete out man's thread of life.

FIRST OBSERVATIONS OF *PSEUDODACTYLOGYRUS* SPP. AND OTHER PARASITES IN WILD EEL (*ANGUILLA* *ANGUILLA* L.) IN NORWAY

Tor Atle Mo¹ and Erik Sterud²

¹National Veterinary Institute, P. O. Box 8156 Dep., N-0033 Oslo Norway,

²Norwegian College of Veterinary Medicine, P. O. Box 8146 Dep., N-0033 Oslo, Norway

Abstract

Thirteen European eel, *Anguilla anguilla*, from Årungen lake and Glomma river, south-eastern Norway were examined for parasites. The at least 12 parasite species recovered included: one kinetoplastid, one (two?) myxosporeans, two monogeneans, three digeneans, one cestode, two nematodes and one copepod. *Pseudodactylogyrus anguillae* and *P. bini* and four other parasite species are reported from Norway for the first time while eel is a new host record for additional 5 species in Norway.

Introduction

Several parasitic species, originally occurring in Asian eel, *Anguilla japonica*, have recently been introduced to European eel, *A. anguilla*, with live imports (Kjøie, 1987, 1991). These includes the monogeneans *Pseudodactylogyrus anguillae*, *P. bini* and the nematode *Anguillicola crassus*. Since the introduction, these parasites have been

spread to a large number of European countries. *Pseudodactylogyrus anguillae* has been a plague in Norwegian eel farms (Mo *et al*, 1988) while *A. crassus* has been found in a few farmed eel (Mo & Steien, 1994). Other well known parasitic diseases in eel farms are trichodinosis and ichthyophthiriosis. However, with few exceptions, the parasite fauna in wild Norwegian eels is largely unknown.

The aim of the present study was to examine eels in freshwater for the presence of parasites, with special focus on the mentioned exotic species.

Materials and methods

The European eels were caught by eel traps and transported live to the laboratory where they were examined for parasites after decapitation. In September 1996, three eel were caught in Årungen lake, and examined later the same day. In July 1997, thirteen eel from Glomma river were examined. The eels had been

Table 1. List of parasites found in eel *Anguilla anguilla* from Årungen lake and Glomma river

No.inf.= number infected, Int.=intensity range, +=present but intensity not calculated. Abbreviations: m=metacercariae, l=larvae, B=blood, EL=eye lens, GF=gill filaments, GB=gall bladder, I=intestine, UB=urinary bladder

Locality, date	Årungen, 26.09.96			Glomma, 16.07.97 above Sarpsfossen			Glomma, 16.07.97 below Sarpsfossen		
No. examined:	3			5			8		
Length range (mm):	580-690			510-630			425-485		
Weight range (g):	226-570			184-425			108-162		
Parasite species:	No.inf.	Int.	Site	No.inf.	Int.	Site	No.inf.	Int.	Site
<i>Trypanosoma granulorum</i> Leveran & Mesnil, 1909	3	+	B	3	+	B	0		
<i>Myxidium giardi</i> Cépède, 1906	2	+	GF	3	+	GF	8	+	GF, I
Myxozoa (unidentified)*	0			1	+	GB,UB	0		
<i>Pseudodactylogyrus anguillae</i> (Yin & Sproston, 1948)	3	4-16	GF	5	4-7	GF	0		
<i>Pseudodactylogyrus bini</i> (Kikuchi, 1929)	0			5	2-5	GF	0		
<i>Diplostomum</i> sp. (m)	1	13	EL	0			0		
<i>Azygia lucii</i> (Müller, 1776)	1	1	GF	0			0		
<i>Deropristis inflata</i> (Molin, 1859)	0			0			2	1	
<i>Triaenophorus nodulosus</i> (Pallas, 1781)	3	2-10	I	0			0		
<i>Bothriocephalus</i> sp.	3	4-20	I	4	3-15	I	3	3-15	I
<i>Paraquimperia tenerrima</i> (Linstow, 1878)	2	1-15	I	1	2	I	1	1	I
<i>Camallanus lacustris</i> (Zoega, 1776)	1	2	I	5	1-22	I	1	1	I
<i>Ergasilus sieboldi</i> Nordmann, 1832	0			1	4	GF	0		

*possibly pseudoplasmodia of *Chloromyxum*, they appeared similar in UB and GB

caught a few days earlier and kept alive in keep-nets at the sampling locality until transportation to the laboratory. Five eel were caught upstream Sarpsfossen water fall while eight eel were caught downstream. Årungen is located close to the sea and drains into the inner part of the Oslo Fjord while Glomma drains into the outer part of the Oslo Fjord. Glomma from Sarpsfossen is partly included in the tidal zone.

Parasites were identified to genus or species following Buchmann *et al* (1987), Bykhovskaya-Pavlovskaya (1962), Lom & Dykhova (1992), and Moravec (1994).

Results and discussion

The results from the studies of eels from the two localities are presented in Table 1 and discussed below.

This is the first observation of *Pseudodactylogyrus* spp. in wild Norwegian eel. *Pseudodactylogyrus anguillae* was found on the gills of eel from Årungen while both *P. anguillae* and *P. bini* were found on the gills of eel above Sarpsfossen (but not below) in Glomma. The introduction route for the two monogenean species to Norway is unknown. Import of live eel has been banned for several years. However, except from a possible illegal import of live eel, there are especially two possible explanations for the introduction of *Pseudodactylogyrus* spp.: 1. Danish well-boats for live eel transport regularly come to the Norwegian coast. The lower part of the Glomma including its estuary, is one of the main areas for eel catches in Norway and the well-boats often start loading of eels here. These boats are also used for transport of eel along the Danish

coast, and both *P. anguillae* and *P. bini* are present in Danish eel (Buchmann *et al*, 1987; Kjøie, 1988). Even if the well-boats are empty (of eels) when they arrive to Norway, the well may have been contaminated with eggs from the two monogenean species. The egg may have been released with water exchange during transport, and the oncomiracidia infected wild eel; 2. Introduction of *Pseudodactylogyrus* spp. to Norway could have been by its migration of infected eel along the coast from Sweden. According to Buchmann *et al*. (1992), *P. anguillae* and *P. bini* can survive more than 24 hours in 20 ‰ salinity while only *P. anguillae* survived 30 ‰ salinity for the same period. In a study of eel from 7 Danish localities, Kjøie (1988) found *P. anguillae* in localities with salinity up to 20 ‰ while *P. bini* was found in a freshwater lake only, indicating that *P. bini* has a much lower salinity tolerance than *P. anguillae*. Dr. K. Buchmann (pers. comm., 1998) confirms that only *P. anguillae* (and not *P. bini*) is present in eels along the Danish west coast. If *P. bini* does not tolerate salinity above 30 ‰ for even short periods, a spread of this parasite with migrating eel from Sweden is less likely. However, migration of infected eel from Sweden can explain the occurrence of *P. anguillae* on eel in Glomma and Årungen.

Nine parasite species were found in eels from Årungen while 9 and 5 species were recorded in eel caught upstream and downstream Sarpsfossen, respectively, in Glomma. The only recorded protist, *Trypanosoma granulorum*, was observed in both the lake and river, but in Glomma, only above Sarpsfossen (see below). The two specimens of the marine fluke

Deropristis inflata found in two eels below the Sarpsfossen represent the first record of this parasite in Norway. Two nematode species were present in all three localities and eel is added to the host list for the generalist *Camallanus lacustris* in Norway, while the eel specific nematode *Paraquimperia tenerrima* has not previously been reported from Norway. The most abundant species, *Myxidium giardi*, was present in 75 % of the fish. This species has previously been observed in farmed eel in Norway (pers. obs.) but has never been reported from wild eel.

In Glomma, the three ectoparasitic species *P. anguillae*, *P. bini* and *E. sieboldi*, and *T. granulorum*, which is dependent of an ectoparasitic leech for transmission, were found in eel caught above Sarpsfossen water fall but not in eel caught below the fall. The reason for this difference may have been due to differences in water chemistry. A large sulphate pulp mill that produces paper, wood pulp and other chemical substances is sited near the water fall. This may have changed the water chemistry below the fall.

Among the 12 species of parasites found in this study, *Trypanosoma granulorum*, *Myxidium giardi*, *Pseudodactylogyrus anguillae*, *P. bini*, *Deropristis inflata* and *Paraquimperia tenerrima* are new records for wild eel in Norway, while *Azygia lucii*, *Diplostomum* sp., *Triaenophorus nodulosus*, *Camallanus lacustris* and *Ergasilus sieboldi* are reported from Norwegian eel for the first time. In addition, *Bothriocephalus* sp. found in eel in both the lake and river is most likely *B.*

claviceps (Goeze, 1782) which is not previously reported from Norway.

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PARASITES OF GRAYLING (*THYMALLUS THYMALLUS*) FROM THE GLOMMA RIVER SYSTEM, SOUTH-EASTERN NORWAY

Tor Atle Mo¹, Chris Appleby¹ & Erik Sterud²

¹National Veterinary Institute, P. O. Box 8156 Dep., N-0033 Oslo Norway,

²Norwegian College of Veterinary Medicine, P. O. Box 8146 Dep., N-0033 Oslo, Norway

Abstract

Grayling (*Thymallus thymallus*) caught in Glomma river and its tributary Rena in south-eastern Norway were examined for parasites. Thirteen parasite species were found: *Apiosoma* sp., *Epistylis* sp., *Trichodina* sp., *Spironucleus barkhanus*, *Gyrodactylus thymalli*, *Tetraonchus borealis*, *Diplostomum* sp., *Crepidostomum farionis*, *C. metoecus*, *Phyllodistomum folium*, *Cyatocephalus truncatus*, *Cucullanus truttae*, *Salmincola thymalli*. One species is a new record for Norway and 5 are new host records in Norway.

Introduction

During the last 7-8 years the parasite fauna of freshwater fish has been studied by the fish parasitology group at the National Veterinary Institute and the Norwegian Veterinary College in Oslo. Most fish have been caught by hook and line, and kept alive until examination. This is a prerequisite for the detection of most ectoparasitic protozoans and

metazoans, but it also increases the probability of detecting of endoparasites, especially protists. So far, 12 freshwater fish species have been examined (Appleby & Sterud, 1996a, b, 1997; Sterud & Appleby, 1996, 1997, Mo & Sterud, 1998), and more than 100 parasite species have been recorded. These species represent both new records for Norway (about 50) and new host records (about 40).

This paper presents the results from a survey of the parasite fauna of grayling caught in the Glomma river system.

Materials and methods

Sixteen grayling were caught in July 1990 by drift net and fly-fishing in the tributary Rena, 3-400 m before it drains into Glomma at Rena municipality, located about 140 km north of Oslo. Fifteen grayling were caught in September 1996 by fly-fishing in Glomma about 9 km upstream Rena

Table 1. Parasite species recorded from grayling *Thymallus thymallus* caught in the rivers Glomma and Rena

No. inf.= number infected, Int.=intensity range, -=not studied, +=present but intensity not calculated, >=more than. Abbreviations: m=metacercariae, E=eye, F=fins, GF=gill filaments, GB=gall bladder, I=intestine, PC=pyloric caecae, S=skin, UB=urinary bladder

River, date	Rena, 02.07.90			Glomma, 29.09.96		
No. examined:	16			15		
Length range (mm):	255-390			200-405		
Weight range (g):	138-585			54-433		
Parasite species:	No. inf.	Int.	Site	No. inf.	Int.	Site
<i>Apiosoma</i> sp.	-			1	+	S
<i>Epistylis</i> sp.	-			2	+	S
<i>Trichodina</i> sp.	-			3	+	S
<i>Spironucleus barkhanus</i> Sterud, Mo & Poppe, 1997	16	+	GB	14	+	GB
<i>Gyrodactylus thymalli</i> Zitnan, 1960	3	1	F	3	1-4	F
<i>Tetraonchus borealis</i> (Olsson, 1893)	8	2-41	GF	11	2-24	GF
<i>Diplostomum</i> sp. (m)	-			14	1-10	E
<i>Crepidostomum farionis</i> (O.F. Müller, 1780)	9	1->5	I	3	1-3	I
<i>C. metoecus</i> (Braun, 1900)	8	1->10	I	6	1-7	I
<i>Phyllodistomum folium</i> (Olfers, 1816)	-			7	1-3	UB
<i>Cyatocephalus truncatus</i> (Pallas, 1781)	1	1	PC	0		
<i>Cucullanus truttiae</i> Fabricius, 1794	2	1-2	I	4	6-10	I
<i>Salmincola thymalli</i> (Kessler, 1868)	10	1-5	GF	6	1-5	GF

municipality. Both rivers are slow flowing with no waterfalls in the area, and fish can move freely between the two sampling locations.

The fish were transported to the laboratory where they were kept alive in one tank with dechlorinated tapwater until examination within three days of capture. The fish were killed by a blow to the head. Total length and weight were determined for all hosts. Parasites were found by examination of external and internal organs by the aid of a dissection microscope and a light microscope equipped with phase contrast. In most cases, the number of each parasite species was determined, and is presented as intensity range in Table 1.

Parasites were identified to genus or species following Bychovskaya-Pavlovskaya *et al.* (1964) and Moravec (1994). Other references used for species identification are mentioned below.

Results and discussion

The results are presented in Table 1 and discussed below:

Three ciliate species were found on the skin of a few grayling in Glomma. All three species were present in low to moderate numbers in skin scrapings. Based on live observations they were identified to genus-level. These are the first records of ciliates on the skin of grayling in Norway.

In all fish, but the smallest one, *Spironucleus barkhanus* Sterud, Mo and Poppe, 1997 was present in thousands in the gall bladder. In spite of the large numbers, no pathological changes were

observed, neither in SEM nor in histological sections of gall bladders. The locality in the present study is the type locality for *S. barkhanus*, recently described from grayling and Atlantic salmon (Sterud *et al.*, 1997). When this parasite was observed in the gall bladder of grayling in Rena river in 1990, it was tentatively identified as *Hexamita salmonis* based on light microscopy. However, the outbreak of systemic hexamitosis in Atlantic salmon in Northern Norway (Mo & Poppe, 1990; Poppe & Mo, 1992; Poppe *et al.*, 1992) induced detailed studies of the causative organism. Electron microscopic studies revealed that the flagellated organism in both salmon and grayling belonged to a new species, *S. barkhanus* (Sterud *et al.*, 1997). This study further concluded that these hexamitids can not be identified to species- or even genus-level based on light microscopy studies alone (Sterud *et al.*, 1997). Later, hexamitids have been found in salmonids in several localities in Norway, and so far, only *S. barkhanus* has been recorded (Sterud, unpublished). The presence of *H. salmonis* in Norway is therefore disputed.

The *Gyrodactylus* species found in low numbers on a few grayling were identified as *G. thymalli* Zitnan, 1960. This is the first published record of this parasite in Norway, but as seen in Table 1, its presence has been known since 1990. The sclerites in the opisthaptor of *G. thymalli* are morphologically very similar to the phenotypic variant of *G. salaris* Malmberg, 1957 on rainbow trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss* (Walbaum, 1792) (Mo, 1991b) and the differences between them are smaller than the total variation observed in *G. salaris* (Mo, 1991a, b, c).

Furthermore, studies of the DNA from *G. thymalli* from grayling and *G. salaris* from Atlantic salmon have not revealed differences between the two species so far (Cunningham *et al.*, 1995; Cunningham, 1997). Thus, the taxonomic position of *G. thymalli* is at the moment uncertain.

Tetraonchus borealis (Monogenea) and *Salmincola thymalli* (Copepoda) were commonly found on the gills of the grayling in both localities. Both parasites caused gill irritation and damage. *T. borealis* caused gill irritation at the site of opisthaptor attachment, resulting in hypertrophy and hyperplasia of the gill epithelium, and for some *T. borealis* specimens the opisthaptor was completely surrounded by host epithelium. The larger *S. thymalli* causes a more significant damage to the host gills. Firstly, the parasite is anchored to a gill filament with a bulbus which destroys the outer part of the filament. Secondly, the parasite eats pieces of neighbouring gill filaments; this feeding activity often reduces the length of the filament by one third.

The four trematodes found in grayling were all quite common (the eyes and urinary bladder were not examined in fish from Rena) and this is the first published record of these species in Norwegian grayling. Most common were the two *Crepidostomum* species.

Nybelin (1926) recorded *Phyllo-distomum simile* Nybelin, 1926 and *P. megalorchis* Nybelin, 1926 from grayling in Sweden, Bykhovskaya-Pavlovskaya *et al.* (1962) reported *P. simile*, *P. megalorchis* and *P. folium* (Olfers, 1816) from grayling in the former USSR while Bakke (1985) reported *P. umblae* (Fabricius, 1780) from grayling in

different localities in Norway. The specimens in the present study seem identical to *P. folium* found in ruffe, *Gymnocephalus cernuus* (L.) in Glomma (Appleby & Sterud, 1996a). However, as there are several unsolved taxonomical problems related to this and other species in the genus *Phyllo-distomum* (see Bakke & Zdarska, 1985), this identification must be regarded as tentative.

The nematode *Cucullanus truttae* was found in the intestine of the grayling. In Norway this species has previously only been recorded in trout from two separate localities in southern parts of the country (Berland 1970, Berland 1990). The present finding therefore represents the first record of grayling as a host for this nematode in Norway, and indicates a wider distribution than previously known.

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SOCIETY NEWS

Members are encouraged to submit items of news, information on forthcoming meetings, personell etc for publication in the News section. Letters and points of view are also welcome.

FROM THE TREASURER

Dear member of the Scandinavian Society for Parasitology

Is time to pay fee for your membership to Scandinavian Society for Parasitology. Regretfully, it has been some time since the last reminder and consequently, many members have not paid fee for several years. The board has decided that members who have not paid for several years should pay for the last three previous years (1995, 1996, 1997). The fee is 150 Swedish Kronor (SEK) per year (75 SEK/year for students). In addition you should pay for 1998, and to reduce costs, you may also pay for 1999.

At the general assembly at Bornholm in 1997 it was decided that SSP should have a local treasurer in each Scandinavian country. In the period 1997-1999, these are Maria Vang Johansen in Denmark, Riitta Rahkonen in Finland, Karl Skirnisson in Iceland, Ingela Krantz in Sweden and Tor Atle Mo in Norway. Each Scandinavian member should receive information from the local treasurer and pay to the local country postal account.

Members outside Scandinavia should receive a letter from the SSP treasurer. These members should pay their fee to the postal account (Postbanken International) 08143937489. The address is Nordisk Forening for Parasitologi c/o Tor Atle Mo, National Veterinary Institute, POB 8156 Dep, 0033 Oslo, Norway. For Swift transfer, the Swift address is PGINNOKK 0814 3937489.

NOTE: Transfer costs should be paid by the member. Thus, transfer costs must be added to the membership fee.

SSP would like to send information to the members by e-mail. For those SSP members who have an e-mail address, please send it to tor-atle.mo@vetinst.no.

IN MEMORIAM

Professor emeritus Elias Bengtsson † 1998

One of the founding fathers of the Scandinavian Society for Parasitology, and Honorary Member of the SSP since 1983, died early this year. Birgitta Evengård, Chairman of Svensk Förening för Tropikmedicin wrote this obituary for Tropiknytt, but we would like to present it here as well:

Elias Bengtsson, Sollentuna, professor emeritus blev 79 år. Han föddes i Gränna, son till Gustaf Bengtsson och dennes maka Lydia; hans närmaste är barnen Lars Johan, Stellan och Anne Charlotte med familjer.

Vissa människor åldras inte. Den kroppsliga kostymen skrynklas visserligen, men hos vissa tilltar snarare intellektuell och emotionell kapacitet med åren. Tillägnande av ständigt nytillkommen kunskap och ökande erfarenhet håller blicken ung och hjärtat varmt. Till denna skara hörde Elias Bengtsson, professor i infektionssjukdomar vid Karolinska Institutet när denna institution låg på Roslagstulls sjukhus. Han var också under många år klinikchef och en period blockchef vid nordöstra sjukvårdsområdet i Stockholm.

Elias började sin läkarbana som barnläkare men kom att skriva sin avhandling om infektioners påverkan på hjärtat och sysslade därmed mycket med klinisk fysiologi. De första åren innebar en stor jourbörda. Elias lyckades ändå hålla en stor vetenskaplig produktion och etablerade en fast position inom infektionsläkarkåren. I 40-årsåldern for han med hustru Margareta som var laboratoriesköterska till London för att sätta sig på skolbänken igen under åtta månader. Han hade insett att området tropikmedicin var eftersatt i Sverige. Hemkomna startade Elias och Margareta ett parasitologiskt laboratorium på Roslagstull. Så småningom blev det en tropikmedicinsk avdelning och undervisning för kandidater, blivande infektionsläkare och intresserade kollegor från hela Norden. Vidare bildades Nordisk Förening för Parasitologi och Tropikläkarklubben som numera heter Svensk Förening för Tropikmedicin och är en delförening i Svenska Läkaresällskapet.

Sällan har så många fått så mycken kunskap från en man! Det är få forunnat att introducera och organisera ett nytt ämne som Elias gjorde.

Hans uppväxt i ett kristet hem och hans egna kristna livssyn gjorde att han kände extra mycket för den första vågen av patienter inom tropikmedicinen-missionärerna. Men han tog lika intresserat om hand 60-talets resande revolutionärer och 70-talets luffande hippies. Han deltog i FN-styrka i Kongo och såg ständigt möjligheter att utöka kunskap genom sammanställande av fynd. Yngre kollegor manades till forskning och stimulerades till undervisning.

En öppen attityd, ett noggrant lyssnande och ett omsorgsfullt val av ord var karakteristiskt för Elias personlighet. Efter pensionen ägnade han sig åt politik och deltagande i den allmänna debatten om aktuella händelser. Han odlade sina litterära och

musikaliska intressen. Han spelade tidigare gärna och väl på den vackra orgel han hade i sitt hem vid Edsviken. Och han talade med sorg och vemod om hur han tyckte familjen fått för lite av hans tid. Efter hustrun Margaretas frånfälle kom barnen att betyda alltmer och Elias nämnde dem ofta i olika sammanhang med ömhet och stor kärlek.

Elias Bengtsson var sjuk en tid. Han visade sig under den kris det innebär att ha en svår sjukdom som en förebild i hur en sådan situation kan hanteras och han har nu fått somna in.

Vi ärar en kraftfull, och unik läkargärning och en betydande undervisnings- och forskningsinsats. Och vi tackar för djup och innerlig vänskap.

Birgitta Evengård

ordf Svensk Förening för Tropikmedicin

ANNOUNCEMENT

First announcement has been sent separately to all members, but we remind you of the

19th Symposium of the Scandinavian Society for Parasitology Reykjavik, Iceland May 8-11th, 1997

Time and location: The 19th SSP Symposium will be arranged at Grand Hotel, Reykjavík, Iceland during May 8-11th, 1999. This is the first time in the 32 years' history of the SSP that Iceland is the host country.

A local organizing committee (LOC) was established in June 1997. It consists of three parasitologists working at the Institute for Experimental Pathology, Keldur:

Sigurður H. Richter (Keldur, University of Iceland)

Karl Skírnisson (Keldur, University of Iceland)

Matthías Eydal (Keldur, University of Iceland)

A scientific organizing committee (SOC) was established in January 1998. It consists of representatives from all the Nordic countries:

Karl Skírnisson (Keldur, Reykjavík, University of Iceland), chairman

Jouni Taskinen (University of Jyväskylä, Finland)

Flemming Frandsen (Royal Veterinary and Agric. University, Copenhagen, Denmark)

Arne Skorping (University of Tromsø, Norway)

Lars-Åke Nilsson (Dept. of Clin. Immunology, Göteborg, Sweden).

The congress organizing bureau "Iceland Incentives Inc", Hamraborg 1-3, IS-200 Kópavogur, Iceland (Tel. +354 554 1400, Fax +354 554 1472, Email: incentiv@itn.is) takes care of all individual bookings and hotel reservations.

Preliminary planning. On May 8, 1999 (Saturday) a registration and a "Get together" takes place. Scientific program is scheduled on May 9th (Sunday) and until lunch time on May 10th (Monday). In the afternoon an excursion to Gullfoss and Geysir is planned. In the evening the symposium dinner takes place. On May 11th (Tuesday) the scientific program continues until 16:00, when the General Assembly of the SSP is scheduled.

Scientific program. Invited speakers will give lectures on themes which are considered to be of general interest for the SSP members. Some of the lecturers come from the Nordic countries but authorities from abroad are also invited. Participants are encouraged to present contributions in a short lecture and/or with a poster.

The LOC has already made a preliminary time schedule which includes up to 6 invited lectures (each of 45 min, including discussion), 102 submitted oral presentations (each 15 min including discussion) and 60 poster presentations which will be shown during the symposium and discussed in a separate 90 min poster session.

Social program. As already mentioned the LOC will organize a “Get-together” for all participants and an optional half day excursion to Gullfoss and Geysir as well as a conference dinner. Post conference tours and a program for accompanying persons can be organized upon request by Icelandic tourist bureaus.

Announcements and deadlines. All members of the SSP will receive two announcements from the local organizing committee. Due to the publication of the abstracts in the SSP Bulletin, which will be handed out to the participants at the symposium, the early deadlines for the submission of abstracts and final registration have to be scheduled for December 31, 1998.

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE SCANDINAVIAN SOCIETY FOR PARASITOLOGY

Agger, Nicolai, Techn. Manager
Pfizer A/S
Vestre Gade 18
DK-2650 Hvidovre, DANMARK

Andreassen, Jørn, Mag. scient.
Inst. Popul. Biol.
Københavns Universitet
Universitetsparken 15
DK-2100 København Ø., DANMARK

Bayer A/S
Nørgårdsvej 32
DK-2800 Lyngby, DANMARK

Bindseil, Erling, Dr. med. vet.
Afd. Patol.
Den Kgl. Vet.- og Landbohøjskole,
Bülowsvej 13
DK-1870 Frederiksberg C, DANMARK

Bjørn, Henrik, Dyrlæge
Inst. for Farmakol. og Pathobiologi
Den Kgl. Vet.- og Landbohøjskole
Bülowsv. 13
DK-1870 Frederiksberg C DANMARK

Brandt, Morgens, Cand. scient.
Pilestykket 13,
Svogerslev
Dk-4000 Roskilde, DANMARK

Bresciani, Jose, Lektor
Zool.Inst.
Den Kgl. Vet.- og Landbohøjskole,
Bülowsvej 13
DK-1870 København V, DANMARK

Buchmann, Kurt, Ph.D.
Section of Fish Diseases
RVAU
DK-1870 Frederiksberg C, DENMARK

Dahl, Eva, Cand.scient.
Sct. Hans gade 7, 3.th
DK-2220 København N, DANMARK

Eriksen, Lis, Dyrlæge
Klinisk Institut, Intern Medicin
Den Kgl. Vet. - og Landbohøjskole,
Bülowsvej 13
DK-1870 Frederiksberg C, DANMARK

Fossing, Christine
Holsteinsborgvej 14, st. th.
2720 Vanløse, DANMARK

Frandsen, Flemming, Prof.
Zool. Inst.
The Royal Vet. Agric. Univ.
Bülowsvej 13
DK-1870 Fredriksberg C, DENMARK

Genner, J. Dr.
 Ærenprisvej 10
 DK-2820 Gentofte, DANMARK
 Greve, Erik, Dyrlæge
 Ganges Bro
 DK-4700 Næstved, DANMARK

Helwigh, Anne Birgitte, M. sc.
 Centre for Experimental Parasitology
 Royal Veterinary & Agric. University
 Bülowssvej 13
 DK-1870 Fredriksberg C, DENMARK

Henriksen, Svend Aa., Vet.
 Statens Vet. Serumlaboratorium
 Bülowssvej 27 Postboks 373,
 DK-1503 København V, DANMARK

Hesselberg, C.A., Lektor
 Norupvej 37, Vammen
 DK-8800 Viborg, DANMARK

Hindsbo, Ole, Cand.real.
 Inst. Popul. Biol.
 Københavns Universitet
 Universitetsparken 15
 DK-2100 København, DANMARK

Hoechst Danmark A/S
 Islevdalvej 110
 DK-2610 Rødovre, DANMARK

Høiby, Niels, Overlæge
 Statens Seruminstitut
 Reg. Klin. Mikrobiol.
 Rigshospital afsn. 7806
 Tagesvej 18
 DK-2200 København N, DANMARK

Højlyng, Niels, Læge
 Statens Seruminstitut
 Amager Boulevard 80
 DK-2300 København S, DANMARK

Jensen, Henning B.
 Hoechst Roussel Vet
 Islevdalvej 110
 DK-2610 Rødovre, DANMARK

Jensen, Klaus, Dr.med.
 Klinisk Mikrobiologi Afd.
 Hvidovre Hospital
 DK-2650 Hvidovre, DANMARK

Jepsen, Søren, Læge
 Statens Seruminstitut
 Amager Boulevard 80
 DK-2300 København S, DANMARK

Johansen, Maria Vang, Dyrlæge
 Dansk Bilharziose Laboratorium
 Jægersborg Allé 1 D
 DK-2920 Charlottenlund, DANMARK

Jørgensen, Rolf J. Dyrelæge
 Den Kgl. Vet. -og Landbohøjskole
 Bülowssvej 13
 DK-Fredriksberg C DANMARK

Køie, Marianne, Lic.scient.
 Marinbiologisk Laboratorium
 DK-3000 Helsingør, DANMARK

Larsen, Kirsten
 Bayer Danmark A/S
 Finsensvej 84,
 DK-2000 Fredriksberg, DANMARK

Lind, Peter, Professor, Dr. scient.
 Danish Veterinary Laboratory
 Bülowssvej 27
 DK-1790 København V, DENMARK

Lindenstrøm, Thomas, B. scient.
 Section of Fish Diseases
 Royal Veterinary & Agric. University
 Bülowssvej 13
 DK-1870 Fredriksberg C, DENMARK

EMÜ

RAAMATUKOGU

Lodal, Jens, Vidensk. assistent
Statens Skadedyrlaboratorium
Skovbrynet 14
DK-2800 Lyngby, DANMARK

Magnussen, Pascal, Læge
Egernvej 31
DK-2000 Fredriksberg, DANMARK

Midtgaard, Niels, Led. landbruketekn.
Den Kgl. Vet. -og Landbohøjskole
Centre for Experimental Parasitology
Bülowsvej 13
DK-Fredriksberg C, DANMARK

Monrad, Jesper, Ass. Professor, Ph.D
Den Kgl. Vet. -og Landbohøjskole
Centre for Experimental Parasitology
Bülowsvej 13
DK-København V, DANMARK

Nansen, Peter, Professor*
Den Kgl. Vet. -og Landbohøjskole,
Bülowsvei 13
DK-1870 København V, DANMARK

Nielsen, Knud, Professor*
Den Kgl. Vet. -og Landbohøjskole,
Bülowsvei 13
DK-1870 København V, DANMARK

Nielsen, Michael Engelbrecht
Manne Biological Laboratory
University of Copenhagen
Strandpromenaden S
DK-3000 Helsingør, DENMARK

Pedersen, Erling Møller, Lektor
Dansk Bilharziose Laboratorium
Jægerborg Allé ID
DK-2920 Charlottenlund, DANMARK

Petersen, Eskild, Dr
Toxoplasmosseafdelningen
Statens Seruminstitut
DK-2300 København S, DANMARK

Prag, Jørgen, Læge
Ulrikkenborg Allé 55
DK-2800 Lyngby, DANMARK

Roepstorff, Allan, Ph.D
Damhus Boulevard 88
DK-2610 Rødovre, DANMARK

Simonsen, Paul Erik
Dansk Bilharziose Laboratorium
Jægersborg Allé 1D
DK-2920 Charlottenlund, DANMARK

Thamsborg, Stig Milan, Ass. Prof.
Centre for Exp. Parasitology
The Royal Vet. Agric. University
13 Bülowsvej
DK 1870 Fredriksberg C, DENMARK

Vennervald, Birgitte, Læge
Dansk Bilharziose Laboratorium
Jægerborg Allé ID
DK-2920 Charlottenlund, DANMARK

Willingham, Arve Lee
Centre for Exp. Parasitol.
Royal Vet & Agric. University
Bülowsvej 13
DK-1870 Fredriksberg C, DENMARK

Björklund, Harry, Fil.mag.
Parasit. Inst., Åbo Akademi
Porthansgatan 3
FIN-20500 Åbo, FINLAND

*Honorary members

Bonsdorff, Bertel von, Professor*
Nervandergatan 7 A 9
FIN-00100 Helsingfors 10, FINLAND

Bylund, Göran, Docent
Parasitol. Inst., Åbo Akademi
Porthansgatan 3
FIN-20500 Åbo 50, FINLAND

Fagerholm, Hans-Peter, Fil.dr.
Parasit. Inst. Åbo Akademi
Porthansgatan 3
FIN-20500 Åbo 50, FINLAND

Gustavsson, Margareta Fil.dr
Inst. Biol, Åbo Akademi
Porthansgatan 3
FIN-20500 Åbo 50, FINLAND

Haaparanta, Ahti
Dept. of Biology
University of Jyväskylä
Seminaarinkatu 15
FIN-40100 Jyväskylä, FINLAND

Haukisalmi, Voitto M. Sc.
Dept. Zoology, Univ. of Helsinki
P. Rautatiekatu 13
FIN-00100 Helsinki, FINLAND

Henttonen, Heikki, Fil.dr.
Finnish Forest Research Institute
PL 18
FIN-01301 Vantaa, FINLAND

Himberg, Mikael, Fil.mag.
Inst. Biol., Åbo Akademi
Porthansgatan 3
FIN-20500 Åbo, FINLAND

Keränen, Anna-Liisa, Fil.mag.
Peräkyläntie 3-5
FIN-90650 Oulu, FINLAND

Keskinen, Anja
Rakuunantie 60. H. 82
FIN-20720 Turku, FINLAND

Koskivaara, Mari, M.Sc.
Yliopistonkatu 9
FIN-40100 Jyväskylä, FINLAND

Kyrönseppä, Dr.
Aurora Hospital
Nordenskiöldsgt. 20
FIN-00250 Helsinki, FINLAND

Nikander, Sven, Docent
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
University of Helsinki
P.O. Box 57 (Hämeentie 57)
FIN-00014 University of Helsinki,
FINLAND

Nyström, Marianne, Fil.mag.
Harjukatu 27
FIN-53300 Villmanstrand, FINLAND

Pohjola, Suvi, Lic.vet.med.
Lohjan pieneläinklinikka
Nahkurinkatu 10
FIN-08100 Lohja, FINLAND

Rahkonen, Riitta, Fil.lic.
Finnish Game and Fisheries
Res. Institute, Fisheries Div.
P.L. 202,
FIN-00151 Helsinki, FINLAND

Rintamäki, Päivi, Fil.kand.
Department of Zoology
University of Oulu
FIN-90570 Oulu, FINLAND

Rosendahl, Veikko, Veterinär
Pfizer OY
P.O. Box 26
FIN-02100 Esbo, FINLAND

Soveri, Timo, Veterinär
 Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
 University of Helsinki
 P.O. Box 57 (Hämeentie 57)
 FIN-00014 University of Helsinki
 FINLAND

Routsalainen, Marjatta, Fil.lic.
 Department of Applied Zoology
 P.O. Box 138
 FIN-70101 Kuopio
 FINLAND

Råbergh, Christina, KN
 Parasit. Inst., Åbo Akademi
 Porthansgatan 3
 FIN-20500 Åbo, FINLAND

Tuuha, Helena, B.Sc.
 Dept. of Biology,
 University of Jyväskylä
 Yliopistonkatu 9
 FIN-40100 Jyväskylä, FINLAND

Sukura, Antti, Veterinär
 Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
 University of Helsinki
 P.O. Box 57 (Hämeentie 57)
 FIN-00014 University of Helsinki
 FINLAND

Taskinen, Jouni, B.Sc.
 Dept. of Biology
 University of Jyväskylä
 Yliopistonkatu 9
 FIN-40100 Jyväskylä, FINLAND

Valtonen, E. Tellervo, Doc.
 Dept. of Biology, University of
 Jyväskylä, Yliopistonkatu 9
 SF40100 Jyväskylä, FINLAND

Wikgren, Bo-Jungar, Professor
 Inst. Biologi, Åbo Akademi
 Porthansgatan 3
 FIN-20500 Åbo 50, FINLAND

Eydal, M.B. Sc.
 Inst. Exp. Pathology
 Univ. of Iceland,
 Keldur,
 IS-128 Reykjavik, ICELAND

Hauksson, Erlingur, Cand.real.
 c/o Icelandic fisheries laboratories
 Skulagata 4
 IS-101 Reykjavik, ICELAND

Olafsdottir, Droplaug
 Marine Research Institute
 Skulagata 4
 P.O. Box 1390
 IS-121 Reykjavik, ICELAND

Richter, Sigurdur H., Cand. scient.
 Inst. Exp. Pathology
 University of Iceland
 Keldur
 IS-128 Reykjavik, ICELAND

Skirnisson, Karl, Dr.
 Inst. Exp. Pathology
 University of Iceland,
 Keldur,
 IS-128 Reykjavik, ICELAND

Alfredsen, Stål A., Miljøvernleder
Rådmannskontoret
Rådhuset
N-5500 Haugesund, NORGE

Andersen, Ellen, Forskn.tekn.
Sandøveien 13
N-9020 Tromsdalen, NORGE

Andersen, Karin, Dr. phil.
Zoologisk museum
Sarsgaten 1
N-0562 Oslo, NORGE

Appleby, Chris
Veterinærinstituttet Oslo
Postboks 8156 Dep,
N-0033 Oslo, NORGE

Arneberg, Per Wenstøp
Universitetet i Tromsø
Avd. Økol/Zool, IBG
N-9037 Tromsø, NORGE

Aspholm, Paul Eric
Svanhovd
N-9925 Svanvik, NORGE

Bakke, Tor A., Konservator
Zoologisk museum
Sarsgaten 1
N-0562 Oslo, NORGE

Berge, Gunnar N., Dr.med.vet.
Apothekernes Lab. A/S
P.O. Box 158, Skøyen
N-0212 Oslo, NORGE

Berland, Bjørn, Professor*
Zool. Lab. Universitet Bergen
Allégaten 41
N-5007 Bergen, NORGE

Bohne, Helge, cand.mag.
Zoologisk inst., Økologisk avdeling
Muséplass 3
N-5007 Bergen, NORGE

Bredal, William, Dr. scient.
Norges veterinærhøgskole
Seksjon for parasittologi
P.B. 8146 Dep.
N-0033 Oslo, NORGE

Bristow, Glenn A., M.Sc.
Zool. Lab., Universitet i Bergen
Allégaten 41
N-5007 Bergen, NORGE

Bye, Karstein, Cand.real.
Reindriftsadministrasjonen
N-9001 Alta, NORGE

Daverdin, Rita H.
NINA
Tungesletta 2
N-7005 Trondheim, NORGE

Elnan, Svein Dam, cand.mag.
Zoologisk inst. Økologisk avdeling
Muséplass 3
N-5007 Bergen, NORGE

Engelstad, Marit, Cand.pharm.
EWOS AS
Postboks 73
N-1473 Skårer, NORGE

Fuglesang, Jan, Overlege
Collettsgt. 29
N-3043 Drammen, NORGE

Gjerde, Bjørn Kåre, Professor
Norges veterinærhøgskole
Postboks 8146 Dep.
N-0033 Oslo, NORGE

Gundersen, Svein G., Dr.
I. avd. Infeksjonssykdommer
Ullevål Sykehus
N-0407 Oslo, NORGE

Halvorsen, Odd, Professor
Zoologisk museum
Sarsgaten 1
N-0562 Oslo, NORGE

Handeland, Kjell
Porsvn. 5
N-1481 Hagan, NORGE

Harvold, Ulf, Seksjonssjef
Norske Hoechst A/S
Postboks 117 Økern
N-0508 Oslo, NORGE

Helle, Ivar, Overlege
Gamle Drammensvei 122
N-1310 Blommenholm, NORGE

Helle, Oddvar, Professor
Ø. Smestadvei 40
N-0378 Oslo, NORGE

Hemmingsen, Willy, Univ.stip
Universitetet i Tromsø, IBG
Dramsveien 201
N-9000 Tromsø, NORGE

Heuch, Peter Andreas, Dr. scient.
Veterinærinstituttet
Seksjon for fiskehelse
P.B. 8156 Dep.
N-0033 Oslo, NORGE

Hole, Anne-Beate Lid, cand. mag.
Universitet i Bergen
Zoologisk inst.
Allégaten 41
N-5020 Bergen, NORGE

Ihler, Carl Fredrik, Førsteamanuensis
Norges veterinærhøgskole
Postboks 8146 Dep.
N-0033 Oslo, NORGE

Jansen, Peder A., Stipendiat Zoologisk
Museum
Universitetet i Oslo
Sarsgt. 1
N-0562 Oslo, NORGE

Karlsbakk, Egil, Cand. real.
Inst. for marinbiol./fiskehelse
HIB
Thormøhlensgt. 55
N-5020 Bergen, NORGE

Karter, Andrew John M.Sc.
IBG, Universitetet i Tromsø
Dramsveien 201
N-9000 Tromsø, NORGE

Kaurstad, Ole K., Veterinær
EWOS
P.B. 73
N-1473 Skårer, NORGE

Larsen, Tor, Ass. Professor
Finnmark College
N-9500 Alta, NORGE

Levsen, Arne, Cand.mag.
Zool. Lab., Universitet i Bergen
Allegaten 41
N-5007 Bergen, NORGE

Lile, Nora K., Cand. scient
Norges veterinærhøgskole
Inst. for arktisk veterinærmedisin
Stakkvollveien 23 b
N-9005 Tromsø, NORGE

Lorentzen-Styr, Ann-Marie,
Avd.ing.
Møllesvingen 13
N-0854 Oslo, NORGE

Lysne, Dag Atle
Universitetet i Tromsø
Avd. Økol/Zool, IBG
N-9037 Tromsø, NORGE

Mehl, Reidar, Cand.real.
Statens Institutt for Folkhelse Postboks
4404 Torshov
N-0403 Oslo, NORGE

Mo, Tor Atle, Forsker
Veterinærinstituttet
Postboks 8156 Dep.
N-0033 Oslo, NORGE

Myran, May-Liss
Statens Inst. Folkhelse
Postboks 4404 Torshov
N-0403 Oslo, NORGE

Mørkholm, Eirik, Gen.sekr.
Gyldenløvesgt. 39
N-0260 Oslo, NORGE

Oksanen, Antti V., Veterinær
Norges veterinærhøgskole
Inst. for arktisk veterinærmedisin
Stakkvollveien 23 b
N-9005 Tromsø, NORGE

Mallinckrodt Veterinary
Sognsvn. 4
N-0451 Oslo, NORGE

Rødland, Tore, Cand.real.
Gamleveien 48
N-4370 Egersund, NORGE

Skorping, Arne, Professor
Inst. Biol .Geol.
Universitetet i Tromsø
Postboks 3085 Guleng
N-9001 Tromsø, NORGE

Solberg, Ingvar, Lab. bestyrer
Veterinærinstituttet
Boks 295
N-4301 Sandnes, NORGE

Soleim, Øyvind, Cand. real.
Slåtthaugvn. 36
N-5050 Nesttun, NORGE

Soleng, Arnulf, Cand.scient.
Zoologisk museum
Sarsgt. 1,
N-0562 Oslo, NORGE

Syversen, Gaute
Kristinsvei 19
N-0669 Oslo, NORGE

Tharaldsen, Jorun, Forsker
Veterinærinstituttet
Postboks 8156 Dep.
N-0033 Oslo, NORGE

Vik, Rolf, Professor emer.*
Åsstubben 5
N-0381 Oslo, NORGE

Waldeland, Harald, Professor
NVH/Inst. for småfeforskning
Boks 295
N-4301 Sandnes, NORGE

Wethe, Jan Aage, Informasjonssjef
MedVet as
Solveien 44a
N-1177 Oslo, NORGE

Akhiani, Ali A., B.Sc.
Inst. Med. Biol. & Immunol.
Göteborgs Universitet
Guldhedsgatan 10
S-413 46 Göteborg, SVERIGE

Aust-Kettis, Agneta, Docent
Skandiavägen 11
S-18263 Djursholm, SVERIGE

Axelsson, Bengt, Fil.kand.
IVL
Box 21060
S-100 31 Stockholm, SVERIGE

Bayer Sverige AB
Veterinäravdeln .
Box 5237
S-40224 Göteborg, SVERIGE

Bengtsson, Thord, Avd.chef
Bayer (Sverige) AB
Box 50113
S-202 11 Malmö, SVERIGE

Bergström Sven, Dr.
Mikrobiologiska Institutionen
Umeå Universitet
S-901 87 Umeå, SVERIGE

Bernstad, Staffan, Veterinär
Pharmacia & Upjohn Anim. Health AB
Box 921
S-251 09 Helsingborg, SVERIGE

Berzins, Klavs, Fil.dr.
Avd.Immunologi
Stockholms Universitet
S-106 91 Stockholm, SVERIGE

Björkman, Anders, Iäkare
Inf. Klin.
Danderyds sjukhus
S-18288 Danderyd, SVERIGE

Bornstein, Set, Veterinär
Parasit. Avd.
Statens Veterinärmedicinska Anstalt
Box 7073
S-750 07 Uppsala, SVERIGE

Brinck, Per, Professor
Ekologihuset
Helgonvägen 5
S-233 62 Lund, SVERIGE

Brinck-Lindroth, Gunvor
Ekologiska Avdelningen
Zoologiska Institutet
S-233 63 Lund, SVERIGE

Castor, Birgitta, Överläkare
Infektionskliniken
Malmö Allmänna Sjukhus
S-214 01 Malmö, SVERIGE

Chirico, Jan, Fil.dr.
Parasit. avd. SVA
Box 7073
S-750 07 Uppsala, SVERIGE

Christensson, Dan, laborator
Parasitologiska Avdelningen
Statens Veterinärmedicinska
Anstalt, Box 7073
S-750 07 Uppsala, SVERIGE

Dufva, Reija, Fil.kand.
Zool. Inst., Uppsala universitet
Box 561
S-751 22 Uppsala, SVERIGE

Elvin, Kerstin, Leg.läk.
Sleipnervägen 10
S-18261 Djursholm, SVERIGE

Evelius, Monica, Veterinär
Mäster Pers gränd 3 B
S-791 71 Falun, SVERIGE

Evengård, Birgitta, Läkare
Engelbrektskatan 4
S-114 32 Stockholm, SVERIGE

Moringlane-Gustavsson, Inga-Lill
läkare
Inf. Klin. 1-73
Huddinge sjukhus
S-14186 Huddinge, SVERIGE

Hagblom, Per, Fil.dr.
MTC
Karolinska Institutet
S-172 77 Stockholm, SVERIGE

Hansson, Ingrid, Fil.dr.
Gitarrvägen 8
S-756 54 Uppsala, SVERIGE

Hedenström, Greta, Poliklinikläkare St.
Eriksgatan 19
S-122 39 Stockholm, SVERIGE

Henricson, Jan, Fil.dr.
Fagottvägen 8,
871 61 Härnösand, SVERIGE

Hjälmeshag, Marianne, Lab.ass.
Tropik lab.
Centralsjukhuset
S-651 85 Karlstad, SVERIGE

Holmdahl, Joakim, Leg. Vet.
Inst. Med II, Vet. Med. Fak.
SLU, Box 7019
S-750 07 Uppsala, SVERIGE

Huldt, Gunnel, Laborator emer.
Snittskyddsinstitutet
S-105 21 Stockholm, SVERIGE

Höglund, Johan, Fil. dr.
Statens Veterinärmed Anstalt
Parasitologiska avd
Box 7073
S-750 07 Uppsala, SVERIGE

Jaenson, Thomas G.T., Docent
Morkullvägen 43 d
S-756 52 Uppsala, SVERIGE

Jansson, Åslög, M.Sc.
Inst. Naturvet. Mikrobiologi,
Uppsala Universitet
Box 581,
75123 Uppsala, SVERIGE

Johansson, Nils, Fil.dr.
Patologiska Avdelningen
Laxforskningsinstitutet
S-810 70 Älvkarleö, SVERIGE

Johansson, Robert, Stud.
Transformationsvägen 14
S 430 41 Kullavik, SVERIGE

Krantz, Ingela, Leg.läk.
Ekudden 1350
S-430 60 Landvetter, SVERIGE

Kristensson, Krister
Klin. Patol. Lab.
Huddinge sjukhus
S-14186 Huddinge, SVERIGE

Larsson, J.I. Ronny, Docent
Zoologiska Institutionen;
Avd. Systematik
Helgonavägen 3
S-223 62 Lund, SVERIGE

Lebbad, Marianne, Lab.ass.
Parasitologiska enheten
Smittskyddsinstitutet
S-105 21 Stockholm, SVERIGE

Linder, Ewert, Laborator
Parasitologiska enheten
Smittskyddsinstitutet
S-105 21 Stockholm, SVERIGE

Lindesjö, Eric, Fil.kand.
Zool. Institutionen; Uppsala
Universitet, Box 561
S-751 22 Uppsala, SVERIGE

Lindgren, Ingegärd, Lab.ass.
Abborrvägen 36
S-663 02 Hammarö, SVERIGE

Ljungberg, Olle, Veterinär
Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet
Vet. med. Fak. Inst. för patologi,
Box 7028 Uppsala
S-750 07 Uppsala, SVERIGE

Ljungström, Inger, Docent
Parasitologiska enheten
Smittskyddsinstitutet
S-105 21 Stockholm, SVERIGE

Lunden Anna, Leg.vet.
Statens Veterinärmed. Anstalt
Avd. Parasitologi
Box 7073
S-750 07 Uppsala, SVERIGE

Lundin, Lena, Lab.ing.
Olshammargatan 64, 3tr.
S-12476 Bandhagen, SVERIGE

Lundquist, Lars, Fil.kand
Zoologiska Inst.
Lunds Universitet
Helgonavägen 3
S-223 62 Lund, SVERIGE

Malmberg, Göran, Docent *
Vallarevägen 15 A
S-183 51 Täby, SVERIGE

Malmberg, Marianne, Fil.lic
Vallarevägen 15 A
S-183 51 Täby, SVERIGE

Mattson, Niklas, Cand.scient.
Torsväg 10
S-26 900 Båstad, SVERIGE

Olsson, Mats, Lic. Med. Fak.
Parasitologiska enheten
Smittskyddsinstitutet
S-105 21 Stockholm, SVERIGE

Nilsson, Lars-Åke, Bitr.överläkare
Immunl. avd.; Inst. Med. Mikrobiol.
Guldhedsgatan 10
S-413 46 Göteborg, SVERIGE

Nilsson, Olle, Chefspatolog
AB Svensk Laboratorietjänst
Box 9003
S-291 09 Kristianstad SVERIGE

Olburs, Christer, Fil.kand.
Stävsikäret
S-130 42 Stavsudda, SVERIGE

Olsen, Björn
Mikrobiologiska Institutionen
Umeå Universitet
S-901 87 Umeå, SVERIGE

Ordquist, Kerstin, Lab.ass.
Öjenäsgatan 1
S-654 68 Karlstad, SVERIGE

Ouchterlony, Örjan, Professor emer.
Inst. för Medicinsk Mikrobiologi
Guldhedsgatan 10
S-413 46 Göteborg, SVERIGE

Persson, Lennart, Länsvet.
Länsstyrelsen i Gotlands län
Strandgatan 2
S-621 85 Visby, SVERIGE

Petersson, Åke, Byråchef
Fiskeristyrelsen
Box 2565
S-403 17 Göteborg, SVERIGE

Schmidt-Aydin, Berit, Lab.ass.
Langlandsgatan 53
S-164 43 Kista, SVERIGE

Svahn, Kerstin, Fil.dr.
Domherrevägen 3
S-222 31 Lund, SVERIGE

Steen, Margareta, Veterinär
Hamra Gård
S-190 63 Örsundsbro, SVERIGE

Sunnemark, Dan
MTC, Immunologen
Karolinska Institutet
Box 280,
S-17177 Stockholm, SVERIGE

Thors, Cecilia, Fil.kand.
Parasitologiska enheten
Smittskyddsinstitutet
S-10521 Stockholm, SVERIGE

Svensson, Catarina, Veterinär
Försöksgården
Box 234
S-53223 Skara, SVERIGE

Thebo, Per
Parasitol. Avd
Statens Veterinärmedicinska Anstalt
Box 7073
S-75007 Uppsala, SVERIGE

Thorsell, Walborg, Docent
FOA
S-172 90 Sundbyberg, SVERIGE

Thulin, Jan, Fil.dr.
Havs fiskelaboratoriet
Box 4
S-453 21 Lysekil, SVERIGE

Uggla, Arvid, Professor
Parasitologiska Avd
Statens Veterinärmed. Anstalt
P.O. Box 7073
S-75007 Uppsala, SVERIGE

Troye-Blomberg, Marita, Ph.D.
Avdelningen för Immunologi
Stockholms Universitet
S-106 91 Stockholm, SVERIGE

Törnquist, Mats, Leg.vet.
Svenska Djurhälsovården
Box 505
S-24482 Kävlinge, SVERIGE

Winiecka-Krusnell, Jadwiga, Ph.D.
Parasitologisk enheten
Smittskyddsinstitutet
S-105 21 Stockholm, SVERIGE

Wahlgren, Mats, Professor
MTC, Parasitologen
Karolinska Institutet
Box 280,
S-172 77 Stockholm, SVERIGE

Willcox, Michael, Fil.dr.
Åsvägen 42
S-818 33 Valbo, SVERIGE

Åslund, Lena
Dept. Med. Gen., Biomedical Centre
Uppsala University
Box 589
S-75123 Uppsala, SWEDEN

Zakrisson, Göran, Fil.kand
Parasitologiska avd.
SVA
Box 7073
S-750 07 Uppsala, SVERIGE

Bossche, Hugo van den
Dept. Comp. Biochemistry
Janssen Pharmaceutica,
Research Labs.
B-2340 Beerse, BELGIUM

Metsis, Ats, Dr.
Inst. Exp. Biology,
Estonian Acad. Sci.
EE3051 Harku, Harju m/k
ESTONIA

Maanen, Marten Van, Dev. Manager
Rhône Poulanc Agro
14-20 Rue Pierre Baizet
F-6909 Lyon, FRANCE

Barth Dietrich, Prof. Dr.med.vet.
MSD Sharp & Dohme GmbH
Kathrinenhof
Walchensestr. 8-12
D-83101 Rohrdorf-Lauterbach
GERMANY

Valkiunas, Gediminas, Dr.
Institute of Ecology
Akademijos 2
Vilnius 260, LITHUANIA

Hansen, Jörgen W., Vet. Surg.
AGAG, FAO
Via delle Terme di Caracalla
I-00100 Rome, ITALY

Ruitenbergh, Joost, Prof.
CLB
P.O. Box 9190
1006 AD Amsterdam
THE NETHERLANDS

Costa, Graça, Dr.
Dept. Biologica
Universidade da Madeira
Lg. do Colégio
9000 Funchal, PORTUGAL

Gamarro Conde, Francisco, Ph.D.,
Inst. Parasit.
"Invest. Cientif.; c/ Ventanilla No. 11"
18001 Granada, SPAIN

Bergquist, Robert, Med.dr.
Parasitic Diseases Programme
WHO TDR/SCH
CH-1211 Geneva 27, SWITZERLAND

Bray, Rodney A., Senior sci.
Dept. Zool. Br. Museum (Nat. History)
Cromwell Road
London SW7 5BD, ENGLAND, UK

des Clers, Sophie, Dr.
Imperial College
8 Prince's Gardens
London, SW7 1 NA, UK

Cunningham, Carey
Soaefd Marine Laboratory
PO Box 101
Victoria road
Aberdeen AB11 9DB, UK

Gibson, David, DSc.
Worm Sect., Zool. Dept.
British Museum (Natural History)
London S7 5BD, ENGLAND, UK

Halton, D.W. Prof.
Dept. Biology,
The Queens University
Belfast BT7 1NN
N. IRELAND, U.K.

Kennedy, C.R., Ph.D.
Hatherly Laboratories
University of Exeter
Exeter EX4 4PS, UK

Mackenzie, Ken, Dr.
DAFS Marine Laboratory
P.O.Box 101, Victoria Road
Aberdeen AB9 8DB
SCOTLAND, UK

Smyth, James D., Prof. emer.
3 Braid Mount View
Edinburgh, EH10 6JL
Scotland, UK

Sommerville, Christina, Ph.D.
Inst. of Aquaculture
University of Stirling
Stirling FK9 4LA
SCOTLAND, UK

Taylor, David W., Prof.
University of Edinburgh,
Centre for Trop. Vet. Med.
Easter Bush, Roslin
Midlothian, EH25 9RG, UK

Williams, Harford Hon.res.assoc.
Open Univ. in Wales
24 Cathedral Road
Cardiff CF1 9SA, Wales, UK

Sui, Fu, M.D.
Inst. Parasit. Dis.
Chinese Acad. Prev. Med.
207 Rui Jin Er Lu,
Shanghai 200025, CHINA

Hilali, Mosaad, Professor
Dept. of Parasitology
Fac. Vet. Med., Cairo University
Giza, 12211 EGYPT

Moubarak, S.T.
Dept. of Hygiene, Fac. Vet. Medicine
Cairo University
Giza, 12211, EGYPT

Molan, A.L. Ph.D.
Dept. Biology; Educ. College
Univ. of Salahaldeen,
Arbeil, IRAQ

Dirie, M.F. Dr.
ILRAD
P.O. Box 30704
Nairobi, KENYA

Fatani, Ahmed Endrees, Ph.D.
College of Vet. Med & Animal Res.
King Faisal University
Box 1757
AL-Ahsa 3192, SAUDI-ARABIA

Sami A. Al-Atiya, Dr.
Vet. Dept. Microb. & Parasit.
King Faisal University
P.O.Box 1757
Al-Ahsa 3192, SAUDI-ARABIA

El Wasila, Mohammed, Ph.D.
Dept. Zoology
University of Khartoum
P.O. Box 321 Khartoum SUDAN

Tolling, Sven T., Leg.vet.
Pfizer Animal Health group
3rd Floor (235) 235 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017, USA

Nieto, Alberto, Ph.D.
Dept. Immunol., Fac. Chem.
Univ. of the Rep. Casilla de Correos
1157 Montevideo, URUGUAY

Stuve, Gudbrand, Dr. Scient
Royal Norwegian Embassy
P.O. Box 34570
7H 10101 Lusaka, ZAMBIA

Overstreet, Robin M., Ph.D.
Gulf Coast Res. Lab.
P.O.Box 7000 Ocean Springs
Miss. 39564-7000, USA

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BULLETIN OF THE SCANDINAVIAN SOCIETY FOR PARASITOLOGY

Editor: Jorun Tharaldsen, National Veterinary Institute, P.O. Box 8156 Dep,
N-0033 Oslo, NORWAY.

Telephone: +47 22964617 Fax: +47 22600981 e-mail jorun.tharaldsen@vetinst.no

Editorial board:

Denmark:

Flemming Frandsen, Royal
Vet. and Agric. Univ., Sect.
for Zool., Inst. for Ecol. and
Molec. Biology, Bülowsvej
13, DK-1870 Fredriksberg
C (Tel: +45 35282775, Fax:
+45 35282774)
e-mail: ECOL@KVL.DK

Maria Vang Johansen,
Danish Bilharziasis Lab. ,
Jægersborg Allé 1 D,
DK-2920 Charlottenlund
(Tel: +45 39626168, Fax:
+45 39626121) e-mail:
MVJ@Bilharziasis.DK

Eskild Petersen, Statens
Seruminstitut, Lab. of
Parasitology, DK-2300
Copenhagen S
(Tel: +45 32683223, Fax:
+45 32683033)

Finland:

Margaretha Gustafsson
Åbo Akademi, Dept. of
Biol., BIOCTY, Artillerigt.
6, FIN-20520 Åbo (Tel: +
358 212654603, Fax: +358
212654748) e-mail:
magustaf@finabo.abo.fi

Hannu Kyrönseppä,
Auroran Sairaala,
Nordenskiöldsgt. 20,
FIN-00250 Helsinki
(Tel: +358 9 4715983, Fax:
+358 9 4715900)

E. Tellervo Valtonen,
University of Jyväskylä,
Dept. of Biology, P.O. Box
35, FIN-40351 Jyväskylä
(Tel: +358 14 602329, Fax:
+358 14 602321)
e-mail: etvalto@tukki.jyu.fi

Iceland:

Sigurður Richter, University
of Iceland, Inst. for Exp.
Pathol. Keldur, P.O. Box
8540, IS-112 Reykjavík
(Tel: +354 5674700, Fax:
+354 5673979)
e-mail: shr@rhi.hi.is

Karl Skírnisson, University
of Iceland, Inst. for Exp.
Pathol., Keldur, IS-112
Reykjavík
(Tel +354 5674700, Fax:
+354 5673979)
e-mail: karlsk@rhi.hi.is

Norway:

Tor A Bakke, Zoological
Museum, University of
Oslo, Sarsgt. 1, N-0562
Oslo (Tel: +47 22851678,
Fax: +47 22851837) e-mail:
t.a.bakke@toyen.uio.no

Bjørn Gjerde, Norwegian
Coll. Vet. Med., Dept. of
Parasitol. P.O. Box 8146
Dep., N-0033 Oslo (Tel:
+47 22 964969, Fax: +47
22964965) e-mail:
bjorn.gjerde@veths.no

Svein G. Gundersen,
Ullevaal Hospital, Dept. of.
Inf. Diseases, N-0407 Oslo
(Tel: +47 22119119,
Fax: +47 22119125)

Sweden:

Johan Höglund
National Vet. Inst./ Swedish
Univ. Agric. Scient., Dept.
of Parasitol., P.O. Box
7073, S-750 07 Uppsala,
(Tel: +46 18674156, Fax:
+46 18309162) e-mail:
Johan.Hoglund@sva.se

Lars-Åke Nilsson,
University of Göteborg, Inst.
of Med. Microbiol. &
Immunol., Guldhedsgatan
10, S-413 46 Göteborg
(Tel: 46 31 604717, Fax
+46 31 604688)

Jan Thulin
National Board of Fisheries,
Inst of Marine Research,
P.O. Box 4, S-453 21
Lysekil (Tel: +46 52314180,
Fax: +46 52313977) e-mail:
jan.thulin@imr.se

Editor of Baltic News:

Peter Nansen, Danish Ctr.
of Exp. Parasitol, Royal Vet.
and Agric. Univ., Bülowsvej
13, DK-1870 Fredriksberg
C, (Tel: +45 3528 2780,
Fax: +45 3528 2774) e-
mail: Peter.Nansen@
vetni.kvl.dk

**BULLETIN OF THE SCANDINAVIAN
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