

HELMINTHS — LESS KNOWN INHABITANTS OF ANTARCTICA

Summary

Polish parasitological studies in Antarctica have been conducted from 1977 when H. Arctowski Station of Polish Academy of Sciences was founded. All groups of helminths — Digenea, Cestoda, Nematoda and Acanthocephala were examined. In total, 55 new species of helminths were described. Among them there were: 27 species of Digenea in bony fishes, 16 species of Cestoda (12 in fishes, 3 in birds, one in

mammals), 3 species of Nematoda (2 in bony fishes, one in birds) and 9 species of Acanthocephala (2 in bony fishes, 3 in birds and 4 in mammals). Two new species of Monogenea (external parasites) were found as well. Antarctic bony fishes are known as final, intermediate and paratenic hosts of parasites. They play an important role in life cycles of helminths parasitizing other Antarctic vertebrates.