

Parasites of Ungulates in the Jackson Hole Area
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Project Number 156

During October, 1968, January, May, July-August, and October 1969 field and laboratory work was carried out on parasites of elk in or near the Grand Teton National Park. Elk fecal analyses were made during each of the four seasons to learn more of the change in incidence of various internal parasites. Most of the research effort was directed toward field and laboratory work on the elk lungworm, Dictyocaulus sp.

Data shown in Fig. 1 indicates a low incidence of infection in January with a rapid rise in incidence to May. After May there is no increase and the incidence may decrease ('69 data) slightly through the fall months.

Necropsy data shows that the fecal analyses may be conservative. Forty-five per cent of the Grand Teton Park elk examined in 1968 were carrying adult Dictyocaulus sp. nematodes. However, in 1969, only one animal necropsied (20%) showed even the lesions of prior Dictyocaulus infection. Of 16 animals necropsied in 1969 on the National elk refuge, 44% were positive for lungworm. In 1968 80% of the refuge elk were positive for lungworm. Time of highest rate of infection may be near April 1-15 each year.

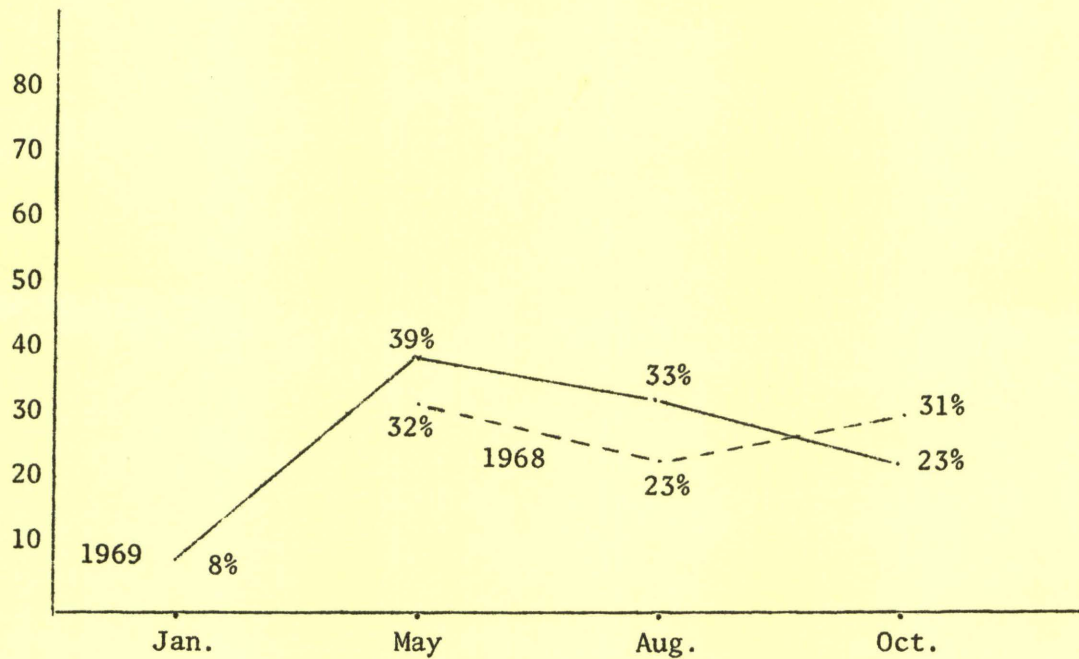


Fig. 1 Per cent incidence of the elk lungworm, *Dictyocaulus* sp., in fecal samples of elk in each of four seasons during 1968 and 1969. Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming.

Supported by University of Wyoming.