

Parasites of Ungulates in the Jackson Hole Area
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Research on the elk lungworm Dictyocaulus sp was carried out in the spring (early June) and summer (mid-July) of 1972.

Sampling techniques were changed somewhat in that a much larger (60 gram) fecal sample was collected from elk pellet groups in the same areas used in previous years when 20 gram fecal samples were taken from elk pellet groups on the National Elk Refuge and in various parts of the Teton National Park. During the summer Dictyocaulus sp larval incidence and numbers in elk feces of the Teton Park elk were compared with larval incidence and numbers in feces collected from Big Game Ridge elk. A much higher incidence (Fig. 1) of lungworm-positive elk was noted in the spring of 1972 (70%). The increase in positives was probably due, at least in part, to increased sample size. In previous years the Big Game Ridge elk were found 12-16% positive for lungworm. This year 33% of those elk were positive with the increased sample size.

The National Elk Refuge has been maintained free, or nearly free, of elk for most of the late spring and summer of 1972. Therefore, the present study will be continued in order to learn if the management change will affect elk lungworm incidence and numbers next year and succeeding years in the Teton Park elk.

Per Cent Positive for Dictyocaulus sp.

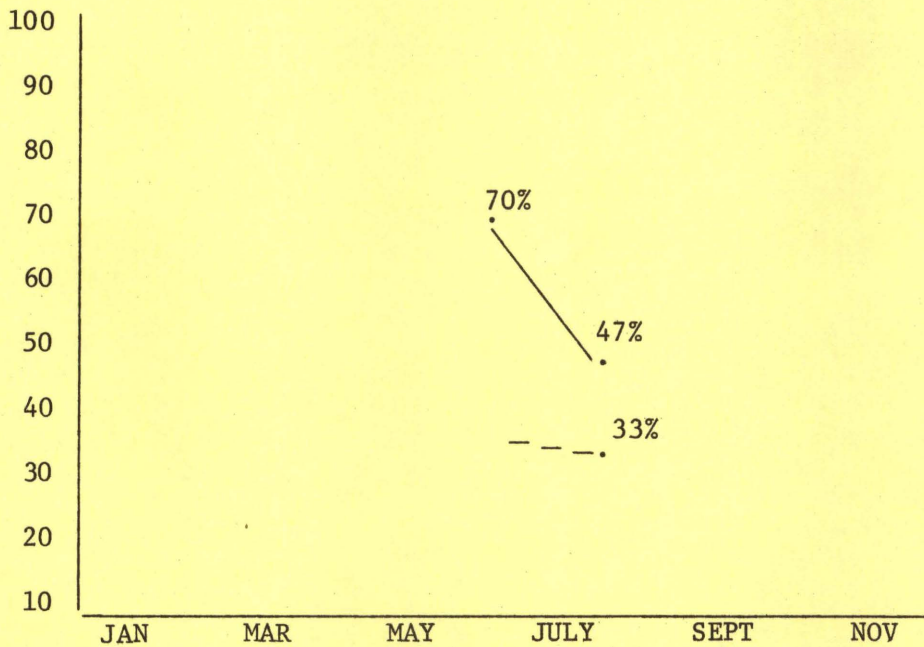


Fig. 1 Per cent incidence of elk lungworm Dictyocaulus sp. in 60 gram fecal samples from elk in two seasons during 1972. Solid line indicates Teton Park elk and broken line indicates Big Game Ridge elk.

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