



ILLINOIS STATUS

common endangered threatened
 native exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: statewide

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.

Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.

pinworm

Cruzia spp.

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Nematoda
Class:
Order:
Family:

FEATURES

This pinworm is a roundworm parasite of the small and large intestine of the opossum. Pinworms tend to be species specific. One infecting the opossum will usually not infect any other species. The adult pinworms are slender, cylindrical and less than one-half inch in length. The body color is off-white to brown. The eggs are often flattened on one side.

BEHAVIORS

This pinworm may be found statewide in Illinois wherever its host lives. Adult female pinworms lay their eggs on the skin around the host's anus. The eggs then fall off of the host. Larvae develop inside the eggs. If the infective eggs are ingested by an opossum, the larvae emerge in its intestine and mature.

HABITATS

bottomland forests
 coniferous forest
 southern Illinois lowlands
 upland deciduous forest