



lung fluke

Paragonimus kellicotti

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Platyhelminthes
Class: Trematoda
Order:
Family:

FEATURES

This fluke is a parasite of the lungs of the mink, dog, muskrat, cat, raccoon, fox and coyote. The adult fluke is from one-fourth to three-fourths inch long. Suckers are used for attachment and feeding. A protective cuticle is present over the body.

BEHAVIORS

This lung fluke may be found statewide in Illinois wherever its hosts live. Fluke eggs pass out of their host in the host's feces. Eggs mature in two to three weeks and hatch in water. This miracidium stage must infect a snail for additional developmental stages to take place. The cercariae stage emerges from the snail at maturity. The cercariae infect crayfish, migrating to the heart, liver or muscles. When the crayfish is eaten by one of the host species, the young fluke is released into the small intestine. It burrows through the intestinal wall and moves around in the peritoneal cavity for up to two weeks before entering the lungs. In the lungs, it forms a cyst. The cyst has an exit to a bronchiole in the lung. The adult deposits eggs which enter the bronchiole of the host, are passed up to the throat and are swallowed.

HABITATS

- bottomland forests
- coniferous forest
- southern Illinois lowlands
- upland deciduous forest

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.