



Exploring the Biodiversity of Parasites in Humans, Wild and Domestic Animals

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Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

30 September 2024

Message from the Guest Editor

Characterization of parasite infections has served as a tool for the assessment of environmental quality and they are also considered bioindicators of environmental impact in which the hosts are inserted. In preserved environments the hosts generally present great parasite diversity, but with few specimens to not cause damage to the health of the host. In altered environments, however, hosts may present a large number of parasites of the same or different species, which may lead to the appearance of clinical signs and even the death of the living being that harbors them. Hosts are typically co-infected by multiple species of parasites, resulting in high levels of complexity between interactions, and some authors have considered an individual host to be an ecosystem. Parasitic co-infections can also cause immunosuppression of the host, which may aggravate the clinical signs presented and hinder the recovery of the parasitized host. Therefore, knowledge of the parasitic biodiversity of a host or a group of them inserted in the same environment is extremely important for mammals, including humans and wild and domestic animals.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

The worldwide impact of infectious disease is incalculable. The consequences for human health in terms of morbidity and mortality are obvious and vast but, when infections of animals and plants are also taken into account, it is hard to imagine any other disease that has such a significant impact on our lives—on healthcare systems, on agriculture and on world economics. *Pathogens* is proud to continue to serve the international community by publishing high quality studies that further our understanding of infection and have meaningful consequences for disease intervention.

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