



Timisoara, 25-26 May

THE IDENTIFICATION OF *SARCOPTES* SPP. MITE IN RED FOX (*VULPES VULPES*) SKIN LESIONS - CASE REPORT

GHILEAN, B.M., MARIN, A.M., MORARU, M.M.F., PLOTUNA, A.M., MEDERLE, N.

University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timisoara, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

Abstract: A red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) from the hunting grounds Giarmata from Timis County with specific lesions was examined. To establish the diagnosis we performed skin scrapings that were collected from the affected areas. We confirmed the presence of *Sarcoptes* spp. mites. The result highlights the potential for the spread of this highly contagious parasite among wildlife populations and hunters having the highest risk of contacting.

Introduction

The red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) is widespread in the world, in Central Europe, it is the most representative wild species in the family *Canidae*. Sarcoptic mange, caused by the mite *Sarcoptes* spp., is a highly contagious parasitic disease affecting various animal species, including wildlife.

Material and method

This case report describes a red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) from the hunting grounds Giarmata from Timis County (Romania) which was received from the hunters. A thorough physical examination revealed specific lesions associated with sarcoptic mange, including alopecia, erythema, and crusts, primarily in the head, neck, and tail regions. This emaciated fox female body was examined at the Parasitology Department of Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. To establish the diagnosis we performed skin scrapings that were collected from the affected areas and microscopic analysis.

Results and discussions

We confirmed the presence of *Sarcoptes* spp. mites. The mites were identified based on their morphology and typical pathological signs.

Conclusions

The infestation with *Sarcoptes* spp. in foxes from Timis County highlights the potential for the spread of this highly contagious parasite among wildlife populations. The finding raises concerns for both animal health, since the parasite can infect both species, hunters having the highest risk of contacting. This case report emphasizes the importance of early detection, prompt diagnosis, and effective management of sarcoptic mange in wildlife populations.

Acknowledgement:

This scientific paper was carried out in the Laboratory of Parasitology and Parasitic Disease at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Timisoara, Laboratory within the Animal Hygiene and Pathology Research Center/ ULS Timisoara.

