

## 12th European Multicollloquium of Parasitology

### ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

**Title: Dicrocoelium dendriticum and Paleoparasitology: where do we stand?**

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**Abstract**

In terms of helminthic Paleoparasitology, *Dicrocoelium dendriticum* encompasses its unique location. Literature shows this parasite has been detected in five continents.

Due to simplicity of detecting the parasite's eggs, the probability of correct diagnosis is high. However, regarding one major problem it is very complicated to consider all reported cases as true contamination. The problem is that after consuming infected liver, many parasite's eggs are released into feces, so called transit infection, and reported as a new case. Paleoparasitology is related to ancient times so considering that at those times liver was used to eat raw or semi cooked (because of food habit or scarce of energy) many reported cases cannot be assumed as true cases. Some points are of significant note:

During ancient times hunters used to eat raw liver; herds of sheep and ruminants were given to kings and authorities on big scales as dedication so they were transferred from one country to another and this in turn, caused to spread the parasite to different locations. Parasite's eggs possess thick wall and among other eggs has been approved to have strong wall which permits them to be preserved for thousand years with no obvious damage. Besides, permanent and irritable contact of human and ruminants boosted this overload of parasite. As a clue to clarify this issue, the best way is to consider the source of sample. Samples taken from sacrum bone are the best cases because samples obtained from superficial soils possibly have been contaminated with animal sources.

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