

SURVEY OF ALASKA MARTEN POPULATIONS FOR SOBOLIPHYME BATURINI
A STOMACH-DWELLING NEMATODE

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Soboliphyme baturini is a nematode parasite most commonly found
in the gastrointestinal tract of mustelids. Soil-dwelling
oligochetes serve as an intermediate host. Free-ranging
mustelids such as mink (Mustela vison) and marten (Martes
americana) are presumably exposed when they ingest parasitized
oligochetes. Negative impacts on mustelid physiology are
minimal.

Prevalences of the parasite ranges from a low of 0% in several
geographic areas to a high of over 50% in other areas.
Prevalence in any particular area is stable between years. We
hypotheses that geographic differences in prevalence of the
parasite are due to geographic differences in either the: (1)
distribution of the intermediate host or (2) feeding habits of
marten.

Prevalence is higher in adults as compared to juveniles.
Differences in sex-specific prevalence are not consistent.
Intensity of parasitism (number of parasites per marten) is
higher in Southeastern Alaska as compared to the mainland.

SIXTH NORTHERN FURBEARER CONFERENCE

AGENDA AND ABSTRACTS

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