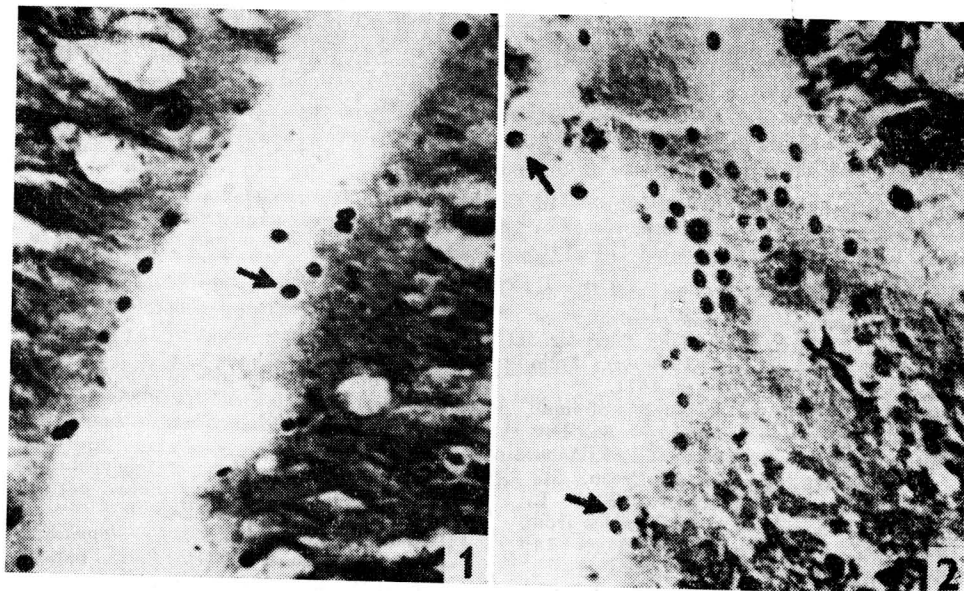


CRYPTOSPORIDIUM SP. IN CYPRINUS CARPIO LINNÉ, 1758 IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA



Figs. 1, 2. The developmental stages of *Cryptosporidium* sp. (arrows) from carp. Giemsa stain ($\times 500$).

Coccidia of the genus *Cryptosporidium* occur in young animals of almost all economically important species (calves, piglets, lambs, colts), as well as in rabbits, cats, monkeys, guinea-pigs, and mice. Cryptosporidial infections have been detected also in birds — broilers, turkeys and domestic geese. Lately even cases of human cryptosporidiosis have been reported still more frequently.

In 1981, Hoover et al. (J. Fish Diseases 4: 425—428, 1981) published a short communication describing the first case of enteric cryptosporidiosis in tropical sea fish *Naso lituratus* Bloch et Schneider, 1801. The authors found spherical organisms measuring 2—4 μm on the surface of microvilli of intestinal mucosa of this host. They proposed to name this cryptosporidian *Cryptosporidium nasoris*, because they supposed cryptosporidians to be host-specific.

With regard to this paper we have performed orientation examinations of 35 carps in South

Bohemia. In five of them, spherical to oval organisms measuring 1.5—4 μm were found on the surface of villi in the middle part of intestine. These organisms resembled in their structure and morphology the developmental stages of *Cryptosporidium* sp. (Figs. 1, 2) from other hosts and conformed to the descriptions of cryptosporidians reported from the above-mentioned animal species.

The elucidation of the occurrence of *Cryptosporidium* sp. in carp, which is of a great economic importance in our country, requires detailed studies of further material due to the fact that developmental stages of coccidia, e.g. *Epicimeria anguillae*, may also occur on the surface of villi of intestinal mucosa.

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