

Encadrement :

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Titre du stage :

Amphibiocystidium – a parasite impacting on palmate newts

Mots clés :

species conservation, distribution, emerging diseases

Résumé (150 mots maximum) :

Since the early 1900s, mesomycetozoon parasites have been reported in both European anuran and caudate species. These reports have primarily been descriptive, which has made assessing the impact of these parasites on host populations difficult. Anecdotal reports of dermocystidium-like parasites are becoming widespread across Europe, possibly indicating that these mesomycetozoon parasites are increasing in distribution and/or abundance. This highlights the need for further investigations into the occurrence, pathogenesis and effects on host health of these parasitic infections for free-living amphibian populations, particularly those which are already stressed or threatened by other factors. The work will include prospection in the Pyrenean mountains, as well as observations of the development of the disease in the host under laboratory conditions, and treatment of the infection by known disinfectants to determine effectivity.

Deux références bibliographiques:

DI ROSA, I., F. SIMONCELLI, A. FAGOTTI, and R. PASCOLINI. 2007. Ecology: The proximate cause of frog declines? *Nature* 447: E4-E5.

RAFFEL, T., T. BOMMARITO, D. BARRY, S. WITIAK, and L. SHACKELTON. 2008. Widespread infection of the Eastern red-spotted newt (*Notophthalmus viridescens*) by a new species of *Amphibiocystidium*, a genus of fungus-like mesomycetozoon parasites not previously reported in North America. *Parasitology* 135: 203-215.

Techniques mises en œuvre:

Morphological measures, Image analysis

Compétences particulières exigées:

GIS knowledge,
Walking under difficult weather conditions in mountains