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DYNAMICS OF THE Lymnaea truncatula (Mollusca, Basommatophora) INFECTION BY Fasciola hepatica (Trematoda, Digenea) IN THE PORMA BASIN (LEON, NW SPAIN).


Between March of 1985 and March of 1987 fortnightly malacological samplings were taken, to collect L. truncatula (MÜLLER, 1774) intermediate host of F. hepatica LINNAEUS, 1758, in 5 locations of the Porma basin, at an altitude ranging from 936 to 1200 m. These places were chosen because molluscs infected with the mentioned trematode were previously found there. Throughout the year, snail population, the prevalence and the intensity of their infection by F. hepatica and, the development of the larval stages were studied. Information about the habitat of the snail and meteorological conditions was also gathered. Of the 5,476 molluscs examined, 11.06% harboured F. hepatica with a mean intensity of 20.14. The maximum of the prevalence and the mean intensity was found in October (18.72 and 28.37, respectively), and the minimum for the prevalence in June (2.45) and in May for the mean intensity (11). The infection increased with the size of the snail. The maximum prevalence (85.71) was seen in molluscs of 9-10 mm high, while the mean intensity was stabilized since 7 mm. The highest infection levels (33.85% and 22.41) were recorded in Redipollos (30TUN1663). Generally, the parasites found in the same snail presented different degrees of development. The sporocysts were observed in February-March and July-November. The shedding of the cercariae was seen between September and December, so, this period can be considered as the most suitable for the infection of the definitive hosts that graze in the area.