Lungworms in an abattoir survey:
Preliminary findings of the Cypriot dairy goat industry

G. Nikolaou [1, 3], R.M. Panayi [1], M. Christoforou [1], K.V. Arsenopoulos [1], E. Papadopoulos [2]

[1] Department of Veterinary Medicine, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Nicosia

[2] Laboratory of Parasitology and Parasitic Diseases, School of Veterinary Medicine, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

[3] NGN Veterinary Pathology LTD

Objective

The objective of the present study was the determination of the prevalence of the **lungworm infections** in dairy goats, through **post-mortem** and **histopathological examinations**, in the island of Cyprus.

Materials and Methods

- The present survey conducted from **June to October 2025**.
- Two main **abattoirs of Cyprus** were included in the survey (Fig. 1).
- Random collection of **48 lung specimens** from adult dairy goats was performed.
- Both **macroscopic** (Fig. 2) and **histopathological** (Fig. 3) examination of these specimens was performed.
- Individual faecal samples were taken and Baermann technique was performed.
- The genus of all detected L_1 pulmonary larvae was **morphologically identified**.

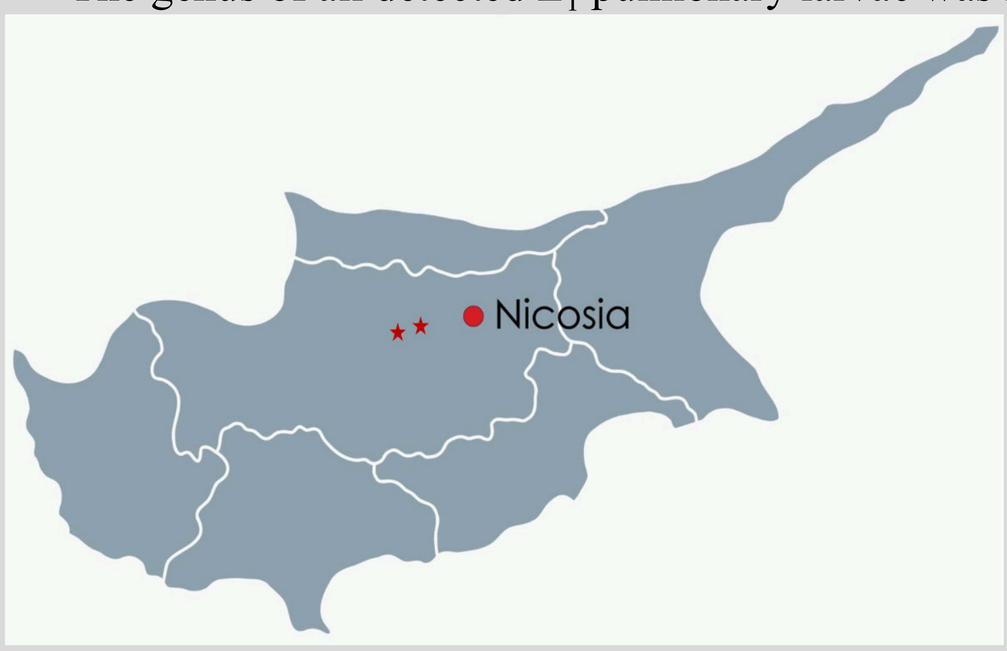


Fig. 1 Location of the Cypriot abattoirs (red stars) visited for lung specimens' collection.



Fig. 2 Macroscopic examination of lung specimens from adult dairy goats



Fig. 3 Lung (H&E x40): Severe infiltration by neutrophils, eosinophils and macrophages, alveolar oedema, emphysema and numerous intralesional pulmonary nematodes.

Results

- 26 out of 48 (54.2 %) lung specimens exhibited pulmonary lesions.
- 3 out of 26 **(11.5 %)** lung specimens with the forementioned lesions were infected with **pulmonary nematodes**.
- The **morphological identification** of L_1 pulmonary larvae revealed the presence of ***Muellerius capillaris*** (Fig. 4).

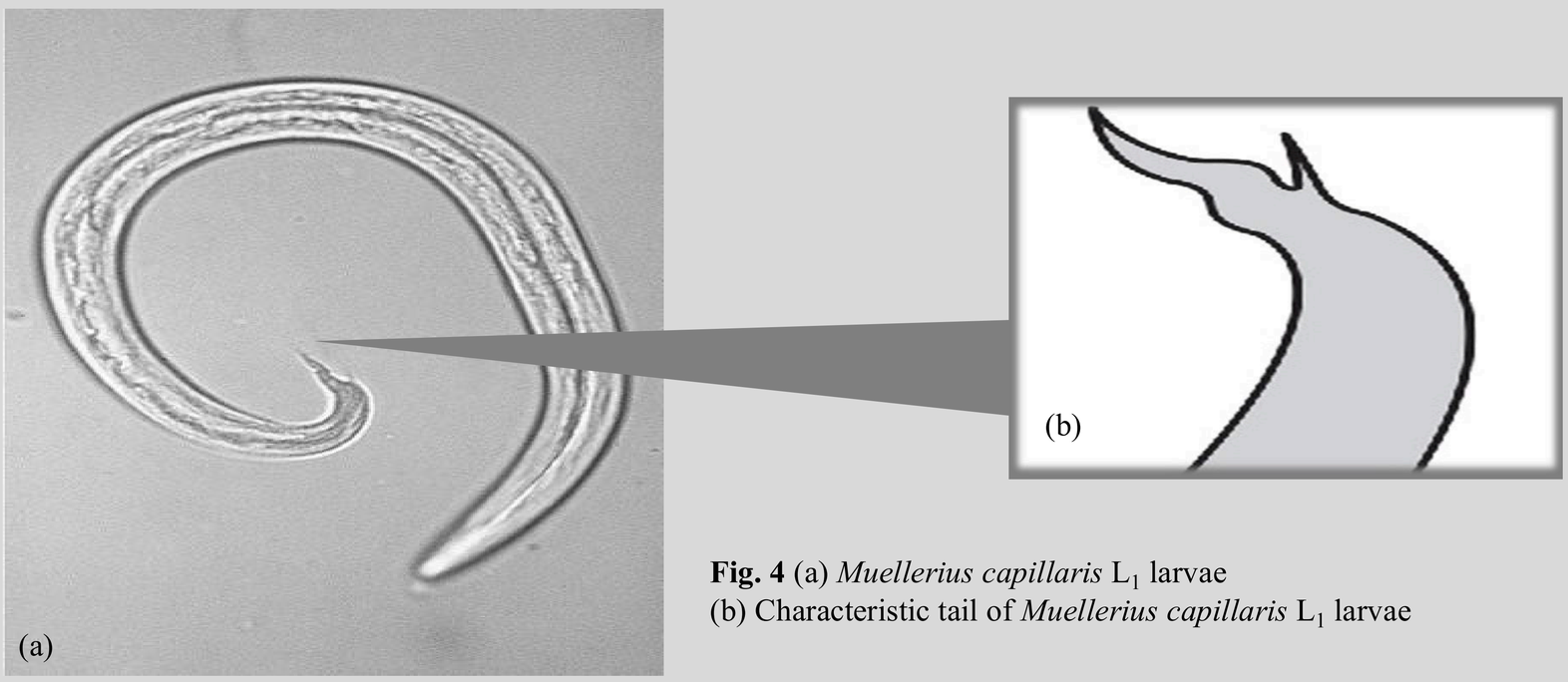


Fig. 4 (a) *Muellerius capillaris* L_1 larvae
(b) Characteristic tail of *Muellerius capillaris* L_1 larvae

Conclusions

The present preliminary study highlights:
(a) the presence of ***Muellerius capillaris*** infections in Cypriot dairy goats, as a **random finding** among lungs with pulmonary lesions
(b) the need for targeted **parasite control measures**.
One extensive countrywide study is necessary for the determination of the prevalence of pulmonary nematode parasites infections.