

## PREVALENCE OF FOOTROT IN BILOGORA REGION IN CROATIA

*O. Smolec*<sup>1</sup>, *P. Džaja*<sup>2</sup>, *M. Samardžija*<sup>3</sup>, *D. Đuričić*<sup>4</sup>, *M. Pećin*<sup>1</sup>  
osmolec@vef.hr

<sup>1</sup>University of Zagreb, Veterinary faculty,  
Clinic of Surgery, Orthopedics and Ophthalmology, Zagreb, Croatia

<sup>2</sup>University of Zagreb, Department for Forensic  
and State Veterinary Medicine, Zagreb, Croatia

<sup>3</sup>University of Zagreb, Veterinary faculty, Clinic for Obstetrics  
and Reproduction, Zagreb, Croatia

<sup>4</sup>Veterinary practice, Đurđevac, Croatia

The aim of this study was to investigate prevalence of the ovine footrot (FR) in Bilogora region in Croatia.

A cross-sectional survey was conducted in areas of Bilogora region in Croatia from May of 2016 to July of 2017. History of the farms and management as well as previous outbreaks data were collected. Data of interdigital lesions with lameness, foul odor and discharges were recorded as positive cases. The study area of the region comprised 5 villages. A total of 1344 randomly selected sheep from 5 farms were selected as the study population. The FR in this population was not studied previously in details.

The overall prevalence of ovine FR was 14.6 %. The prevalence of the FR is reported to be 8 to 10 % in the United Kingdom and 12 % to 15 % in India. The prevalence of FR among the 5 villages in Croatia was not significantly different ( $P > 0.05$ ). The owners of sheep in the study areas do not practice footbath, foot trimming or paring of hoof, which are commonly practiced in developed countries. Most farmers did not ask veterinary care when sheep showed lameness.

This is the first study to report the prevalence of FR lesions in a random sample of sheep flocks in Bilogora region. The knowledge on the etiology of the disease and the development of effective management practices may be key facts to control the FR. The prevalence of FR depends on the environmental conditions and pasture because the regular management practices prevent the colonization of bacteria in the interdigital spaces. It decreases the chance of skin integrity damage due to trauma, wetness or mud deposition, which are essential for the FR causative agents to colonize the interdigital space. These data may be helpful for advising farmers of potential environmental events and preventive management practices that may control the probability of sheep develop FRs.

**Keywords:** OVINE, FOOT ROT, PREVALENCE