

Special Issue

Avian Blood Parasites

Message from the Guest Editors

Like other groups of vertebrates, birds suffer from a large variety of parasitic diseases. Due to the ability of most birds to fly and therefore passively transport pathogens, the geographic and host distribution of avian parasites is generally more complex than that of strictly terrestrial animals. Haemosporidian parasites are common in birds and infections often used to be considered benign; however, high parasitemia and tissue stage formation in the internal organs can cause severe damage and lead to the death of the infected vertebrate hosts. Avian parasitology has therefore attracted scientists from multiple disciplines such as parasitology, ornithology, entomology, molecular biology, genetics, and veterinary science. This Special Issue calls for original research and review articles dealing with various aspects of avian parasitology, involving research on biogeography, population genetics, taxonomy, systematics, host–parasite or parasite–vector interaction studies, and veterinary pathology. The focus of this issue is avian haemosporidian parasites, but we also welcome submissions dealing with other avian parasites.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Animals is an on-line open access journal that was first published in 2011. *Animals* adheres to rigorous peerreview and editorial processes and publishes only high quality manuscripts that address important issues in the many varied disciplines that involve animals, with a focus on animal science, animal welfare and animal ethics. *Animals* is covered in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) in Web of Science, with the latest Impact Factor: 2.7 (2024, ranks 15/86 (Q1) in 'Agriculture, Dairy & Animal Science'; 21/170 (Q1) in 'Veterinary Sciences'), 5-Year Impact Factor: 3.2.

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