Frequency of *Toxocara*.spp eggs in the soil of public places in Ardabil city, Iran.

**Abstract**

**Introduction**: Toxocariasis is a parasitic zoonosis with world wild distribution. It is caused by the ascarids of dogs (*Toxocara canis*) and cats (*Toxocara cati*). The soil contamination with eggs of these parasites can important etiological factor in *Toxocara* infection of people. Human become an incidental host for *Toxocara* when they ingest the eggs of the parasite, chiefly by hand-to-mouth contact, from exposure to areas polluted with *Toxocara* eggs, such as contaminated soil in public places. Human toxocariasis is presented as visceral larva migrans (VLM), ocular larva migrans (OLM) and covert toxocariasis.

There is no previous report of *Toxocara* contamination in the soil samples from the public areas in *Ardabil* city. For this reason our study have carried out to examine the frequency of *Toxocara* Spp eggs in public places in *Ardabil* city.

**Method**: During March 2013 to March 2014, 200 soil samples were collected from various sites in Ardabil city by simple random selection. In each collection approximately 100gr was collected from 3cm ground depth. Isolation of *Toxocara* spp eggs was carried out for each sample by sodium nitrate flotation followed by microscopy.  

**Results**: 14 (7%) of 200 soil samples contained *Toxocara* spp eggs. Ascaris spp eggs was 8 (4%), Trichocephal spp eggs was 5 (2/5%), Oxyor spp eggs 1 (0/5%), Dicrocoelium spp eggs 1 (0/5%), Nematode larvae 4 (2%) and Toxoascarise spp eggs was 2 (1%).

**Conclusion**: The present investigation clearly shows that public places have been contaminated with *Toxocara* spp eggs in *Ardabil* city. These findings may inform local control programs against Toxocariasis in this city.

**Keywords**: Toxocara spp eggs, Frequency, public places, Ardabil