

# Influence of life history traits on the population genetic structure of parasitic helminths: A minireview

Vázquez-Prieto S.

Vilas R.

Paniagua E.

Ubeira F.M.

Parasite life history traits influence the rate of gene flow between populations and the effective population size, both of which determine the levels of genetic variability and the geographic distribution of such variability. In this short review targeted to parasitologists, we summarise how life history traits influence the population genetic structure of parasitic helminths. These organisms are characterised by a wide variety of life cycles and are ecologically different from microparasites, which have been studied in more detail. In order to provide the reader a concise review that illustrates key aspects of the subject matter, we have limited ourselves to studying examples selected for their clarity and relevance. © Institute of Parasitology, Biology Centre CAS.

Differences in longevity and generation time

Host mobility

Host specificity

Life cycle complexity

Long-lived infective stages

Mating systems

Parasitism intensity

Reproduction modes

Transmission environment