

Phylogenetic and ecological factors affecting the sharing of helminths between native and introduced rodents in Central Chile

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Copyright © Cambridge University Press 2018. In order to analyse the effect of hosts' relationships and the helminthic load on the switching of parasites between native and introduced hosts, we sampled rodents belonging to two suborders from Central Chile. We compared the number of helminthic species shared between murids (introduced) and cricetid (native, same suborder) rodents to those shared between murids and hystricomorphs (native, different suborder), and we assessed the association between parasitic presence, abundance and geographical dispersion in source hosts to the presence and abundance in recipient hosts. Introduced rodent species shared more helminth species with cricetid rodents than with non-cricetids. Presence and abundance in recipient hosts was not associated with the prevalence and mean abundance in source hosts' population. The mean abundance of parasites in source hosts throughout the territory and wider dispersion was positively associated with the likelihood of