

Cross-infection studies of reindeer infected with *Elaphostrongylus alces* from moose and moose infected with *Elaphostrongylus rangiferi* from reindeer demonstrated that these parasites were able to mature and produce larvae in alternative hosts. However, species-specific morphological and behavioural traits (e.g. shape of bursal ribs and migratory pathways within host neural tissues) were independent of the host species in which parasites developed. The prepatent period of *Elaphostrongylus alces* in moose were shorter than those reported previously for *Elaphostrongylus rangiferi* in reindeer and *Elaphostrongylus panticola* in maral deer.

Thin-layer electrophoresis was used to differentiate protostrongylid genera and species on the basis of separation of nematode body proteins. This technique provided a biochemical means for identifying *Elaphostrongylus alces*, and *Elaphostrongylus rangiferi* and proved to be a useful diagnostic tool for distinguishing immature *Elaphostrongylus* larvae from those of other protostrongylids.

These studies provided support for the designation of these parasites as distinct species and suggest that further studies are necessary to determine whether *Elaphostrongylus* spp. are an important factor regulating cervid populations.

## **NOR-~~IN~~FORMATION**

### NORDIC COUNCIL FOR REINDEER RESEARCH

Grants and support for research

*Deadline* for next application 1. September 1992.

## **IMPORTANT MESSAGE!**

The 7th Nordic Workshop on Reindeer Research

as announced in Rangifer No. 1-92

is cancelled.

The next Workshop will be in Finland, 1993.