

Life History. The mature Hook Worms are found attached to the lining membrane of the intestine, being most abundant at the lower end of this organ. Fertilized eggs are released by the female worms. These eggs pass along with the food and are finally mixed in the dung pellets that are discharged from time to time.

When weather conditions are favorable for worm egg incubation, hatching will take place. The young worm feeds within the dung pellet for a time and then leaves it to enter the soil.

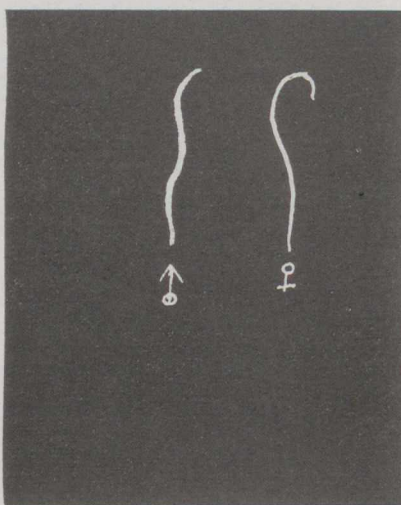


Figure 8.
Hookworm of sheep.

Two stages are passed through by the young worm before it reaches the infective stage. Cool weather retards the incubation of the eggs and development of the young worms. After reaching the infective stage the young worm lives on or in the surface soil where it apparently awaits an opportunity to enter the body of a sheep or lamb. This is done when the sheep lies down on contaminated soil. The mode of entry differs from most parasites in that the young worm penetrates the skin at any point where it may touch the soil. Once through the skin the young worms enter blood vessels to be carried to the heart and lungs. From the lungs they migrate up the trachea to be swallowed and passed to the intestine, where they attach themselves and grow to maturity.

Distribution of Hook Worm.— The Hook Worm of Sheep is very common in Eastern Canada, being found in large percentage of the flocks that are not given the attention that goes with good sheep husbandry. The Hook Worm was imported into Canada with sheep from Europe and the United States.

Symptoms of Hook Worm infestation.— The symptoms of Hook Worm infestation in sheep are similar to those symptoms caused by the Stomach Worm. The Hook Worm brings about an impoverishment of the blood, and interferes with the nutrition of its victim. The sheep become anemic, weak, unthrifty and watery swellings sometimes appear on the dependent parts of the body. The skin becomes pale, the wool dry, short and poor as the infestation advances.

Treatment.— The measures recommended for Stomach Worm control are very useful against the Hook Worm. A flock that is regularly treated