



Nematode geassosieer met die Natalse langvingervlermuis (*Miniopterus natalensis*) kolonie in Bakwena grot, Gauteng

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Nematodes associated with the Natal long-fingered bat (*Miniopterus natalensis*) colony in Bakwena Cave, Gauteng. Large numbers of the bacteriophagous nematodes, *Panagrolaimus* and *Diplogasteroides* were found in the guano of *Miniopterus natalensis*. The intestines of a few of these bats were dissected to test the theory that they act as intermedial host for these two nematode species. *Molinostyngylus* spp. and *Capillaria* spp., both animal parasitic nematodes, were the only nematodes found in the intestines of the bats.

Kolonies *Miniopterus natalensis* (Natalse langvingervlermuis) woon in dolomitiese grotte in die Egoli grasveld bioom. Die meerderheid grotlewende organismes wat deel van die karst ekosisteem in die dolomitiese streek in Gauteng uitmaak, is direk of indirek van die vlermuisguano as voedselbron afhanklik. Groot getalle nematode van die genera *Panagrolaimus* en *Diplogasteroides* kom in die vlermuisguano in Bakwena grot in Irene voor. Die moontlikheid dat *Miniopterus natalensis* die tussengsheer van hierdie nematode is en dat hulle saam met die guano uitgeskei word, is getoets. Die disseksie van die intestinum en studie van die intestinal inhoud van *Miniopterus natalensis* het geen *Panagrolaimus* en *Diplogasteroides* nematode opgelewer nie, alhoewel die inwendige parasitiese nematoodgenera, *Molinostyngylus* en *Capillaria*, wel gevind is. Die genera *Panagrolaimus* en *Diplogasteroides* kom algemeen in verrottende materiaal voor en dit is waarskynlik dat die residensiële nematood-populasie in die grot vanaf verrottende materiaal in die omliggende gebied deur 'n vektor soos insekte, wat deur die guano aangelok is, in die grot ingebring is.