

Nematodirus helvetianus

thin-necked intestinal worm, thread-necked strongyle

Description: Internal parasite. Adults are up to 25 mm long.

Life Cycle: Eggs develop slowly; the infective third stage is reached within the egg in 2 – 4 weeks and may remain within the egg for several months. Eggs are highly resistant, and those passed by calves in one season can infect calves the next. After ingestion of infective larvae, the adult stage is reached in approximately 3 weeks.

Geographic Distribution: Worldwide.

Significance: Heavy infections of *Nematodirus* can lead to decreased weight gain, particularly when other parasites are present. Larval stages are primarily responsible for harming the host animal. Large numbers of larvae can retard an animal's growth and even cause destruction of the intestinal wall.