

Trichuris discolor, T. globulosa

whipworm

Description: Internal parasites. Long roundworms; the anterior part is long and thin while the posterior is much thicker, giving the appearance of a whip. The male posterior is curved.

Life Cycle: Infective larvae develop within eggs after at least 3 weeks on pasture. The eggs are resistant to cold temperatures and dry conditions, and can therefore remain infective for years. Cattle become infected by ingesting embryonated eggs. Adults develop in 1 – 3 months.

Geographic Distribution: Widespread.

Significance: The effects of whipworm infection have not been determined, as affected animals exhibit clinical signs only occasionally. Those that do, experience typical "parasite worry" and do not feed or sleep well. Scratching may produce skin wounds or bruises, and the coat becomes rough. Infestations with biting lice are heaviest in winter when cattle hair coats are thick.