

Discussion they are unable to multiply until

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Discussion Many scientists studied An interaction between parasites and earthworms and referred to the earthworms may be an intermediate host or transmitted host or reservoir host for many species of parasites Noble & Glenn (1961) recorded *Monocystis lumbrici* from the seminal vesicle of the common earthworms In California, Eggs of *Ascaridia* sp. are found in earthworms cavity and described by Al-Mayahi, (1994), Holly, (2008) referred to *Toxocara cati* transmitted by small rodents, beetles, earthworms but *Toxocara leonina* and *T. canis* are transmitted by small rodents only and Hadi and Al-Amery (2010) isolated two species of nematodes *Ascaridia* sp., *Toxocara* sp. from the body cavity of the earthworm. In the current study were found the nematode parasite *Rhabditis* sp. infects earthworms while (Wakelin et al.,

2001) recorded two common parasites are *Monocystis* (Protozoa, Sporozoa) and *Rhabditis* (Nematoda); these infect earthworms. The life history of *Rhabditis* was briefly documented by Cuénot (1898) and the present research suggest infective larvae of *Rhabditis* were able to penetrate earthworm by pores and Poinar and Thomas, (1975) who suggested the nematodes entered the host through the nephridiopores. *Rhabditis* can bear lack of food and drought so it can be grown indefinitely in laboratory culture but the association between *Rhabditis pellio* (Schneider) and earthworms (Poinar and Thomas, 1975) and *R.*

myriophila and the millipede are similar described Poinar (1986) and revealed that the larval stages of both nematodes enter the host's external openings (the excretory system with *Rhabditis pellio* and alimentary tract

with *Rhabditis myriophila*) and body cavity. In the present study nematodes infect many different specimens of field and vermicultured earthworms. but they are unable to multiply until the host dead and is invaded by bacteria. Bacteria are apparently required as a food source. Small numbers of nematodes often occur in healthy earthworm, but high numbers cause illness or even death. According to Poinar and Thomas (1975) The nematodes can escape to the outside through the nephridiophores and establish themselves by feeding on bacteria in the soil.

Or they can remain in the host until it dies and then feed on the decaying carcass and our results confirm their belief.