

Helminth ova in sludge samples and biowastes in Eastern Austria

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From the beginning of 2000 up to now together 209 samples of sludge and biowaste from sewage treatment plants and construction zones majoritarian from Lower Austria were sent to the Department for a medical-helminthological inspection. Additional data on reconditioning and decontamination procedures were usually not provided by the clients.

The samples were suspended in aqueous sodium acetate and acetic acid, filtered through gauze and centrifuged gently. Small sediment volumes were microscopically inspected for helminth eggs and larvae.

In 31 samples (15%) undeveloped ova of indeterminable nematode species were detected, in one sample *Trichuris* eggs were found and in 18 samples (8.6%), mostly together with ova, nematode larvae were ascertained. No other eggs of medical relevance like ova from tapeworms or flukes could be detected ever.