

The ecology of ectoparasitic species *Carnus hemapterus* on nestlings of common kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) in Bratislava

K ekológii ektoparazitického druhu *Carnus hemapterus* na mláďatách sokola myšiara (*Falco tinnunculus*) v Bratislave

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Abstract: The time course and abundance of *Carnus hemapterus* on common kestrel's nestlings depends on their age and the type of nest. Ectoparasites were found in 97% of nests and the majority of nestlings (83%) were observed to be infested between their 10th and 15th day of life. The highest infestation rate of *Carnus hemapterus* was recorded on 5- to 10-day old nestlings. We have confirmed that the *Carnus hemapterus* species feeds on blood; however no negative impact on nestlings and the breeding success of common kestrel was confirmed.

Abstrakt: Doba výskytu a početnosť jedincov druhu *Carnus hemapterus* na mláďatách sokola myšiara závisí od veku mláďat a typu hniezda. Napadnutých bolo 97 % hniezd, pričom najviac mláďat (83 %) bolo napadnutých medzi 10. a 15. dňom života. Najväčší počet *C. hemapterus* bol zaznamenaný na mláďatách starých 5 až 10 dní. Potvrdili sme, že druh *C. hemapterus* sa živí krvou, ale negatívny vplyv na mláďatá a hniezdnú úspešnosť sokola myšiara sa nepotvrdil.

Key words: hematocrit, hematophagy, abundance, Slovakia

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