Abstract

This bachelor's thesis aims to summarize the latest findings on biting midges as vectors and hosts of kinetoplastids. Kinetoplastida are flagellated protozoans that live both freely and parasitically. As parasites, they are found in the blood and organs of vertebrates, and in the digestive tracts of invertebrates. Among the newly discovered vectors and hosts of kinetoplastids there are some species of biting midges from the Ceratopogonidae family. These small blood-sucking diptera are usually associated with the transmission of viruses. Biting midges serve as vectors for trypanosomes of birds and amphibians. Recently, they have also been considered potential primary vectors for the *Leishmania* subgenus *Mundinia*, which can occur not only in animals but also in humans. Lastly, biting midges host monoxenous genera of kinetoplastids (*Herpetomonas*, *Crithidia*, *Sergeia*).

Key words: *Culicoides*, protist, trypanosoma, leishmania, vector, host specificity