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FOR RELEASE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

A study that may lead to better wildlife management in Montana is under way at Montana State University under a three-year grant of \$24,000 from the National Science Foundation, MSU officials announced.

Dr. Clyde M. Senger of the Zoology Department is director of the research, entitled "Biology of Protostrongylus Stilesi." Don Forrester, who earned a master's degree at MSU in 1960, is serving as research associate on the project.

The small organism with the big name is a type of roundworm found in the lungs of bighorn sheep, Dr. Senger explained. The worm is thought to be a significant factor in the decline of bighorn sheep populations, he said. It is found all over Montana but is more common in some herds than in others.

Findings on the distribution of the worm-infested sheep could provide a practical guide to game management, Dr. Senger believes. For example, he points out, as the sheep population becomes denser in an area, the infestation seems to become more serious. If this proves to be so, it might be advisable to liberalize hunting restrictions in such an area to thin out the sheep population.

Dr. Senger is studying several aspects of the biology of the roundworm, including the part the small land snail plays in its life cycle.

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