

Eimeria os Crouch & Becker, 1931.

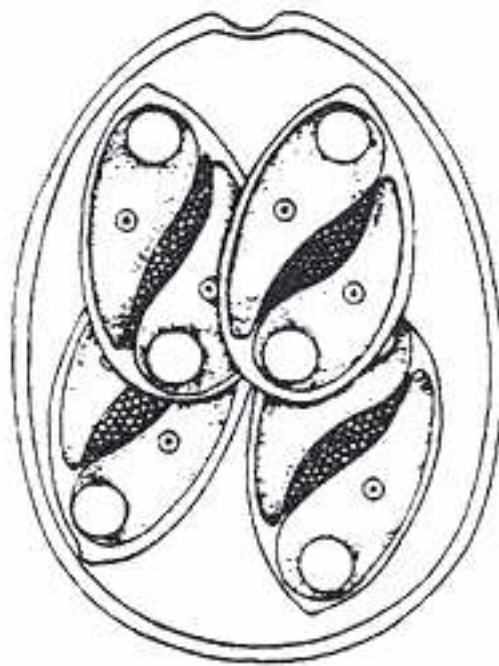
Type host: *Marmota bobac*

Other hosts: *M. baibacina*; *M. caudata*; *M. menzbieri*; *M. monax*; *M. sibirica*.

Other names: *Eimeria callospermophili*; *E. giganteos*; *E. monacis*.

Type locality: North America: USA, Iowa, Near Ames.

Other localities: Asia: Buriatia; Kazakhstan.



Description of oocyst: Oocyst shape: ovoid; wall thickness: not given; layers: 1 (in drawing); outer layer colour: clear to pale yellow; outer layer texture: smooth; micropyle: present; micropyle width: not given; MC: absent; OR: absent; PG: absent; size: 20-26 x 18-22; L/W ratio: not given. Distinctive features of the oocyst: oöcyst "endomembrane" sometimes protrudes through the micropyle and looks like a bubble.

Description of sporocysts and sporozoites: Sporocyst shape: ellipsoid; size: 9-13 x 5-8; SB: present; SB L x W: not given; SB characteristics: small, dark (in drawing); SSB: absent; PSB: absent; SR: present; SR characteristics: rounded or irregularly biconvex, lying either to the side or between the SP; SR size: not given; SP: not described. Distinctive features of sporocyst: none.

Remarks: *Eimeria os* was described from *M. monax* by Crouch & Becker (1931). In 1941, Machulsky described *E. os* from *M. sibirica*, but the oocysts he described lacked a micropyle, a feature of *E. os*, and his description more closely matches *E. callospermophili*. Svanbaev (1963) described a species as *E. os*, but Levine & Ivens (1965) thought it was *E. monacis* (see *E. monacis* remarks). In 1965, Dorney described and

photographed what he called *E. os* from *M. monax*, but the size was much larger and, thus, we named Dorney's (1965) species, *E. giganteos*. Fleming et al. (1979) and McQuistion & Wright (1984) reported *E. os* from *M. monax*, but they followed the description in Dorney (1965); thus, it is likely they actually saw *E. giganteos*.

References: Crouch & Becker (1931); Dorney (1965); Fleming et al. (1979); Levine & Ivens (1965); McQuistion & Wright (1984); Machulsky (1941, 1949); Nukerbaeva & Abenov (1979); Svanbaev (1963); Svanbaev & Rachmatullina (1971).