1: Adult worms live in the trachea of the birds and reproduce by sexual reproduction.

2: Eggs released by the female parasite are coughed up, swallowed by the bird, and appear in the faeces.

3: Eggs are eaten by intermediate hosts, including snails, earthworms, and invertebrate larvae.

4: Infective larvae hatch and become encysted in the muscle tissue of the invertebrates.

5: Choughs eat the infected invertebrates, the larvae erupt from the cysts, puncture through the intestinal mucosa and travel to the lungs through the bloodstream.

6: Once in the lungs, the larvae undergo development from L1-L3 (Larval stages) and onto adults.

7: The young adults migrate to the trachea from the bronchi where they establish as adults, with the male and female in permanent copulation.

The pre-patent period (PPP) is 12-14 days; this is the time it takes from infection for eggs to appear in the faeces.

The invertebrates are known as the intermediate or paratenic hosts.

The choughs are known as the definitive host.