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Front Cover illustration: Upper left: Yak herd crossing a river on the Tibetan plateau (altitude 4200m), Shiqu prefecture, Western Sichuan, July 2002. Lower left: Winter pastures in the Ninui valley (altitude 4200 m), Western Sichuan, May 2006. Central image: Echinococcoses, cystercercoes and taeniases represent a large disease burden in China and neighbouring countries. Coloured circles locate some of the areas where international and multidisciplinary research programmes on the transmission of both E. granulosus and E. multilocularis have been carried out during the last 20 years (see legend in Giraudoux et al. in this Special Issue of Parasitology). Upper right: Tibetan family resting after field work, Ninui village, Western Sichuan, May 2006. Note the grandmother putting the young dog which is lying alongside a yak dung heap, almost certainly mixed with dog faeces, and the child thumb sucking, all behaviours which confer a high risk for the transmission of Echinococcus infection. Lower right: Dogs scavenging on a sheep carcass in the vicinity of Sary-Mogol village (altitude 3000 m), Alay valley, South Kyrgyzstan, May 2012. All images are originals and kindly supplied by Patrick Giraudoux.

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