EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDIES ON SOME FISH-BORNE PARASITES

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Abstract

The following fish species were studied from the helminthological point of view: 255 *Oreochromis niloticus*, 129 *Clarias lazera*, 91 *Bagrus bayad*, 15 *Schilbe mystus*, 26 *Synodontis schall*, 67 *Mugil cephalus*, 15 *Mormyrus niloticus*, 24 Common carp, 40 *Sardinella jussieu*, and 7 *Lates niloticus*. Samples were collected from different markets in Tanta, Kafr El-Zayat and Tala provinces, Egypt. The infected fish species and their respective infection percentages were the following: 128 *Oreochromis niloticus* collected from the River Nile, with 50.19% infection, while those of cultured farms were free from parasites; 80 *Clarias lazera* with a percentage of 62.01%, 32 *Bagrus bayad* with a percentage of 35.16%, 15 *Schilbe mystus* with a percentage of 100 %, 13 *Synodontis schall* with a percentage of 50 %, 8 *Mugil cephalus* with a percentage of 11.94%, and 15 *Mormyrus niloticus* with a percentage of 100% infection. The study identified five types of encysted metacercariae: heterophyid metacercariae recorded from *Oreochromis niloticus* and *Mugil cephalus*; haplorchid metacercariae recorded from *Oreochromis niloticus*; *Prohemistomum* metacercariae recorded from *Clarias lazera*, *Oreochromis niloticus*, *Bagrus bayad*, *Schilbe mystus*, *Synodontis schall* and *Morymorus niloticus*, and *Mesostephanus* metacercariae and *Cyanodiplostomum* metacercariae recorded from *Clarias lazera*. The infected fish species (*Oreochromis niloticus* and *Clarias lazera*) were fed to experimental animals (rats and mice) and the adult worms obtained were: *Heterophyes heterophyes*, *Heterophyes aequalis*, *Centrocestus* sp., *Haplorchis pumilio, Metagonimus yokogawai, Prohemistomum vivax, Mesostephanus appendiculatus,* and *Mesostephanus burmanicus.*