

Parasitofauna isolated from fish off the east Algerian coast

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Abstract

Between January 2011 and January 2013, parasitofauna of 1643 specimens, obtained both from wild sources (n=1545) and aquaculture (n=98) were studied. From 14 fish species, 17 parasitic species were isolated, of which three species represent a new geographical record. Despite their low infestation rate, some isolated parasite species induce serious necrosis, alterations and atrophies to the muscle, mouth cavity and tongue of their hosts by *Pyroderma cylindricum* (P=9.37%; I=1); *Lerneolophus sultanus* (P=9.09%; I=1), and *Ceratothoa oestroides* (P=0.62%; I=1), respectively. Similar pathological effects were observed in gill filaments infected by *Naeobranchia sygniformis* (P=27.27%; I=1). Among the most abundant isolated parasites was the nematode, *Anguillicola crassus* (P=42.53%; I=6.11) infecting the European eel, *Anguilla anguilla*, which caused an evident inflammatory reaction of the swim-bladder. The present study improves our knowledge on Algerian fish parasitofauna.

Introduction

Parasites are an essential component of every ecosystem (Zander et al., 2002), greatly contributing to overall aquatic biodiversity.

Although parasites of Algerian marine fishes have been studied extensively (Ramdane and

Trilles, 2008, 2010, 2012; Ramdane et al., 2007, 2009, 2013; Ider et al., 2014; Ichlal et al., 2015). Little attention has been focused on farmed and endangered species such as the European eel, *Anguilla anguilla* (L., 1758) (*Anguilla*; Anguillidae). The exception is the study conducted in the complex of wetlands (El-Kala) (Loucif et al.,

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