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Ceratothoa sp. (Isopoda, Cymothoidae) Infestation on bathydemersal fishes from Gulf of Antalya, Turkey

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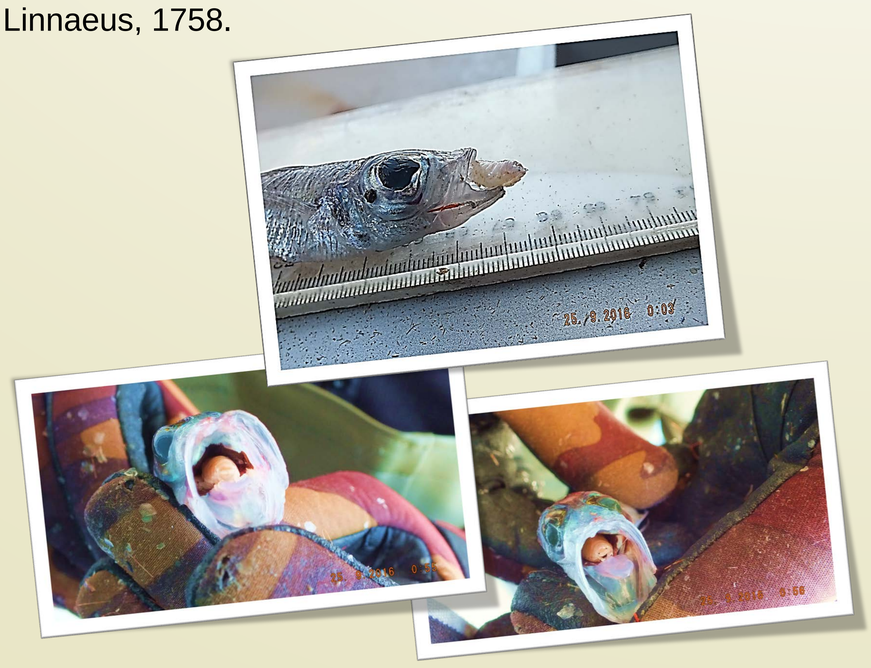
Introduction:

Cymothoid isopod parasites are ectoparasitic of mainly marine and brackish, rarely fresh water teleost fish. Cymothoid ecto-parasites belonging varies families and some of them specific of their host fishes in all over the water environments (Brusca 1981). Parasitic isopods are now generally considered to be blood feeding (Sievers et al. 1996; Šarušic, 1999; Öktener and Trilles, 2004; Öktener et al. 2007; Papapanagiotou and Trilles, 2001; Horton and Okamura, 2001; Horton and Okamura, 2003).

In the present study, we seek to clarify the status of ecto-parasite infestation in bathydemersal fish species from Gulf of Antalya in Turkey, Mediterranean Sea.

Material and Methods:

Chlorophthalmus agassizi and *Argentina sphyraena* specimes were collected using troll operations (date: 27 Sept. 2016, Number of *C. agassizi*: 6 and TL_{Ca}: 13.10±2.13 cm, Number of *A. sphyraena*: 4 and TL_{As}: 14.34±3.72 cm, Deep range: 265-600 m, Time: 1 hour, location: N36°44,600'-E31°13,350'/ N36°45,110'-E31°09,930') and labelled in separate plastic bags. Ecto-parasitological examinations, evaluation and identification were conducted utilizing standard techniques. All parasite samples were rapidly removed and stored in a buffered 4% formaldehyde and 90% ethanol solution. In this study the parasitic *Ceratothoa* sp. (Isopoda, Cymothoidae) gravid female and mature male saples were removed from buccal cavity, baranchial cavity and also from hyoid arch of the lower part of the oral cavity of Shortnose greeneye, *Chlorophthalmus agassizi* Bonaparte, 1840 and Argentine, *Argentina sphyraena* Linnaeus, 1758.



Results:

All all parasite specimens were identified as *Ceratothoa* sp. Dana, 1852 belong to Crustacea, Isopoda, Cymothoidae family. According to the keys to the isopod parasites of fishes; some diagnostic specifications/remarks were found in similar such as the cephalon deeply curved towards rostrum at the level of the eyes; pereopods without prominent expansions on the merus. *Ceratothoa* spp. recorded as a fish parasite from different localities such as Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea. In this case, it is report of the presence of adult *Ceratothoa* sp. on *Chlorophthalmus agassizi* and *Argentina sphyraena* specimes as bathydemersal fishes caught from the Gulf of Antalya, Turkey.

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