

A checklist of parasitic helminths reported from sixty-five species of marine fish from Turkey including two new records of monogeneans

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Abstract

This study provides a checklist of 114 parasitic helminths (87 Platyhelminthes; 16 Nematelminthes; 9 Acanthocephala; 2 Annelida) reported from 65 marine fish collected from Turkey since 1931, including locations where fish were collected. Two species of microcotylids (Monogenea): *Pyragraphorus pyragraphorus* (Mac Callum and Mac Callum, 1913) on garrick, *Trachynotus ovatus* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Carangidae), from the Mediterranean Sea and *Axine belones* Abildgaard, 1794 on garfish, *Belone belone* (Linnaeus, 1761) (Belonidae), from the Sea of Marmara are reported for the first time in Turkish coastal waters.

Key words: Acanthocephala, Annelida, *Axine belones*, marine fish, Monogenea, Nematelminthes, Nematoda, Platyhelminthes, *Pyragraphorus pyragraphorus*, Turkey

Introduction

Since Monod (1931) reported the first marine fish parasite, *Ceratothoa* sp (Cymothoidae: Isopoda) on the Mediterranean boques, *Boops boops* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Perciformes: Sparidae), from the Turkish coasts, there have been some 31 publications that have reported parasites from 65 species of marine fish in the region (e.g. Sezen & Price, 1967; Altunel, 1982; Oguz 1995; Akmirza, 1998a, 1998b 2000a, 2000b, 2001; Tokşen, 1999; Hossucu, 1986). These reports have generally focused on the Marmara Sea and the Aegean Sea, and the Black Sea has been less well studied.

Knowledge of the polyopisthocotylean monogeneans is especially important because they are generally considered to be serious pathogens that can cause severe damage to their fish hosts. Microcotylids, for example, feed on the host's blood and may cause severe anaemia and in some cases mortality (Roberts 1989).