

Prevalence of *Dactylogyrus* spp. and *Butriocephalus* spp. in Common Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) from Mazandaran Province, Iran

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Abstract : *Dactylogyrus* spp. and *Butriocephalus* spp. are among the most common parasites infecting farmed fish in Iran and worldwide. These parasites infect fish of all ages and are responsible for many lesions and mortalities in fingerlings and occasionally in grow-out and brood fish. Understanding the prevalence and intensity of these parasites appears necessary for their effective management and control. In this study, 60 common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) were collected from 6 stations in Mazandaran Province, Iran, during summer 2023 and examined parasitologically. Common carp is a freshwater fish of the family Cyprinidae. The fish were transferred live to the laboratory after capture and were examined for parasites after anaesthetization and biometrics. The identified parasitic species included a *Dactylogyrus* sp. and a *Butriocephalus* sp. A total of 11 *Dactylogyrus* spp. were recovered from the gills of 60 fish examined. Additionally, 6 *Butriocephalus* spp. were collected from the intestine of infected fish. Based on taxonomic keys, the parasites were identified to genus level. The overall prevalence of infection was 23.3%, with approximately one quarter of all fish infected. A significant association was found between infections in different sampling stations. These results highlight the need for further research and planning for treatment and control in order to mitigate the impact of these parasitic diseases.

Keywords : dactylogyrus, butriocephalus, common carp, cyprinus carpio

Conference Title : ICVPPC 2023 : International Conference on Veterinary Parasitology and Parasite Control

Conference Location : Osaka, Japan

Conference Dates : October 30-31, 2023