

Presence of an Epibiont *Epistylis* sp. (Protozoa, Ciliophora) on Some Zooplankton

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Abstract : Protozoan ciliate epibionts infestation on zooplankton in Cip Dam Lake were studied seasonally, between spring 2014-winter 2015. The ciliates peritrich Epibiont *Epistylis* sp. (Protozoa, Ciliophora) was found as colony form on some individuals of different zooplanktonic groups, especially rotifers and copepods. Totally 23 zooplankton species (19 species from Rotifera, 3 species from Cladocera and 1 species from Copepoda) in Cip Dam Lake were investigated. Rotifers were the most important zooplanktonic group (82.7 % of total) and the taxa observed with epibionts were *Keratella*, *Polyarthra*, and *Brachionus*. The highest densities of infected zooplankton was observed in winter (14265 ind.m⁻³), the lowest densities of infected zooplankton was found in summer (3056 ind.m⁻³). Rotifers were most infected groups with 75% in this study. *Epistylis* sp. was found on three species of rotifers and one copepod species. Infestation of *Epistylis* sp. has been registered for the first time in Cip Dam Lake.

Keywords : copepoda, epibiosis, peritrich, rotifera

Conference Title : ICFAS 2016 : International Conference on Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences

Conference Location : Tokyo, Japan

Conference Dates : September 05-06, 2016