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PARASITIC INFESTATION IN FISHES: AN OVERVIEW

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ABSTRACT

Generally, parasites are regarded as harmful entity for the hosts but they use to perform an important ecological role, especially in the transfer of genetic material between species. Occasionally, the parasites also significantly suffice in the facilitation of evolutionary changes. The present editorial discusses on the various types of parasites present in the fishes with their effect on the host system.

Keywords: Fish, Parasite

INTRODUCTION

Parasites are naturally present in fishes. Parasites spend multistage life cycles in the fish system and some also prove fatal for the host fishes. For example, *Schistocephalus solidus* is a tapeworm which infects the three spine stickleback and increases its buoyancy so that it rises near the water level and becomes easy for the predator birds to catch them for their meal.[1]

PARASITIC DIVERSITY IN FISH

Parasites either remain on the body surface of fish as ectoparasites or inside the host system as endoparasites.

The philometrid nematode *Philometra fasciati* parasitisize the ovaries of female Black tip grouper fish. Its adult stage appears as a red worm of about 40 cm long [2]. Males are tiny in structure. The fish gills also harbor many endoparasites like encysted adult didymozoid trematodes, a few trichoso moidid nematodes of the genus *Huffmanela*,