

Study on parasitic contamination of Botak (*Cyprinion macrostomum*), Toeini (*Barbus barbulus*) and Kaputa (*Capoeta trutta*) in Dez River

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Abstract

Dez River, is one of the most important rivers in Khuzestan Province, because of the variety of fishes in this river which need to more study those parasites. Sampling was done by creel, between the summer and winter 1393. 60 pieces of fishes were collected and studied. Fish species such as Botak (*Cyprinion macrostomum*), Kaputa (*Capoeta trutta*) and Toeini (*Barbus barbulus*), has been studied. After catching the live fish, they transferred to laboratory then all their organs studied by wet/dry mounting and staining. In order to evaluate protozoa parasites, tissue samples fixed in formalin and histologic sections were provided. Separated parasites were identified by diagnostic keys. Parasites identified in the study included: *Ichthyophthirius multifiliis* (skin and gills), *Myxobolus* sp. (gill, kidney, gallbladder), *Dactylogyrus* sp. (gill), *Diplostomum spathaceum* (lens of the eye), and *Acanthocephala* (*Neoechinorhynchus spiramuscularis*) (intestine). In the blood, liver and kidneys of studied fish were not observed any parasites. In comparison to other species, the highest level of contamination was in *Cyprinion macrostomum*. In histopathological examination, several lesions were observed in the gills and skin of infected fish and in some sections protozoa corpus was detected. Separated parasites from fishes in this research have been reported and studied in this river for the first time. Also *Neoechinorhynchus spiramuscularis* has been reported for the first time in this river and in Toeini fish. This study has great importance in predicting their possible transfer to the rearing ponds. Therefore, by preventing and appropriate control measurements can be prevented of their dissemination and transfer.

Keywords: Parasitic contamination, Botak (*Cyprinion macrostomum*), Toeini (*Barbus barbulus*), Kaputa (*Capoeta trutta*), Dez River.