



Lamproglena monodi (Copepoda: Lernaeidae), infesting gills of Oreochromis niloticus and Tilapia zillii

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Abstract:

The crustacean copepod *Lamproglena monodi* Capart (1944), is a known parasite infesting several fish species of family Cichlidae in African countries including Congo, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Uganda. The current work demonstrates the occurrence of *L. monodi* parasitizing representatives of cichlids in Egypt. The parasites were collected from the gills of two cichlids (*Oreochromis niloticus* and *Tilapia zillii*) caught from Nile River at Assiut province, Egypt. In *O. niloticus*, the prevalence was 36.7% and the mean intensity was 1.9 and they were 28.6% and 1.5 in *T. zillii* respectively. The characterization of the parasite was achieved via its specific morphological features by Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM). Histopathological investigations revealed deformity of the gill filaments and tissue compression at the site of attachment induced by grasping effect of the parasite maxillae. On the other hand, hyperplasia in the surrounding epithelium was noticed.

Keywords:

Lamproglena monodi, prevalence, *Oreochromis niloticus*, *Tilapia zillii*, histopathology, SEM

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