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THE FINDING OF *PARAERGASILUS RYLOVI* MARKEWITSCH, 1937 (COPEPODA: ERGASILIDAE) ON THE TERRITORY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

In systematic studies of parasitic copepods, collected during ichthyo-parasitological investigations in Czechoslovakia in the years 1962 to 1966, numerous specimens of *Paraergasilus rylovi* Markewitsch, 1937 were found. The genus *Paraergasilus* Markewitsch, 1937, to which these copepods belong, is new for Czechoslovakia. Originally, these copepods were considered nonparasitic (Markevich A. P., Publ. House Acad. Sci Ukrain. S. S. R. Kiev, 1956 (in Russian) and are listed among the typical parasites only since 1962 [Smirnova in Bykhovsky B. E. et al. Publ. House Acad. Sci. U. S. S. R., Moscow-Leningrad, 1962 (in Russian)].

Paraergasilus rylovi was located in the nasal cavities of *Abramis ballerus*, *A. brama*, *Alburnus alburnus*, *Blicca bjoerkna*, *Cyprinus carpio*, *Leuciscus cephalus*, *Pelecus cultratus*, caught in the river Latorica near Královsky Chlmec in eastern Slovakia. Intensity of invasion 1—2 specimens, extensity approximately 30%.

Description: Body of female approximately 0.5 mm long, elongated, expanded in middle portion, tapering to posterior end (Fig. 1a, b). Antennae I (Fig. 1c) composed of six segments with spines unequally distributed, most of them present on second and sixth segment (6). Antennae II (Fig. 1d) of three segments, of

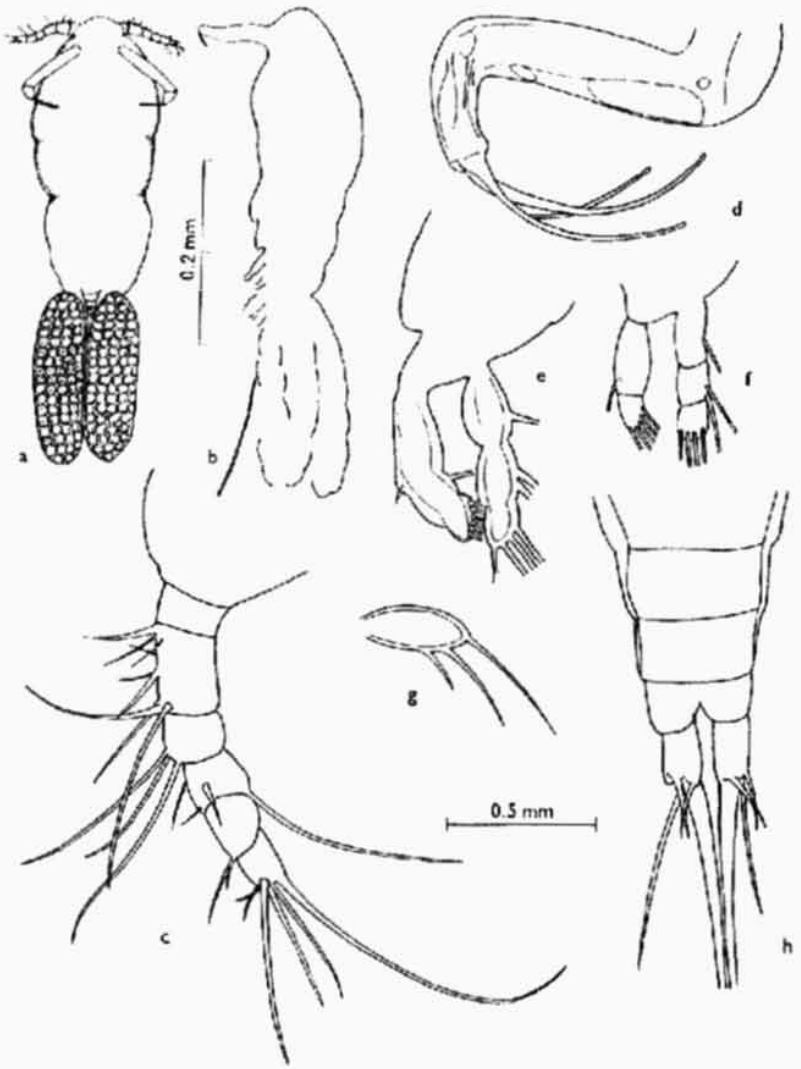

Fig. 1. *Paraergasilus rylovi* Markewitsch, 1937. a — shape of body (dorsal view); b — shape of body (lateral view); c — antennae I; d — antennae II; e — legs of third pair; f — legs of fourth pair; g — legs of fifth pair; h — furca.

which the second is longest. Distal segment fused with middle segment at an angle of about 90° bears three arched spines at its termination. Exopodite and endopodite on thoracic legs formed by three segments; the exopodite on the legs of the 4th pair (Fig. 1f) consists only of two segments. The 5th pair of thoracic legs (Fig. 1g) has only one segment and three unequally long, well developed spines on its distal end. Number of spines on the segments of the exopodite and endopodite of the 1st—4th pair of legs are figured.

In our opinion, *Paraergasilus rylovi* escapes detection in standard parasitological examinations for its unusual location and the low incidence of invasion, although the finding of this species should not be considered either solitary or accidental. Our findings contribute to the present knowledge on the fauna of parasitic copepods and give more exact information on the zoogeographical distribution of this parasite.

The type material is deposited in the collection of the Institute of Parasitology, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Prague.

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