FIRST RECORD OF THE LARVA OF PARADILEPIS SCOLECINA (RUDOLPHI, 1819) (CYCLOPHYLLIDEA: DILEPIDIDAE) IN FISHES FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Larvae of two species of Dilepididae, Felisipora campylancristata (Weid., 1855) and Neoprymphius cheilancristatus (Weid., 1855), have been recorded in fishes in Czechoslovakia. The occurrence of larvae of another species, Paradilepis scolecina (Rudolphi, 1819) could be expected, since adult specimens have already been found by Ryžavý (Ryžavý B., 1958: Věst. šk. Společ. zool. 22: 121—129). *P. scolecina* is known to occur in the USSR, Poland and GDR (Bykhovskaya-Pavlovskaya et al., 1962: Key to the parasites of freshwater fish of the USSR, Moscow—Leningrad, 776 pp. — in Russian; Kozicka J., 1971: Acta Parasit. Polon. 19: 81—92; Priemer J., Scholz T., 1980: Angew. Parasit. — in press). During parasitological examination of carps (*Cyprinus carpio* (L)) from the pond Vladimir near Trboň (South Bohemia), 5 larvae (pierceri after Jarecká L., 1970: Bull. Acad. Polon. Sci., Ser. Biol. 18: 99—102) of this species were found. The encysted larvae were localized on the surface of intestine and liver of two 8.5 cm long carps caught in October 1987.

Description (based on 5 fixed specimens) (Fig. 1): The cyst enveloping the oval larva measures 0.90—1.21 × 0.63—0.72 mm and consists of two transparent, thin-walled layers. The space between the inner layer and larvae is filled with a dark, finely granular matter. Body of larva oval, measuring 0.60—0.80 × 0.39—0.42 mm. Scolex invaginated, 0.35—0.37 mm wide, provided with 4 oral suckers. Size of suckers 0.10—0.124 × 0.082—0.101 mm. Rostellum oval measuring 0.13—0.21 × 0.19—0.23 mm, provided with 20 massive hooks. Size of 10 larger hooks: 0.108—0.116 mm (blade 0.055—0.060 mm, handle 0.050—0.065 mm), size of smaller hooks 0.075—0.080 mm (blade 0.038—0.041 mm, handle 0.036—0.039 mm). Body of larvae contains a large number of spherical calcareous bodies measuring 0.008—0.018 mm.

*P. scolecina* pierceri differ from the two other species of Dilepididae recorded in fishes in Czechoslovakia in the shape and, particularly, in the size of rostellar hooks, in *P. campylancristata*, larger hooks measure 0.026—0.029 mm and smaller 0.011—0.014 mm, in *N. cheilancristata* 0.033—0.037 mm and 0.026—0.039 mm, respectively (all measurements after our own material). Also the localization of larvae is different: *P. campylancristata* occurs mainly in the gall bladder, *N. cheilancristata* in the intestine, and *P. scolecina* in the body cavity of organs (however, after Kozicka, op. cit., non-encysted larvae are localized also in the intestine). The larvae recovered from carp were compared with adult of *P. scolecina* found in the intestine of two cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo* (L)) examined in November 1987. The shape and size of rostellar hooks (0.104—0.108 mm and 0.074—0.081 mm) of these cestodes are almost identical with those of the five pierceri. Considering the high incidence of the cestodes in the two cormorants (393 and 780 specimens) it is probably that carps became
Infected in the vicinity of the nesting colony of these birds. The pond Vladimir, from which *P. scolecis* plerocerci originate, lies at the distance of only 2 km from this nesting place. It is very probable that this parasite might occur also in other fish species, since its plerocerci have been recorded in many cyprinid species (e.g., *Abramis brama*, *Tinca tinca*, *Brassilius rutula*, *Alburnus alburnus*), as well as in members of other families (Siluridae, Esoxidae, Gasterosteidae, and Atherinidae) (Bykhovskaya—Pavlovskaya et al., op. cit.; Kozička J., op. cit.; Ryzhikov K. M. et al., 1985: Helminths of fish-eating birds of the Palaearctic Region II, Academia, Praha, 412 pp.; Bauer O. N. et al., 1987: Key to the parasites of freshwater fish of the fauna of the USSR, tom 3, Nauka, Leningrad, 584 pp. — in Russian). The pathogenicity of plerocerci is not known, but with regard to the low rates of infection (after Kozička J., op. cit., up to 20 specimens), localization, and small size of larvae, it is probably not very significant.

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