

Helminth Endo-Parasites of Mochokids in a Tropical Rainforest River System

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ABSTRACT

A study of the helminth endo-parasites of *Brachysynodontis batensoda*, *Hemisynodontis membranaceus*, *Synodontis gobroni*, *S. clarias*, *S. sorex*, *S. budgetti*, *S. xiphias*, *S. nigrita*, *S. filamentosus*, *S. eupterus*, *S. schall*, and *S. ocellifer* randomly sampled from commercial fishers was made in the lower reaches of Anambra river from March 2001 to February 2002. The helminth endo-parasites recovered were *Sandonia sudanensis* (Trematoda) *Wenyonia synodontis*, *W. youdeowei*, *W. kainji* (Cestoda) and *Procamallanus laevis* (Nematoda). *B. batensoda*, *S. clarias*, *S. eupterus*, *S. gobroni* and *S. ocellifer* are new geographical records for *W. synodontis*, which appeared to be the most important endo-parasite of mochokids in terms of fishery management in the Anambra river. It infected more hosts than the other *Wenyonia* species put together or the other parasite species. The prevalence of all the endo-parasites was low ($\leq 20\%$). There were cases of mixed infection involving *S. sudanensis* and *P. laevis* as well as *Wenyonia* species and *P. laevis* but never between *Wenyonia* congeners. The habitat most preferred by *S. sudanensis* and *Wenyonia* species was the small intestine, whereas *P. laevis* was found only in the stomach. Prevalence, mean intensity and abundance of all the endo-parasites were generally higher in the dry than in the rainy season. No visible damage or injury resulting from the endo-parasites was evident on parasitized fish.

Keywords: Parasites, Mochokids, Anambra river