

First report of two monogenean parasites (*Calydiscoides* sp. and *Encotyllabe* sp.) from *Lethrinus nebulosus* in the Persian Gulf.

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The family Lethrinidae is present in the north of the Persian Gulf and consists of four species, all members of the genus *Lethrinus* Cuvier, 1829. In this study, we performed a survey of monogenean fauna of *Lethrinus nebulosus* (Forsskål, 1775), locally called she'ri, a commercial marine fish species in south of Iran. Specimens of *L. nebulosus* were caught with trawl net, then taken to the laboratory. Seventy fish were measured and weighed. Gills were extracted and frozen for future examination.

The monogeneans *Calydiscoides* sp. (Diplectanidae) and *Encotyllabe* sp. (Capsalidae) are here reported from *L. nebulosus*.

Members of *Calydiscoides* Young, 1969 are characterized by two lamellogonidia with concentric lamellae which telescope into each other, and are parasites exclusively in fishes of the family Lethrinidae and Nemipteridae in the Indo-Pacific region (1-7). In *L. nebulosus* in New Caledonia, South Pacific, Rascalou & Justine (2007) reported three species

of *Calydiscoides*: *C. difficilis* (Yamaguti, 1953) Young, 1969, *C. duplicostatus* (Yamaguti, 1953) Young, 1969, and *C. terpsichore* Rascalou & Justine, 2007; our specimens unfortunately could not be identified at the species level. A photograph of one of the monogeneans is shown in Fig. 1.

Species of *Encotyllabe* Diesing, 1850 are characterized by thin lateral margins which are turned ventrally. The prohaptor includes a pair of rounded or elliptical, muscular suckers each having a pleated marginal membrane. The opisthaptor has a campanulate disk which is attached to the postero-ventral surface of the body by a long peduncle and is devoid of radial septa, but is equipped with two pairs of hooks and marginal hooklets (8). *Encotyllabe* spp. have already been recorded from the pharyngeal teeth of *Lethrinus* spp. (Justine, 2007), but not identified at the species level. A photograph of this monogenean is shown in Fig. 2.

We found 30 *Calydiscoides* sp. and 5 *Encotyllabe* sp. in gills of *L. nebulosus*. There are not many researches about effects of these parasites on these commercial fish. However a high infection rate may affect the respiratory system. These monogeneans are reported for the first time from the Iranian coast of the Persian Gulf.



Fig. 1. – *Calydiscoides* sp.



Fig. 2. – *Encotyllabe* sp.

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