

#### D-41 The parasite fauna of catfish, *Pseudarius jella* & *Mystus gulio*

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The parasite fauna of the 2 cat fishes, *Pseudarius jella* & *Mystus gulio*, frequently found in brackish water of the Southern coast of Sri Lanka and their population levels were investigated in an attempt to estimate their relative importance. The factors which may be responsible for the difference of fauna and changes of population levels in the 2 host species were taken into consideration. 153 *Pseudarius jella* specimens and 50 *Mystus gulio* specimens were surveyed within a period of one year. The proportion of *P.jella* to *M.gulio* was not equal in samples.

Six parasite species, 2 monogeneans, 1 metacercaria, 1 nematode, 1 acanthocephala and 1 copepode were found on *P.jella*, while 10 parasite species, 1 trichodinid, 1 monogenean, 3 metacercariae, 1 adult trematode, 1 cestode and 1 nematode larva, and 2 acanthocephalans were found on *M.gulio*. Only cyathocotylid metacercaria and 1 acanthocephalan species were common to both hosts. All the parasites found and even some genera, were not previously recorded in Sri Lanka. *Trichodina* sp., gill filament monogeneans, Cyathocotylid metacercaria and acanthocephalans were the most important parasites. The considerable difference of the parasite fauna was not due to the host specificity only, as some parasites belonging to less specific parasite groups were restricted to one host. Presence of stages entering with plankton only in *M.gulio*, revealed that the fish is planktivorous, in addition to being carnivorous. Restriction of 2 metacercariae to *M. gulio* suggested a behavioural difference of cercariae and/or host which favours its entering.