

## Insights on the Most Prevailing Digeneasis and Nematodiasis in Some Marine Fish in Ismailia Governorate

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### Abstract:

A total of (400) marine fish of five species (100 of *Alepes djedaba*, 100 *Dicentrarchus labrax*, 100 *Argyrosomus regius*, 40 *Saurida undosquamis* and 60 *Siganus revulatus*) of different body weights and lengths were collected in different seasons from Ismailia Governorate from April 2018 to December 2019. The examined fish showed no pathognomonic clinical abnormalities and were apparently normal. Some *Argyrosomus regius* infested with digenea showed abdominal distention, paleness and emaciation. Affected *Dicentrarchus labrax* with digeneaniasis showed hemorrhagic areas on operculum, abrasion, ulcerations of fins and abdominal distention. On the other hand, liver was hemorrhagic and fatty in some examined *Argyrosomus regius*, slight marbling of gills with excessive mucus secretion, and slight abdominal bulging were also recorded. The total prevalence of digenean and nematode infestations was 18.75%. The highest percentage was in *Saurida undosquamis* 30% followed by *Dicentrarchus labrax* 20%, *Alepes djedaba* was 19%, 17% in *Argyrosomus regius* and then *Siganus revulatus* 11.66%. The histopathological alterations were recorded and discussed.

**Key words:** Marine fish, , *Erilepturus tiegsi*, *Erilepturus lemeriensis* , *Acanthostomum spinices* , *Sclerodistomum* sp, *Hysterothylacium aduncum*, *Procamallanus inopenatus*.

### Introduction:

Today, with the knowledge that fish is an excellent, primary source of protein for human in many parts of the world, and this

is especially true in most developing countries as it is the cheapest highly nutritious food products (Woo, 2006) , global seafood consumption is growing

gradually, as there are varieties of seafoods, including raw or undercooked fish dishes (Shamsi, 2019).

Fish parasitic diseases are a concern as they frequently cause the host's immune system to weaken, thus increasing their susceptibility to secondary infections, resulting in nutritional devaluation of fish and associated economic losses (Onyedineke et al., 2009).

Helminthes are among the most important parasites, they include nematodes, trematodes, cestodes and acanthocephalans which affecting both wild and cultured marine fishes (Hussen et al., 2012).

The clinical picture of infested fish with internal parasitic diseases showed no pathognomonic abnormalities on the external body surface except emaciation. Postmortem examination revealed anemic, enlarged and congested internal organs (Ibtsam, 2004). The infected fish by parasites have clinical signs as anemia, weakness, severe emaciation due to the absorption of a considerable quantity of nutritive substances from host through their body surfaces (Banerjee et al., 2017). Some infested fish showed sluggish movement, loss of condition with paler coloration and imbalanced swimming (Eissa et al., 2012).

The present study was aimed to investigate the most prevailing digenesis and nematodiasis affecting some marine species in Ismailia province and their clinical picture along with the total and seasonal prevalence of these diseases with recording the histopathological alterations due to them.

## Material and Methods:

### A. Fish:

A total of (400) marine fish of five species (100 of *Alepes djedaba*, 100 *Dicentrarchus labrax*, 100 *Argyrosomus regius*, 40 *Saurida undosquamis* and 60 *Siganus revulatus*) of different body weights and lengths were collected in different seasons from Ismailia Governorate from April 2018 to December 2019. The fishes were obtained by the aid of fishermen and transported immediately in polyethylene bags containing 1/3 of its volume water where the remaining volume will be filled with air. Identification of marine fish species were according to Randall (1983).

### B. Clinical Examination:

Firstly, body weights and total lengths of the examined fishes were documented, and then clinical examination was done on the live and freshly dead ones. Fish specimens were grossly examined for detection of any clinical abnormalities according to Amlacker (1970).

**C. Postmortem Examination:**

Postmortem examination was performed according to *Lucky (1977)*.

**D. Parasitological****Examination :**

Fish specimens was examined macroscopically and microscopically for the presence of internal parasites as soon as possible according to *Noga (2010)*.

**E. Permanent Slides****Preparations and Staining:**

**Digenetic trematodes:** Adult fluke obtained from intestines and stomach were placed into test tubes containing distilled water and with vigorous shaking, worms were washed, relaxed and be ready for fixation by using 5% neutral buffered formalin for 24 hours, then preserved in vials containing 70% ethyl alcohol and stained with Semichon's acetocarmine according to *Lucky (1977)*.

**Nematodes:** Collected nematodes from stomach and intestine were washed in saline, then relaxed and fixed in hot alcohol-glycerin 5% until all alcohol evaporated and the specimen remained in nearly absolute glycerin and processed according to *Meyer and Olsen (1992)*.

**F. Histopathological****Examination:**

Small specimens from organs with macroscopic lesions (intestine, stomach, spleen and

liver) were fixed in 10% neutral buffered formalin for 48 hrs., dehydrated in serial grades of ethyl alcohol (70, 80, 90 and 100%) for 1 hr., prepared and stained with Hematoxylin and Eosin (H&E) according to *Roberts (2001)*.

**Results:****A. Clinical Examination:**

Most of the examined fishes showed no pathognomonic clinical abnormalities and were apparently normal. Some *Argyrosomus regius* infested with digenetic trematodes showed abdominal distention, paleness and emaciation (**Figure 1-A**). Moreover, *Dicentrarchus labrax* affected with digeneasis and nematodiasis showed inflammation, hemorrhages at the base of fins and emaciation (**Figure 1-B**). Some *Alepes djedaba* infested with digenetic trematodes showed emaciation and excessive mucus. While *Saurida undosquamis* infested with digeneans showed hemorrhages at fin bases with paleness in body color.

**B. Postmortem Examination:**

Infested *Argyrosomus regius* with digeneasis revealed hemorrhagic and fatty liver (**Fig 1-C and D**), slight marbling of gills with excessive mucus secretions and slight abdominal bulging. While liver was pale in *Dicentrarchus labrax* infested with nematodes. While *Siganus*

*revulatus* infested with nematodes showed swelling and congestion of the intestinal wall which was distended with yellowish exudates and enlargement and congestion of spleen and liver. Infested *Saurida undosquamis* with digenean trematodes showed pale liver with petechial hemorrhage, enlargement and congestion of intestine as shown in (Fig 1-E).

### **C. Parasitological**

#### **Examination:**

#### **C.1. Total prevalence of digeneasis and nematodiasis among the examined fishes:**

As shown in **Figure 2**, the total prevalence was 18.75%; *Saurida undosquamis* recorded the highest prevalence (30%) and *Siganus revulatus* was the lowest (11.66%). Concerning digenean infestation, the total prevalence was 17.5%; *Saurida undosquamis* was the highest (30%) and *Siganus revulatus* was the lowest (6.66 %). Regarding nematode infestation, the total prevalence was 1.25%; 2% in *Dicentrarchus labrax* and 5% in *Siganus revulatus*. While *Alepes djedaba*, *Argyrosomus regius* and *Saurida undosquamis* didn't record any nematodiasis.

#### **C.2. Seasonal prevalence of digeneasis and nematodiasis among the examined fishes:**

As shown in **Figure 3** hot seasons recorded the highest prevalence for digeneasis in all

examined fishes, it was the highest in *Saurida undosquamis* (40%) and the lowest in *Siganus revulatus* (10%). While cold seasons recorded the highest nematodeasis prevalence for *Siganus revulatus* (6.6%) only, although hot and cold seasons were equal in prevalence for *Dicentrarchus labrax* (2%).

### **D. Parasitological Findings:**

#### **D.1. Digenetic Trematodes:**

*Erilepturus tiegsi* (Woolcock, 1935) was isolated from stomach of *Argyrosomus regius*. It is elongate, spindle shaped and somewhat flattened dorsoventrally. The base of the sinus sac is thick-walled and contains radial muscles; sinus organ is thick-walled with circular muscles; the atrium is separated from the sinus sac (**Figure 4-A**).

*Erilepturus lemeriensis* (Tubangui and Masilungan, 1935) was isolated from stomach of *Argyrosomus regius*. Body was smooth, elongated, narrow and cylindrical. Oral sucker is anteriorly situated and subterminal. Acetabulum is at the middle of the body. Pharynx is well developed and followed by short esophagus which is short and thin (**Figure 4-B**).

*Acanthostomum spinices* (Loose, 1899) was isolated from intestine of *Dicentrarchus labrax*. It was medium sized body, long and spinulated. It has oral sucker terminal, which is

fingerbowl to funnel shaped, with a crown of spines. The prepharynx was long and in midway between two suckers. Its esophagus was short, bifurcating a little in front of acetabulum (Figure 4-C).

***Sclerodistomum* sp. (Looss, 1912)** was isolated from intestine of *Saurida undosquamis*. Body is delicate, spinose, small in size, cuticle transversely folded, fore body slightly tapered. Oral sucker is sub terminal, and globular. Ventral sucker is prominent, situated at the end of the first third of the body (Figure 4-D).

#### **D.2. Nematodes**

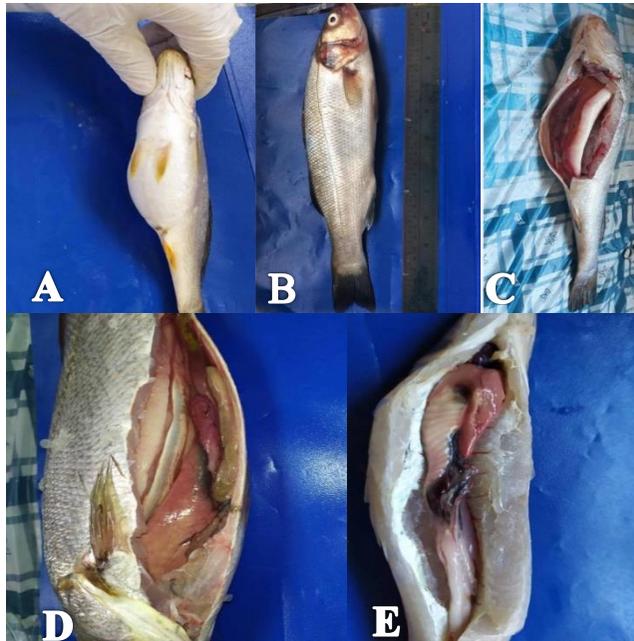
***Hysterothylacium aduncum* (Rudolphi, 1802)** was isolated from intestine of *Dicentrarchus labrax*. Body is elongated, tapering anteriorly and posteriorly. Three large lips are present at the anterior end; two large ventrolateral and one dorsal, the dorsal one is somewhat shorter. Lips are somewhat wider than the body; two large ventrolateral and one dorsal, the dorsal one is shorter (Figure 5).

***Procamallanus inopenatus* (Travassos, 1928)** was isolated from the mucosal scraping of the gastrointestinal tract of *Siganus revulatus*. It characterized by

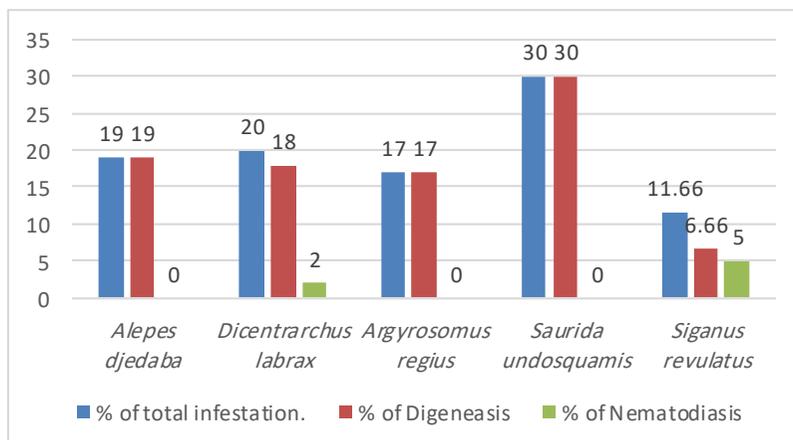
elongated body, larviparous, cup-shaped buccal capsule, which is devoid of cutting plated teeth, lancets or even spiral thickenings. Esophagus is cylindrical. The tail of the female narrows gradually. The male posterior end is strongly curved ventrally with 5 pre-anal papillae, and 4 pairs of post-anal papillae (Figure 6).

#### **D. Histopathological**

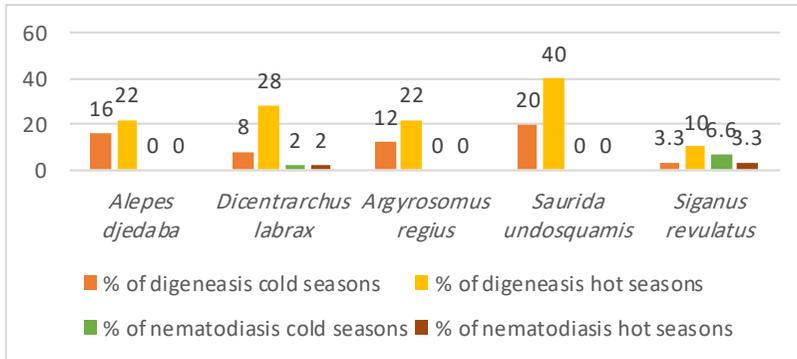
**Findings:** In case of digenetic infestation of stomach of *Arygroromus regius*, stomach showed congestion of blood vessels, leukocytic infiltrations in both mucosa and submucosa with degeneration and necrosis of gastric mucosa and desquamation and erosion of epithelial lining. While in *Dicentrarchus labrax* fish infested with digenea, stomach showed destruction, necrosis and sloughing of gastric mucosa along with submucosal and serosal congestion and leukocytic infiltrations. However, in case of digenetic infestation of *Saurida undosquamis*, stomach showed mechanical destruction of the gastric mucosa along with congestion and mild submucosal leucocytes infiltrations (Figure 7).



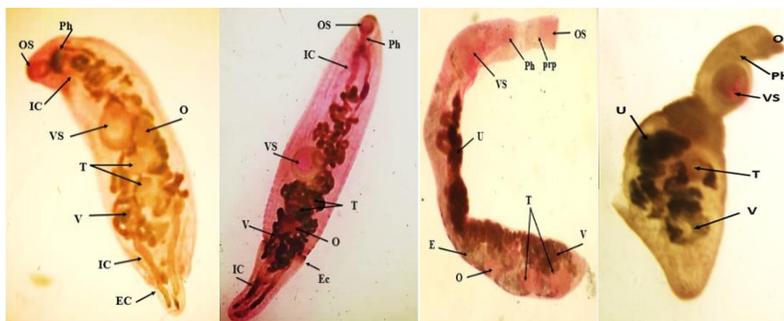
**Figure (1)** Photograph of :A.Argyrosomus regius showing abdominal distention (arrow) and paleness, B. Dicentrarchus labrax showing hemorrhages at the base of fins (arrow) ,C. Argyrosomus regius showing hemorrhagic and fatty liver (arrow), D. Argyrosomus regius showing hemorrhagic liver (arrow) with petechial hemorrhage in the intestine and E. Saurida undosquamis showing paleness of liver with petechial hemorrhage , enlargement and congestion of intestine (arrow).



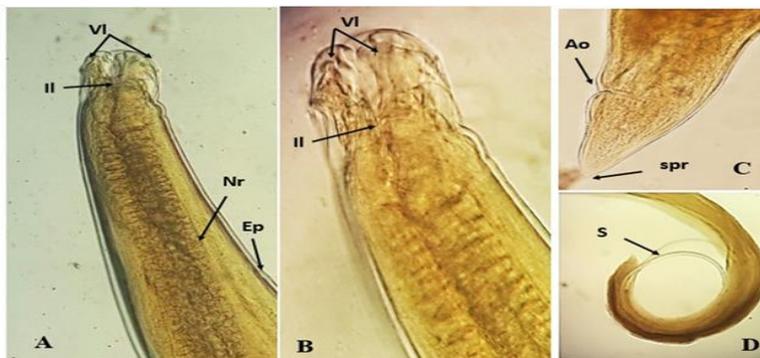
**Fig (2):** Showing total prevalence of digeneasis and nematodiasis among the examined fishes.



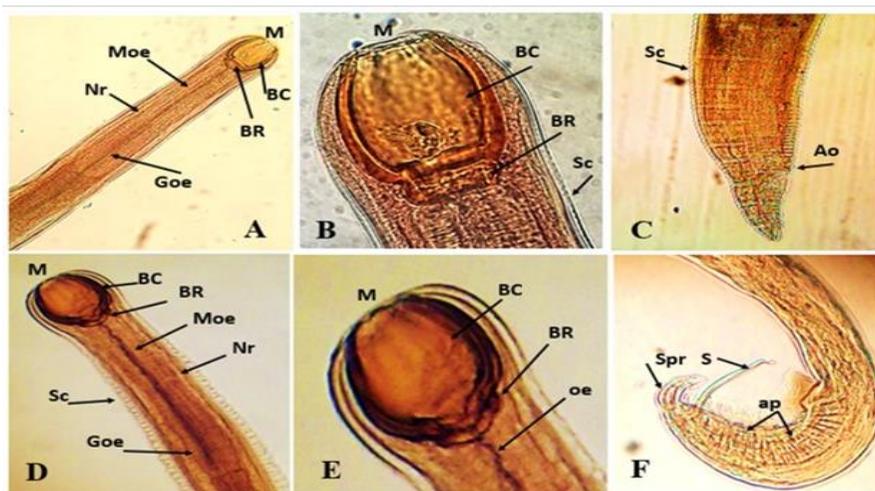
**Fig (3):** Showing seasonal prevalence of digeneasis and nematodiasis among different examined fishes.



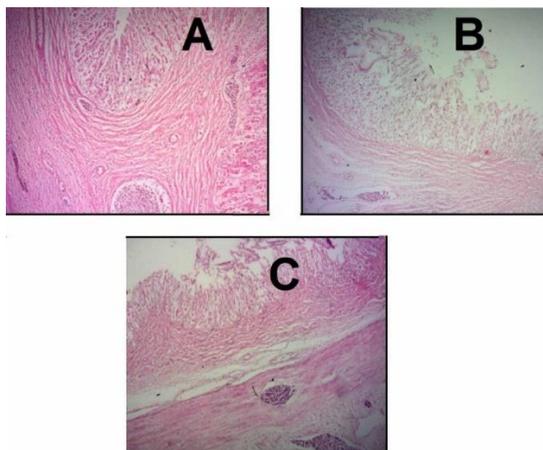
**Fig. (4):** Photomicrograph of *A. Erialepturus tiegsi* (Woolcock, 1935), *B. Erialepturus lemeriensis* (Tubangui and Masilungan, 1935), *C. Acanthostomum spiniceps* (Loose, 1899) *D. Sclerodistomum sp.* (Looss, 1912) .stained with Semichon's acetocarmine OS: Oral sucker, Ph: Pharynx, Vs: Ventral sucker, U: uterus, V: Vitellaria, O: Ovary, T: testes, E: eggs, IC: intestinal caeca, EC: evaginated ecsoma, Prp: prepharynx



**Fig. (5):** Photomicrograph of *Hysterothylacium aduncum* (Rudolphi 1802), A: anterior part, B: High magnifications of head region, C: female posterior end and D: male posterior part. Vl: ventrolateral lips, Il: interlabium, Ep: excretory pore, Nr: nerve ring, Ao: Anal opening, spr: spinose process, S: spicules.



**Fig. (6):** Photomicrograph of *Procamallanus inopenatus* (Travassos, 1928) A: Female anterior part, B: High magnifications of female Cephalic end and buccal capsule, C: female posterior end, D: male anterior part, E: High magnifications of male Cephalic end and F: male posterior end. M: mouth, BC: buccal capsule, BR: basal ring, Moe: muscular oesophagus, Nr: nerve ring, Goe: glandular oesophagus, Sc: Striated cuticle, Ao: anal opening, S: spicule, ap: anal papillae, Spr: spinose process.



**Fig (7):** Photomicrograph of: A. *Arygroromus regius* stomach showing congestion of blood vessels, leukocytic infiltrations in both mucosa and submucosa with degeneration and necrosis of gastric mucosa. (X200). H&E, B. *Saurida undosquamis* stomach showing mechanical destruction of the gastric mucosa along with congestion and mild submucosal leukocytic infiltrations. (X 200). H&E and C. *Dicentrarchus labrax* stomach showing destruction, necrosis and sloughing of gastric mucosa along with submucosal and serosal congestion and leukocytic infiltrations. (X 200). H&E.

### Discussion :

There were no pathognomonic clinical signs in the examined marine fishes and they were apparently healthy. Some *Arygroromus regius* infested with digeneans showed abdominal distention, paleness and emaciation. Affected *Dicentrarchus labrax* with digeneasis and nematodiasis showed inflammation, hemorrhagic fins and emaciation. These findings are at the same line with *Rawia Adawy (2000) and Eissa (2002)*. Regarding postmortem examination, liver was hemorrhagic in some investigated *Dicentrarchus labrax*, gills were slightly marbled with excessive mucus secretions and slight abdominal bulging, these are nearly similar to that reported by *Eissa (2002), Maather El-lamie (2007) and Nashwa Mohamed (2010)*. Regarding the total prevalence among the examined fishes. It was 18.75 % . This result agreed with *Eman Youssef and Derwa (2005)* which was 15.7% and is

lower than that obtained by *Maather El- Lamie (2007), Nashwa Mohamed ( 2010), Heba Abdel-Mawla and Jihan Abo-Esa (2011) and Mohammed (2017)* who recorded 56 % ,66.5 % ,53 % and 59% respectively. This may be attributed to the difference of the locality from which fish were obtained. Also endoparasites often are tropically transmitted, so variations in infection levels can be explained by interannual changes in host diet and availability of prey harboring infective stages (*Santana et al., 2012*). Seasonally, hot seasons revealed the highest total prevalence (24.5%) and cold seasons showed (13%). This result agreed with **Mohammed (2017)** who found the highest prevalence of parasites were in summer and spring followed by autumn and winter in *Dicentrarchus labrax* and *Scomberomorus commerson* fishes. But disagreed with *Maather El-lamie (2007)* who recorded the highest prevalence in winter and *Samah El-Shafey*

(2016) who found the highest prevalence in autumn followed by spring then winter and lowest in summer. Total prevalence of digenetic trematodes was 17.5%. These results were more than the results obtained by **Rehab Qorany (2020)** who revealed 7.34% from (*Dicentrarchus labrax*, *Dicentrarchus Punctatus* and *Sparus aurata*). Total prevalence of nematodiasis in this study was 1.25%. This agreed with **Cavallero et al. (2019)** and **Rehab Qorany (2020)** results who found 1.1% and 0.7% respectively. Regarding seasonal prevalence of digeneasis, it was high in spring and summer and low in autumn and winter. These findings was agreed with **Mona Khattab (1990)** and **Eissa et al. (2010)** who found that the peak was during summer and spring and the lowest in winter. But disagree with **Reda Hassanine (2000)**, **Amal Atwa (2006)** and **Eissa et al. (2013)** as they was recorded the highest prevalence in winter and the lowest in spring. These variations may be attributed to the difference in study areas. Concerning nematode infestation, the total prevalence was 1.25%. While the seasonal prevalence of nematodes was higher in autumn and winter than in spring and summer. This result is nearly the same of that obtained by **Eissa et al. (2017)** as they recorded

8% in autumn, 0% in winter, 4% in spring and 0% in summer. And agreed with **Rehab Qorany (2020)** who recorded the highest prevalence in autumn (3.57%) among some examined marine fishes and 0% in the other seasons.

Parasitological findings revealed a digenean parasite had the same morphological featured documented by **Manter (1969)** and **Walaa El-Ekiaby (2009)**, so it is *Erilepturus tiegsi* and *Erilepturus lemeriensis*. Parasitological finding revealed a digenean parasite had the same morphological featured documented by **El-Shahawi and Al-Bassel (1992)**, **Fernandes et al. (2002)** and **Attia et al. (2018)**, so it is *Acanthostomum spinices*. Parasitological finding revealed a digenean parasite had the same morphological featured documented by **Rania Taha and Ramadan (2018)**, so it is *Sclerodistomum* sp. Parasitological finding revealed a nematode parasite had the same morphological featured documented by **Heba Abdel-Mawla and Jihan Abo -Esa (2011)**, **Nada and Abd El-Ghany (2011)** and **Attia et al. (2018)**, so it is *Hysterothylacium aduncum*. Parasitological finding revealed a nematode parasite had the same morphological featured documented by **Nashwa Mohamed (2010)** and **Heba**

*Abdel-Mawla and Jihan Abo-Esa (2011)*, so it is *Procamallanus inopenatus*.

Concerning different histopathological changes in stomach of fishes affected with digenean infestations; congestion of blood vessels, leukocytic infiltrations in both mucosa and submucosa with degeneration and necrosis of gastric mucosa, desquamation and erosions of epithelial lining were recorded. These results were in agreement with that obtained by *Heba Abdel-Mawla (2005)*, *Aktar (2008)* and *Samah El-Shafey (2016)*.

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### نظرة ثاقبة على الاصابة بديدان الدايجينيا و النيماتودا في بعض الأسماك البحرية في محافظة الإسماعيلية

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 \*\*قسم امراض الأسماك \_ معهد بحوث الصحة الحيوانية \_ معمل فرعي  
 الإسماعيلية.  
 \*\*\*قسم الباثولوجي \_ كلية الطب البيطري \_ جامعة قناة السويس .

تم فحص 400 سمكة بحرية من خمس أنواع (100 من اللاشنتية ، 100 من القاروص ، 100 من اللوت ، 40 من المكرونة و 60 من السيجان) تم جمعها بشكل عشوائي من محافظة الإسماعيلية في مواسم مختلفة في الفترة من ابريل 2018 حتي ديسمبر 2019 بأحجام وأوزان مختلفة. أسفر الفحص الاكلينيكي للأسماك المصابة بالطفيليات المختلفة عن عدم وجود علامة مرضية مميزة . بعض أسماك اللوت المصابة بالدايجينيا أظهرت تضخم في منطقة البطن وشحوب وتعاني من الهزال . اما بعض اسماك القاروص المصابة بالدايجينيا تعاني من نزف علي الغشاء الخيشومي وسحجات وتقرحات علي الزعانف و تضخم في منطقة البطن. أسفر الفحص الداخلي في سمكة اللوت المصابة بالدايجينا عن وجود نزيف في الكبد وتراكم دهون وتهتك في الخياشيم مع زيادة إفراز المخاط وانتفاخ طفيف في البطن . كانت النسبة الكلية للإصابة 18.75%. وكانت أعلى نسبة في المكرونة (30%) ، يليها القاروص (20%) ، ثم اللاشنتية (19%) ، ثم (17%) في اللوت ، ثم السيجان (11.66%). كما تم دراسة التغيرات الهستوباثولوجية لهذه الأسماك المصابة .