



Parasitic Cymothoid Isopods and their Impacts in Commercially Important Fishes From Lake Qarun, Egypt

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Abstract : Cymothoid Isopods are parasitic crustaceans cause serious impacts on the fish population and might lead to fish mortality and consequently economic loses. The present study aims to to investigate the prevalence of isopod infestation and their histopathological alterations among three commercially important fish species in lake Qarun, Fayoum province, Egypt. A total of 150 fish samples; *Dicentrarchus labrax* (50) *Solea vulgaris* (50), and *Tilapia zilli* (50) were collected from the lake during the period from March to August 2015. Results revealed the total prevalence of 32.66% with two isopod species identified as *Nerocila orbignyi* and *Renocila thresherorum*. Gills affected with *R. thresherorum* showed complete sloughing of the epithelium lining accompanied with severe congestion and edema in the secondary gill lamellae in addition to inflammatory exudates found between the gill filaments. Further studies are needed to estimate the source of isopod infestation problem and to develop a strategy for controlling such problem among Lake Qarun fishes.

Keywords : Cymothoidae, Isopods, parasites, Pathology, Lake Qarun.

Nisreen E. Mahmoud *et al*/International Journal of ChemTech Research, 2016,9(12): 221-229.
