

SOME TREMATODES OF MARINE FISHES OF SOUTHWESTERN AND NORTH- WESTERN PUERTO RICO

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ABSTRACT

Six species of digenetic flukes are reported from marine fishes of the coastal waters of southwestern and northwestern Puerto Rico. *Stephanostomum microstephanum* occurred in *Epinephelus afer* from Isla Magueyes, La Paguera, constituting a new host and locality record. *Opecoeloides brachyteleus* in *Caranx ruber* and *Lecithochirium microcercus* in *Selar crumenophthalmus* from Crashboat Pier, Aguadella also constitute new host records. Other flukes found in marine fishes off Crashboat Pier, Aguadella include *Tergestia laticollis* in *Decapterus macarellus*, *Parahemiurus merus* in *Harengula humeralis* and *Lecithochirium parvum* in *Lutjanus buccanella*.

INTRODUCTION

Major contributions to knowledge of the digenetic flukes of marine fishes of Puerto Rico stem from the early studies of Cable (1954a, b, 1956 a, b), Le Zotte (1954), Siddiqi and Cable (1960), and the more recent comprehensive report by Dyer et al. (1985).

Since the latter report, additional data were obtained from examining several species of marine fishes from coastal waters of southwestern and northwestern Puerto Rico. Scientific names used in this report are the names of fishes recognized by the American Fisheries Society (Robins et al., 1980).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

All fishes were collected during January and February, 1984 by means of spear-fishing. They were then placed in plastic bags containing seawater and held in styro-foam containers for transport to the laboratory where they were refrigerated and usually necropsied immediately.

Flukes were washed in 0.7% saline, flattened with minimal coverslip pressure, fixed with warm AFA, and stored in 70% ethanol. Specimens were stained with either Harris' hematoxylin or Grenacher's alcoholic borax carmine and prepared as whole mounts in Canada balsam.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A single specimen of *Stephanostomum microstephanum* Manter 1934 was found in the intestine of 1 of 3 *Epinephelus afer* (Bloch) from Isla Magueyes, La Parguera. This fluke was described by Manter (1934) from the intestine of *Epinephelus niveatus* (Cuvier and Valenciennes) taken in Tortugas, Florida. In a subsequent study, Manter (1947) reported this parasite from the same host and locality. The finding of *S. microstephanum* in *E. afer* off La Parguera constitutes a new host and locality record.

One specimen of *Opecoeloides brachyteleus* Manter 1947 was found in the intestine of *Caranx ruber* (Bloch) from Crashboat Pier, Aguadilla. Siddiqi and Cable (1960) reported this fluke in *Mulloidichthys martinicus* (Cuvier) from Puerto Real, Puerto Rico. *Caranx ruber* constitutes a new host record.

Two specimens of *Lecithochirium microcercus* (Manter, 1947) were found in the intestine of a single *Selar crumenophthalmus* (Bloch) from Crashboat Pier, Aguadilla. This fluke has been reported from several species of fishes in Puerto Rico by Dyer et al. (1985) including *Caranx lugubris* Poy from Cabinero Point, Mona Island, *Flammeo marianus* (Cuvier and Valenciennes) from Isla Magueyes, *Priacanthus cruentatus* (Lacapède) from Laurel reef, La Parguera, *Micropogonias furnicari* (Demarest) from Bahía de Guánica and *Scorpaena plumieri* (Bloch) from La Parguera. *Selar crumenophthalmus* constitutes a new host record.

A single specimen of *Tergestia laticollis* (Rudolphi 1819) was found in the intestine of *Decapterus macarellus* (Cuvier) from Crashboat Pier, Aguadilla. This fluke has been reported from the same host and locality and also in *Clepticus parrai* (Bloch and Schneider) from Turrumote reef, La Parguera by Dyer et al. (1985).

Two specimens of *Parahemiurus merus* (Linton 1910) were found in a single *Harengula humeralis* (Cuvier) off Crashboat Pier, Aguadilla. It has previously been reported from the same host and locality and also in *Saurida normani* Longley from La Parguera by Dyer et al. (1985).

Two specimens of *Lecithochirium parvum* Manter 1947 were detected in a single *Lutjanus buccanella* (Cuvier) off Crashboat Pier, Aguadilla. This fluke parasitizes several species of fishes. It has been reported from the same host and locality by Dyer et al. (1985) in addition to *Scorpaena plumieri*, *Priacanthus cruentatus* and *Chaetodon ocellatus* Bloch from La Parguera and *Antennarius scaber* (Cuvier) from the mouth of the Añasco River, Mayagüez Bay.

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