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First Report of *Tristomella laevis* (Monogenea, Capsalidae) from Aegean Sea in Turkey

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Summary

Tristomella laevis (Monogenea, Capsalidae) was recorded on gills of sword-fish (*Xiphias gladius*), collected from Ayvacık, Çanakkale, for the first time in Turkey. Infested fish weight ranged between 8.1 and 10.5 kg. Parasites were observed generally on small fish rather than big fish. Main prevalence of parasites was determined as 70% and serious gill damage was observed on the host fish.

Keywords: *Metazoa, Parasite, Sword-fish*

Türkiye'nin Ege Denizi'nde *Tristomella laevis* (Monogenea, Capsalidae) İçin İlk Rapor

Özet

Türkiye'nin Çanakkale ili Ayvacık sahillerinde avlanan kılıç balıklarının (*Xiphias gladius*) solungaçlarından *Tristomella laevis* (Monogenea, Capsalidae) ilk kez izole edilmiştir. Enfeste olmuş balıkların ağırlık aralığı 8.1 ve 10.5 kg olarak belirlenmiştir. Parazitler daha çok küçük balıklarda gözlemlenmiştir. Parazitlerin ortalama prevalansı %70 olarak belirlenirken balıklarda ciddi solungaç hasarları tespit edilmiştir.

Anahtar sözcükler: *Metazoa, Parazit, Kılıç balığı*

INTRODUCTION

Monogeneans are lives in freshwater, brackish and marine environments and they all have a direct life cycle. The majority of the monogeneans are ectoparasitic and generally attached on external surfaces of their hosts ¹.

Many reports have presented high pathogenesis of monogeneans in aquatic systems. The parasites can cause different effects of host such as, feeds of the host tissue, mechanic effect, gland secretions and vectors for viruses and bacteria. Therefore monogeneans infestations cause for serious mortality in fish farms ^{1,2}.

Tristomella laevis (synonyms: *Tristoma laeve*, *Tristomum histiophori*, *Tristomum laeve* var. *armata* and *Tristomella laeve*), is a capsalid monogenean parasites. It was already reported from different fish species (*Xiphias*

gladius, *Makaira indica*, *Makaira nigricans*, *Tetrapterus albidus*). And also *Tristomella laevis* was isolated on cultured Atlantic bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) ³.

Broadbill sword-fish (*Xiphias gladius*) is a highly migratory fish species. It shows a wide geographical spread including Atlantic, Indian and Pacific, Mediterranean Sea, the Sea of Marmara, the the Sea of Azov and Black Sea ^{4,5}. *X. gladius* is found in all Turkish sea and annual sword-fish production of Turkey is 386 tones in 2008 ⁶.

Monogeneans are very common parasites of fish ⁷, but there is no record related to *Tristomella* infestation in Turkey. *Tristomella laevis* infestation on sword-fish was exhibited for the first time in Turkish sea in the present study.

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MATERIAL and METHODS

Twenty sword-fish (*Xiphias gladius*) were caught by drift-net in the coast of Ayvacık (39°36' N; 26°24' E) between May and August 2008. The gills of host fish were extracted, and then examined in the laboratory for metazoan parasites⁸. Parasites were observed on gills of fish and then fixed in 10% formalin. Body weight of host fish, length and width of parasites were recorded and the parasites were identified⁹.

RESULTS

Tristomella laevis was found on gills of sword-fish (Fig. 1) and mean prevalence of the parasites was determined 70%. Average density of parasites on the both gills was 10. Infested fish weight ranged between 8.1 and 10.5 kg. Body size of parasites were measured as follows; mean length 14.3±0.2 mm, mean width 13.1±0.5 mm and serious erosions were realized in gills of the fish. And also parasites were observed frequently on small fish rather than big fish.

DISCUSSION

Parasites can cause many different damages on their host fish. *Tristomella laevis* previously was reported on *Thunnus thynnus*³, but any pathological symptoms were

not mentioned in the study. Unlike the previous study, this study presents serious gill damages due to *T. laevis* on *X. gladius*.

Sword-fish are fairly migratory fish. Therefore, they may carry their pathogens from anywhere to another aquatic location. The production of marine fish is very intense (*Sparus aurata* and *Dicentrarchus labrax*) in the coast of Aegean and Mediterranean Sea of Turkey^{10,11}. Although many parasitological studies were realized on fish species^{7,12,13,14}, *Tristomella laevis* was not observed so far on cultured and other fish in Turkish sea. However, location of the parasites shows that the parasite maybe infest economical fish species in the area.

Monogenean fish parasites were commonly reported in *Cyprinus carpio* and *Esox lucius* in Turkey. But sea bass and sea bream are the most common hosts cultivated fish species for the monogenetic parasites⁷. The only parasite report from *X. gladius* in Turkish sea is *Pennella instructa* (Copepoda)¹⁵. In this study is the first monogenean parasite report from *X. gladius* in Turkey. Therefore present study is very important in terms of parasitic studies in the country.

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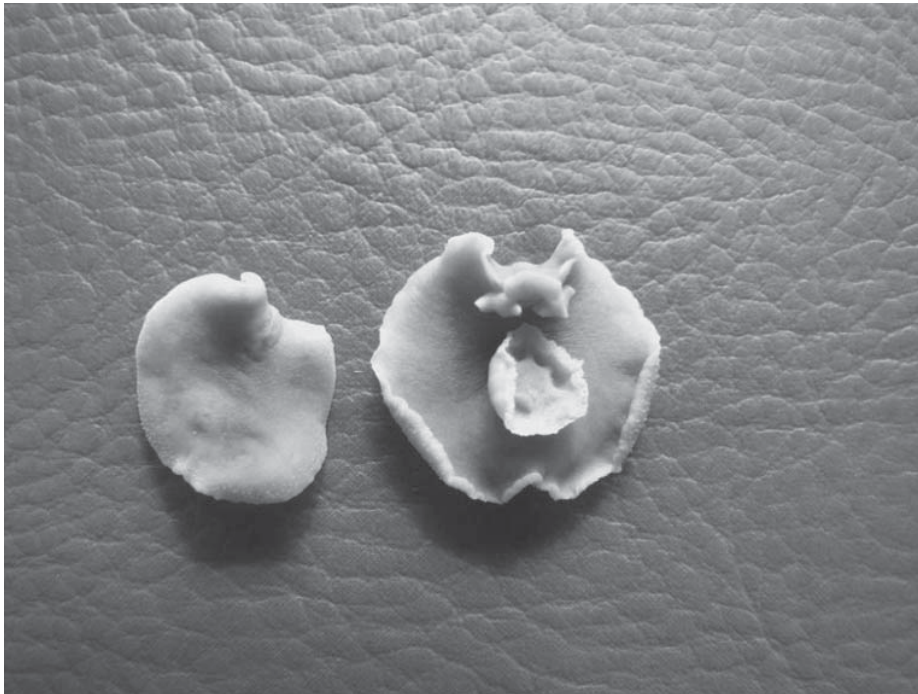


Fig 1. Dorsal and ventral view of *Tristomella laevis*

Şekil 1. *Tristomella laevis*'in dorsal ve ventral görünüşü

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