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Protozoan parasites in commercially important shrimp species from northeast coast of Andhra Pradesh, India

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Journal article : [Journal of Experimental Zoology, India](#) 2007 Vol.10 No.1 pp.9-20

Abstract : Protozoan parasites often cause passive and chronic infections in a large population. In this study we investigated the incidence of protozoan parasites in commercially important *Penaeus indicus*, *P. monodon*, *P. semisulcatus*, *Mac*

rosenbergii and *M. malcomsonii* collected from Gosthani and Gambeeraged mangrove water ways of Kakinada Bay and, a hatchery, along the northeast Andhra Pradesh, India. Altogether incidence of 20 protozoan species representing sarcomastigophorans including, *Amyloodinium ocellatum*, *Isochrysis galbana*, *perniciosa*, *P. aesturina* and *Rosculus macrobrachii*; apicomplexans including *Caridohabitans macrobrachii*, *Cephalolobus andhrae*, *Didymophyes penaei*, *macrobrachii* and *Solenococcidium indicus*; microsporidian *Agamosoma duobreviciliatum*; ciliates including *Acineta tuberosa*, *A. lacustris*, *Chilodonella longypharynx*, *A. gaucha*, *Zoothamnium adamsi*, *Z. arbuscula*, *Epistylis niagarae*, *Gymnodinium* and *Bursaria truncatella* were observed. Also, studies on the host type and pathogen morphology, site and prevalence of infection, symptoms and pathological special features, if any, were made. Overall, the protozoans occur both as endo- and epibionts and often culminated in chronic or acute and extensive damage to shellfish production. Species like, *Amyloodinium ocellatum*, *Paramoeba pernicioso*, *P. pernicioso*, *Caridohabitans macrobrachii*, *Didymophyes penaei*, *Agamosoma (= Thelohania)* were found to inflict moderate to intense tissue reactions.

ISSN : 0972-0030

Record Number : 20073201594

Publisher : Department of Zoology, D.A.V. (P.G.) College

Location of publication : Muzaffarnagar

Country of publication : India

Language of text : English

Language of summary : English

Indexing terms for this abstract:

Organism descriptor(s) : *Amyloodinium ocellatum*, *Chilodonella*, ciliates, Decapoda, *Fenneropenaeus indicus*, *Macrobrachium rosenbergii*, *Paramoeba*, *Penaeus*, planorbis, *Thelohania*

Descriptor(s) : aquatic animals, aquatic invertebrates, aquatic organisms, chronic diseases, estuaries, incidence, infections, mangroves, parasites, parasitoses, pathogenesis, protozoal infections, shellfish, shrimps, symbionts, symptoms, trees, woody plants

Identifier(s) : aquatic species, parasitic diseases, parasitic infestations, parasitosis, *indicus*, protozoal diseases, *Zoothamnium*

Geographical Location(s) : Andhra Pradesh, India

Broader term(s) : *Amyloodinium*, Oodiniaceae, Blastodiniales, Dinophyceae, Dinophyta, Chromista, eukaryotes, Chilodonellidae, Ciliophorida, Ciliophora, Protozoa, Epistylis, Sessilida, *Fenneropenaeus*, Penaeidae, Decapoda, Malacostraca, Crustacea, arthropods, invertebrates, animals, *Macrobrachium*, Palaemonidae, Paramoebidae, Amoebid

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