PREFACE

Many Fishes are having high economic value as they provide the highly nutritious and delicious food for human population. These fishes are one of the components of the food cycle in Ecology.

The cestode parasites are found abundantly in fresh water as well as marine water fishes, which reduce the food value of fishes. The cestode parasites when present in these fishes cause serious diseases like Diphyllobothriasis, Ophisthorchis, Trichinosis, Anaemia and Haemorrhages etc. to the human being if the uncooked flesh is eaten.

Now-a-days more than 13000 species of fishes have been found out of these 4000 species are of sharks and 380 species are of rays, which are identified and are used as a food. As a medicinal point of view, fishes provides. Vitamin A, Vitamin D and oil, Body oils acts as scavengers used for antimalarial work and in Ayurvedic and Unani system of medicine on colour blindness, cold and cough, Asthma, Tuberculosis etc.

The pioneer workers like Woodland, Southwell, Baylis, Singh, Moghe, Spassky, Yamaguti, Burt, Thapar, S.N. Singh, Ali, Gupta, Pandey, Johri, Shinde and Jadhav who worked on systematic and Morphology of vertebrates among the recent workers who are working on Taxonomy, Biochemistry, Histochemistry and Histopathology of cestode parasites of Vertebrates and Fotedar, Hanumantthrao, Bhalerao, Nama, Gupta, Capoor, Pandey, Shinde and Jadhav.

Keeping in the mind the economic importance of food value of fishes, the authors has undertaken the work on systematic Morphology. Bio-chemical estimation, Histopathology and Seasonal Variations of cestode parasites of Fishes.

For the collection of parasites, the author has conducted many tours in various places Sindhudurg Region, Venguria, Aigaon, Terekhol, Malvan, Achra, Devgarh, Mond, Vijayadurg etc.
The live specimens were collected and fixed in 4% formalin for taxonomic studies. Some are fixed in Bouin’s fluid for Histopathological studies and remaining are used for biochemistry.

For the taxonomic study the worms are stained with Harris haematoxyline and Alcoholic Borax Caramin, dehydrated, cleared in Xylene, mounted in D.P.X. or Canada balsam. Drawings are made with the aid of Camera Lucida. All measurements are in millimeters, unless otherwise it is indicated. The estimation of Glycogen, Protein and Lipid is calculated in percentage by using different methods. The author also studied about the Seasonal variations and histopathology of cestode parasites and their related hosts.


Thus at the instance Dr. B.V. Jadhav the author has investigated the taxonomic evaluation of tapeworms. However the author feels different it is not confessed that the present work does not contribute much to the existing echelons of knowledge a product of several professional parasitologists. But I am confident that the present work could be the basis for further extensive investigations for the development of better and better anthelminthcs to save these economically important fishes.

All the specimen slidies are deposited in the cestodology laboratory, Department of Zoology Arts, Science and Commerce College, Naldurg Dist. Osmanabad (M.S.).