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Research Note.

**A REPORT OF PLEROCERCROID OF Ligula intestinalis
(CESTODE) IN THE CYPRINID FISH Barbus sharpeyi**

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Ligulosis is a condition that occurs in fishes due to infection with the larval stage (plerocercoids) of a tapeworm Ligula intestinalis (Soulsby, 1982; Helminths, Arthropods and Protozoa of Domestic Animals, p.132). The infected fish suffers of functional disturbance of the internal organs due to displacement of these organs with the plerocercoid in the abdominal cavity and swelling of the abdomen.

The condition has been reported in some Iraqi fishes such as Aspirus vorax (Al_Hassani 1985; Dirasat, 12:25), Acanthobrama centisquama (Ali et al., 1987; J. Biol. Sci. Res. 18:25), Alburnus caeruleus (Ali-Saadi, 1986; M.Sc. Thesis, Univ. Baghdad) and Ctenophayngodon idellus (Ali et al., 1988; J. Biol. Sci. Res. 19:395).

Present report records the plerocercoid in the abdominal cavity of Barbus sharpeyi for the first time in Mosul (Iraq).

A freshwater fish (Barbus sharpeyi) about 500 gms was bought with other fishes from a fish market in Mosul for human consumption. The fish was opened and a milky-white wormlike structure was seen in the abdominal cavity. It was 18 cm long and 0.5 cm wide and flattened dorsoventrally. The body was unsegmented. It

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was diagnosed as the plerocercoid . The unsegmentation of the body is the characteristic feature of the plerocercoid of Ligula intestinalis (Ali et al.,1987, Ibid).

Ligula intestinalis has been recorded from four species of fish; this is, however, the first record of this larva in Barbus sharpeyi. It is known that this parasite causes parasitic castration of the fish, as it retards the gonad development (Smyth,1976; Introduction to Animal Parasitology,P.466). Consequently, this might cause loss of the fish condition(Soulsby 1982,Ibid) and economic loss to the fish industry.

تسجيل يرقة الدودة الشريطية *Ligula intestinalis*
في السمك البني شامق *Barbus sharpeyi*

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الخلاصة

لقد تم تسجيل المرحلة اليرقية *Flerocercoid intestinalis* لأول مرة في التجويف البطني للسمك البني *Barbus sharpeyi* في الموصل. لقد كان طول اليرقة ١٨ سم أما عرضها فقد كان ٥ سم. إن أهمية هذه اليرقة تكمن في أنها تنمو على حساب الأعضاء الداخلية وخاصة الأعضاء التناسلية مؤدية الى ضمور هذه الأعضاء وبالتالي الى عمقها من جهة وإلى نقص في النمو من جهة أخرى مما يؤدي الى حدوث خسائر اقتصادية.