

**Joint ESENIAS and DIAS Scientific Conference
2022 and 11th ESENIAS Workshop**

**Invasive alien species under conditions of
global crisis**

13 – 15 November 2022

Book of Abstracts

Demre, Antalya, Türkiye

2022



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**First record of *Pomphorhynchus bosniacus* (Kiškarolj et Čanković, 1969)
(Paleacanthocephala: Pomphorhynchidae) in some cyprinid fish from
Belčišta wetland (North Macedonia)**

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The representatives of the phylum Acanthocephala are of great importance in fish pathology. *Pomphorhynchus bosniacus* (Kiškarolj et Čanković, 1969) (Paleacanthocephala: Pomphorhynchidae) is an intestinal parasite of many freshwater fishes confined to limited geographical areas of southeastern Europe (waters of Balkan), including Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia. In our case study, a total of 33 specimens of 3 cyprinid fish species (*Squalius squalus*, *Phoxinus lumaireul*, and *Pelasgus minutus*) from Belčišta wetland (southwest Macedonia) were subjected to a parasitological investigation, by seasons. Only fresh fish were subjected to routine identification, dissection, and observation methods. Parasite identification was performed morphologically, based on the character of the proboscis with hooks and the reproductive system, using a referent key for determination. Thereby, infestation by the parasite was determined in all fish species, so the prevalence was the highest in *Phoxinus lumaireul* (80.0%), followed by *Pelasgus minutus* (75.0%) and *Squalius squalus* (66.67%). The highest mean intensity was determined in *Squalius squalus* (5.40), followed by *Phoxinus lumaireul* (4.75) and *Pelasgus minutus* (3.0).

This parasite species can lead to heavy impairment of fish health status because the parasite penetrates the bulb and proboscis through the gut wall into the peritoneal lumen and even attach to abdominal organs.

The record of *Pomphorhynchus bosniacus* in all three cyprinid fish species in the present study is considered the first in Belčišta wetland. At the same time, *Phoxinus lumaireul* and *Pelasgus minutus* represent new hosts for this parasite worldwide.

Key words: *Pomphorhynchus bosniacus*, cyprinid fish, Belčišta wetland.