

**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 *Acanthocephalus lucii* (Müller, 1776) Lühe, 1911 (Paleacanthocephala: Echinorhynchidae) in minnow (*Phoxinus lumaireul* Linnaeus, 1758) from Belčišta wetland, North Macedonia

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The representatives of the phylum Acanthocephala are of great importance in fish pathology. *Acanthocephalus lucii* (Müller, 1776) Lühe, 1911 (Paleacanthocephala: Echinorhynchidae) is a common pathogenic acanthocephalan parasite in many freshwater predatory fish or those that feed on large benthos, in Euroasia. In our study, a total of 33 specimens of 3 cyprinid fish species (*Squalius squalus*, *Phoxinus lumaireul* and *Pelasgus minutus*) from Belčišta wetland (Southwest N. 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 proboscis with hooks and the reproductive system, using referent key for determination. One specimen of *Acanthocephalus lucii* was found in autumn, in intestines of minnow (*Phoxinus lumaireul* Linnaeus, 1758). This parasite species would lead to impairing of fish health status.

The record of *Acanthocephalus lucii* in minnow in the present study is considered as the first in N. Macedonia. At the same time, minnow represents a new host for this parasite worldwide. This emphasizes the danger of the spread of parasites through stocking with newly introduced fish species.

Key words: *Acanthocephalus lucii*, minnow, Belčišta wetland, first record.