

A NOTE ON PARASITISED OVARIES IN THE PERCH
POMADASYS HASTA (BLOCH)

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An instance of diseased ovaries in a specimen of *Pomadasys hasta* (Bloch) is reported. The fish measuring 535 mm total length was caught in the Hook & Line operation at Sassoon Dock on 9th November 1973. The specimen collected in fresh condition, was studied carefully.

In the specimen, externally, a thick cloud of dark patches on the lateral walls of the ovaries could be noticed, while internally it was found that the degenerated ova were accumulated in a separate sheath. In addition, a large number of nematode parasites were seen in both the lobes of the ovary (Fig. 1). The dark patches represent the degenerated and deteriorated ova which occurred



due to the infection by the nematode parasites. The worms were in dead condition and were in the vicinity of the dark patches. Moreover, the sheath containing the degenerated ova was continuous up to the posterior end of the ovary.

Raju (1960), and Thomas and Raju (1964) in their observation on *Katsuwonus pelamis* reported that the enormous development and hardening of the left lobe of the ovary with the complete destruction of the mature ova in it were probably due to extensive infection by larval nematode worms in large numbers. Annigeri (1962) observed that the parasitisation caused by the nematode, *Philometra* sp. in the ovaries of *Otolithus argenteus* had resulted in the

atrophy of the major part of the ovaries. However, in the case of the Indian mackerel, *Rastrelliger kanagurta*, Antony Raja and Bande (1972) expressed that although the presence of young nematodes has not affected the ovaries in the manner reported by the earlier authors, it is possible that it would have contributed to the abnormal enlargement of the additional sac of the ovary. In the present investigation it was observed that the infection of ovaries in *P. hasta* was caused by the nematode *Contraecum aduncum* Rudolfi and the case thus appears to be different from any of the above reports.

I am grateful to Dr. B. Krishnamoorthy for critically going through the manuscript and to Dr. B. T. Antony Raja for offering valuable suggestions for its improvement. My thanks are also due to Miss V. P. Kotwal, Institute of Science, Bombay for identifying the parasite.

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