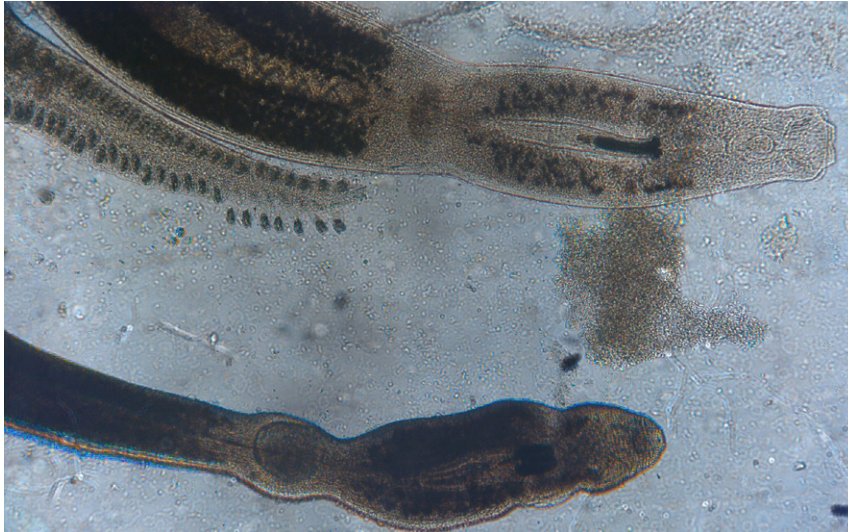


Microcotyle spp. infestation in the juveniles of wild Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel



Wet mount of gill showed the presence of *Microcotyle* spp. (50x) with attachment clamps

A study was undertaken to record the occurrence of parasitic infestations in the juveniles of the Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel, *Scomberomorus commerson*

landed in Karwar, Karnataka. Twenty-three fishes (300 ± 30 g and 30 ± 5 cm) collected from Karwar fish landing centre in January 2023 were analysed using

standard necropsy procedures. Gills, skin, fins, intestine, spleen, liver and kidney were examined under the microscope for the presence of parasites. Of the 23 fish examined, five were infected with *Microcotyle* spp. on their gills (PFI: 21.74%). The infested gills were pale in colour and covered with a thick coat of mucus. Wet mount of the gill showed the presence of *Microcotyle* spp. Parasites of the genus *Microcotyle* mainly infect the gills of marine fishes and generally feed on blood of the host. Mild infestations may not show any clinical symptoms but severe infestations may damage the gill filaments leading to anaemia, respiratory and osmo-regulatory dysfunctions and mortalities. *Microcotyle* spp. infestations have been reported in the gills of many fishes from various countries and considered a serious threat to cultured marine finfish.

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