

## **Cestodes of Freshwater Farmed Fishes in Iraq**

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terbelts, while eastern cottontails are usually found within shelterbelts and woodlots. This relationship would allow for more efficient cycling of helminths

through a population of eastern cottontails than the more free-ranging white-tailed jack rabbits.

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## Cestodes of Freshwater Farmed Fishes in Iraq

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Common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), buni (*Barbus sharpeyi*), gattan (*B. xanthopterus*) and shabout (*B. grypus*) are probably the main species of fish produced commercially in Iraq. There are a few reports on the distribution of parasites from fish in rearing ponds and other bodies of water in Iraq (Al-Hadithi and Habish, 1977, Bull. Basrah Nat. Hist. Mus. 4: 17-25; Khalifa et al., 1978, Iraqi J. Biol. Sci. 6: 58-63; Mhaisen, 1982, Iraqi Mar. Sci. 1: 1-9; Rahemo, 1982, Bull. Basrah Nat. Mus. 5: 39; Khalifa et al., 1983, J. Wildl. Dis. 19: 145; Khalifa, 1985, J. Wildl. Dis. 21: 312-313).

A survey was undertaken to determine the distribution of parasites in the four above mentioned species of fish. In this report the distribution of cestodes is reported. Fishes were collected from several ponds around the Baghdad area and also from some ponds near Samarra City (about 100 km north of Baghdad). Two cestodes were identified, i.e., *Proteocephalus tu-*

TABLE 1. Prevalence and intensity of cestodes in some freshwater fish species from Iraq.

Host common name	Infected/ examined (%)	Cestode species	Intensity*	
			Range	Mean
Common carp	18/370 (4.8)	<i>P. torulosus</i> <i>B. gowkongensis</i>	ND <sup>b</sup>	ND
Gattan	0/45 (0)	—	—	—
Bunni	4/106 (3.8)	<i>B. gowkongensis</i>	2-10	5.5
Shabout	3/90 (3.3)	<i>P. torulosus</i>	1-5	2.6

\* Number of cestodes per infected fish.

<sup>b</sup> ND = not determined.

*ulosus* (Batsch, 1786) and *Bothriocephalus gowkongensis* Yeh, 1955. Most of the infected carp were infected with both species, whereas gattan were uninfected (Table 1). Voucher specimens have been deposited in the British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, England (4 June 1981, Ref. No. DIG/TMJ). This is the first report of these parasites in Iraq.

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