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Incidental Aquatic Zoonoses

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Abstract

The following incidental aquatic zoonoses are discussed: eosinophilic meningitis caused by *Angiostrongylus cantonensis*, the Guinea worm (*Dracunculus medinensis*), *Anisakis* infections, *Cryptocotyle lingua*, eye fluke (*Philophthalmus*), the tapeworm *Diplogonoporus grandis*, and shellfish-borne hepatitis.

This report deals with incidental aquatic zoonoses not covered by other contributors to this symposium, Zoonoses of Fish and Other Aquatic Animals. They are: *Angiostrongylus cantonensis*, *Dracunculus medinensis*, *Cryptocotyle lingua*, *Philophthalmus*, *Diplogonoporus*, and shellfish-borne hepatitis.

1. Miscellaneous nematodes.

Human eosinophilic meningitis, caused by the larval nematode, *Angiostrongylus cantonensis*, can be acquired by ingestion of a molluscan intermediate host or carrier hosts, such as marine and freshwater fishes in the Indo-Pacific area.²

The Guinea worm, *Dracunculus medinensis*, may be acquired by drinking water containing infected *Cyclops*. It has been reported from man in Africa and Asia.

According to Vik,⁶ eosinophilic phlegmonous enteritis caused by *Anisakis* infections can be avoided by cleaning the fish soon after capture, or by freezing them for 24 hours before use.

2. Miscellaneous trematodes.

Cryptocotyle lingua, a heterophyid metacercaria of marine fish, has been reported from man in northern Europe.¹

Two cases of eye infection with freshwater *Philophthalmus* have occurred.⁵

3. Miscellaneous cestodes.

Larval tapeworms, *Diplogonoporus grandis*, infective to man, occur in marine fishes of Japan.⁵

4. Shellfish-borne diseases.

Hepatitis^{2,3,4} can be acquired from improperly cooked oysters and clams obtained from polluted waters.

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