

FIRST RECORD OF *DACTYLOGYRUS VASTATOR* (NYBELIN 1924) (MONOGENEA: DACTYLOGYRIDAE) IN COMMON CARP (*CYPRINUS CARPIO* LINNAEUS, 1758) FROM AQUACULTURE FACILITIES IN MACEDONIA

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The representatives of the class Monogenea are of great importance in fish pathology. *Dactylogyrus vastator* (Nybelin 1924) (Monogenea: Dactylogyridae) is a common pathogenic monogenean parasite in common carp (*Cyprinus carpio* Linnaeus, 1758) from freshwater lakes and cyprinid ponds, worldwide. In our study, a total of 133 specimens of common carp from cage culture system on Mladost Reservoir (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 significant organs, using referent keys for determination. *Dactylogyrus vastator* was found in winter, on gills of 27 specimens of common carp, with a prevalence of 2.818%, and mean intensity of 6.850. During our research, the presence of *Dactylogyrus vastator* was determined in an aquaculture facility with very high fish stock density. Whether this parasite would lead to fish mortality, depends primarily on the mean intensity, the fish condition and size, as well as the water temperature and oxygen content.

Our findings of *Dactylogyrus vastator* in common carp are first recorded in Macedonia, and the common carp is a new host for this parasite species in Macedonian waters.