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Prevalence of Parasitic Diseases of Indian Major Carps in Selected Districts of West Bengal, India

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ABSTRACT

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The present work was conducted to isolate and identify different parasites from Indian Major Carps. During the study period the severity of infection and Parasitic Frequency Index (PFI, %) were also estimated in terms of month and seasons of fishes. For the investigative purpose different districts of West Bengal were selected considering the potential of fishery resources. For investigative purpose samples were collected from different districts namely Garia, Bamanghata, of South 24 Parganas District, Ulluberia of Howrah District, Memari of Burdwan district for considering the potential of fishery resources. Approximately 360 fishes were observed during the entire period of 12 months from April 2014 to March 2015. The parasite infested fishes were found to suffer mainly from respiratory manifestations, blackness of the skin and mortalities. The parasitic infestations were found to be the major problem and the most prevalent disease causative agents among cultured fish spp. Most of the parasites were collected from gills and body surfaces of the fishes. The isolated parasites were *Myxobolus sp.*, *Trichodina sp.*, *Dactylogyrus sp.*, *Lernea sp.*, *Vorticella sp.*, *Chilodenella sp.*, *Argulus sp.* and *Ergasilus sp.* During the study period, among these parasites *Myxobolus sp.* showed the highest severity and prevalence (PFI, 66.66%) in rainy season. Remaining all parasites were found throughout the year and adult fishes were found to be more infested with these parasites compare to fingerlings.

Introduction

India remains very much concerned with the development of methods for increasing

aquaculture production levels. Intensification of carp culture has no doubt helped in achieving this goal to greater extent, however, it has also propagated artificial stress to

overcrowding, nutrients and metabolites accumulation, dissolved oxygen and other water quality problems. All such potential stressors have magnified the risk of outbreak of diseases and thus an integrated health management approach is needed involving eradication of pathogenic organisms, decreasing host susceptibility and correction of impaired environmental conditions, etc. Though the country possesses a large number of potential cultivable carp species, it is only the three Indian Major Carps viz., Catla (*Catla catla*), Rohu (*Labeo rohita*) and Mrigal (*Cirrhinus mrigala*). Production comes from over 2.25 million ha of tanks or ponds, 1.3 million ha of oxbow lakes, 3 million ha of reservoirs and 1.2 million ha of coastal brackish water area (Ayyappan, 2007).

The majority of freshwater fishes carry heavy infestation of parasites. The parasitic infestation is greatly influenced by the season, which basically interferes with the ecology and physiology of the fish. They are mainly grouped as protozoans, helminths and crustacean parasites. Therefore proper health management procedures should be followed with appropriate control measures to boost up aquaculture production. West Bengal being a 'rice-fish society', the State is highly significant historically, geographically and strategically since long past.

The state is situated with 21°38N to 27°10N and 85°38E with a geographical coverage area of 87,853 sq km. It is endowed with remarkable variations of physiographic resources from the sea to snow having elevation 5m. in the south to 3658m from main sea level in the north. The State has 37% of pond resources in India of which 70% are utilized for fish culture producing 1 to 3 million tonnes of freshwater fin- fish per year. Of the total 2.76 lakh hectares of impounded water area, about 70% to 79% is presently under fish culture.

The state of West Bengal has always attracted attention for being the highest producer of freshwater table fish and fish seed in the country together with the unique distinction of having the maximum water area under traditional shrimp farming. Disease is one of the major constraints to intensification of aquaculture and may eventually become a limiting factor to the economic success of the industry. So the objectives of the present study were to isolate and identify different parasites from IMC and to find out the Parasitic Frequency Index (PFI, %) in terms of months and seasons from selected districts of West Bengal.

Materials and Methods

The present study on the prevalence of parasitic infestation in freshwater carps was carried out for a period of 12 months between April 2014 to March 2015. The fish samples were collected from Garia, Bamanghata, of South 24 Parganas District, Ulluberia of Howrah District, Memari of Burdwan District West Bengal, India. The locations were selected in such a way that these units at different locations represent the concerned district. The samples were collected on a regular basis once in every month. In each sampling about 30 fishes comprising 15 of each *Catla catla*, *Labeo rohita*, *Cirrhinus mrigala* were collected in live condition. The fishes were brought to the laboratory in live condition with water filled buckets and the total length, body weight of fishes were taken.

The gills were examined for the presence of different parasites. The methods for collection and preservation of the samples for parasitic examination were followed as described by Soota (1980). The date and site of collection were recorded and the fishes were examined for parasites within 24 hours. External symptoms and health conditions of each specimen were recorded. The gills were

removed with least damage and placed on separate petri-dishes containing physiological saline water and examined. Each of the four pairs of gills of was examined separately. The gills were checked thoroughly for any parasites. Phenotypic characterization of all protozoans, monogenians, digeneans, and parasites were studied as described by Soulsby (1982). Photomicrographs were taken using a Motic BA400 phase contrast microscope with in-built digital camera.

Determination of Parasitic Frequency Index (PFI)

The Parasitic Frequency Index (PFI) was calculated by taking the percentage of the number of hosts infected by an individual parasite species against the total number of hosts examined in a particular area under investigation.

Prevalence(%)= (Total number of infected fishes/Total number fish hosts examined)x100

The frequency index were further classified into rare (0.1 – 9.9%), occasional (10- 29.9%), common (30 – 69.9%) and abundant (70-100%) as per Srivastava (1980).

Determination of severity of infection/infestation

In order to assigning numerical qualitative value to severity grade of infections surface infestation and disease syndrome severity, the generalize scheme by Lightner (1993) was followed (Table 1).

Statistical analysis

Two way ANOVA was done to determine the significance of differences in Parasitic Frequency Index (PFI) of parasites among different seasons as well as different months. Duncan's Test at 1% and 5% were done to

know the significance of differences at micro-level.

Results and Discussion

Monthly prevalence of different parasites in *Catla catla*

Monthly distribution of parasites in *Catla catla* is given in the following table (Table 2). Occurrence of parasitic fauna such as *Myxobolus sp.*, *Thelohanellus sp.*, *Trichodina sp.*, *Dactylogyrus sp.*, *Argulus sp.*, *Lernaea sp.*, *Ergasilus sp.*, *Chilodonella sp.*, were reported from *Catla catla* in our present study. Parasitic Frequency Index (PFI) of *Myxobolus sp.* (Fig. 1) were found highest in September (PFI, 66.66%) stated as “common” and lowest prevalence was found in February month (PFI, 20%) stated as “occasional”. These results supported by Das *et al.*, (1989), Seenappa and Manohar (1980), Narasimhamurti and Kalavati (1984) and Basu and Haldar (2003) who have recorded high prevalence of myxozoan parasites during August to January when the ambient temperature was 25°C and lowest prevalence in the month of February (20%). PFI (%) values of *Thelohanellus sp.* Suggesting that the November month found to be the occasional condition and the rare condition was found to be in May, August, September, February and March, but Kaur *et al.*, (2012) reported 100% prevalence of infection in the month of May against complete 0% prevalence in the present study and the probable reason may be the difference in geographical area. The earlier studies reported that the *Thelohanellus sp.*, highest prevalence found in February (PFI, 31.66%) lowest in August (PFI, 11.66%). This could be due to high stocking density, water depth, temperature along with other physiochemical parameters and management practices maintained in culture systems these results corroborated with results of Banu and Khan, (2004).

The prevalence graph showed the peaks at the month of September and December (PFI, 28.33%) for *Dactylogyrus sp.* and lowest occurrence was in April. (Fig. 2). A rare condition was observed with PFI of 5.0% for *Argulus sp.*, in December and February and which was not recorded in rest of the months. *Lernaea sp.* found rarely and occasionally (PFI, 13.33% and 3.33% respectively) in the month of October and November, rest of the months not recorded. *Ergasilus sp.* was found rarely in the month of December and January (PFI, 8.69% and 4.76%), *Chilodonella sp.* (PFI, 3.33%)

Occurrence of parasites in different seasons in Catlacatla

The seasonal influence on parasites has been described by several researchers like Bhuiyan *et al.* (2007), Banu *et al.* (1993), Chandra *et al.* (1997) who worked on seasonal variations. The total study period was divided into four seasons; i.e. summer (April - June); rainy season (July-September) or Monsoon Winter (October- January) and spring (February-March).

The infestation cycle of *Myxobolus sp.* were interestingly shown a seasonal-wise constant increase from summer to winter with highest during monsoon (PFI, 43.33%) and lowest during spring (PFI, 30.83%) (Table-3, Fig. 6). The significant fluctuation in the prevalence of parasites are due to the seasonal interference with the ecology and physiology of the fish (Ahmed *et al.* 1991; Wisheiwski, 1958). Polanski (1961) reported that the main factors determining the variety of parasitic fauna as well as the intensity and incidence of infection can be the diet and lifespan of the host, the mobility of the host throughout its life including the variety of habitats it encounters, its population density and the size attained, large hosts provide more habitats suitable for parasites than do small ones.

Thelohanellus sp. increased its occurrence from summer to monsoon season with an occasional peak (PFI, 14.44%) and a rare case in Spring (PFI, 10%). The probable reason for the availability of this parasite only in intestine may be due to the feeding habit of the hosts or due to the organ specific nature of the parasites.

All seasonal abundance was observed for *Trichodina sp.* during the study period. A gradual decrease in the infection intensity was observed from summer (PFI, 12.22%) to spring (PFI, 3.33%). Interlamellar forms of protozoan parasites (*Trichodina sp.*) may cause some necrosis of gills and occasional death. Gillmyxoboliasis, has caused heavy losses in Indian major carps which was corroborated by Hossain *et al.*, (1994a).

Dactylogyrus sp. were found in all seasons and highest in Monsoon (PFI, 22.77%) and lowest in spring (PFI, 2.91%) which was supported by Ghosh *et al.* (1987) who found the highest infestation of *Dactylogyrus sp.* in *Catlacatla*. Hoole *et al.*, (2001). In the present study monogeneans were observed mainly in the gills and skin of the host cat fishes as they are ectoparasitic in nature. Similar results given by Wooten (1974), he observed *Dactylogyrus sp.* aggregating on certain areas of the gills and skin of the host.

The results attained by him suggested that the site of attachment of parasite was influenced, atleast in part, by the direction and force of the respiratory current over the gills. Most parasites select a site where they are not subjected to full force of water current. Ghosh *et al.* (1987) observed dactylogyrids in gill filaments of the *Catla catla*. A microcotylid *Bivagina tai* was found on the gills of cultured red sea bream *Pagrus major*. These parasites draw good nourishment from the gills very easily as reported by Ogawa (1988).

Argulus sp. were found mainly in the winter (PFI, 0.41%) stated as rare and not found in the rest of the seasons. *Lernea sp.* (PFI, 0.55%), *Ergasilus sp.* (PFI, 0.55% and 0.41%) were rarely found in monsoon and winter season. During winter and spring, when the carps lose their appetite results stress condition and get affected by different diseases at that time, *Catla catla* are seen to be attacked by the *Argulus sp.* which similar with results of Ray (1993) and this also corroborated with work of other authors (Shimura, 1983a,b; Shafir and Van AS, 1986; Mikheev *et al.*, 2001 and Samir, 2007), who reported on *Argulus sp.* in IMC, where as many authors revealed that the incidence of argulosis were found throughout the year (Mohan *et al.*, 1986 and Landsberg, 1989). However, some other scientist opined the highest incidence of argulosis in summer contrary to the present study suggesting a positively related stress condition due to oxygen depletion (Singhal *et al.*, 1986).

Prevalence of different parasites in Rohu (*Labeo rohita*)

The major parasites fauna recorded in Rohu during the current study period are *Myxobolus sp.*, *Thelohanellus sp.*, *Trichodina sp.*, *Dactylogyrus sp.*, *Argulus* and *Ergasilus sp.* (Table 4, Fig. 1, 3). The PFI values of these parasites shows its abundance of occurrence in the host and the common, occasional and rare status also given based on this PFI values. Infection with *Myxobolus sp.*, was regarded as the common condition in the rohu as the PFI values (66.66%) reaches its maximum in the month of September. On comparison with the occurrence of *Thelohanellus sp.*, was recorded lowest in this month (PFI 8.33%). Which was either present throughout the year except in April. Occasional abundance was observed in the month of February, in case of *Myxobolus sp.* (PFI 16.66%) whereas *Thelohanellus sp.*, increased their abundance in the following

months and reaches its maximum at March and June (PFI 36.66%). These observations were concomitant with the findings of Bhuiyan *et al.*, 2007, Akhter *et al.*, (1997), Banu *et al.*, (1993), Chandra *et al.*, (1997) and Hossain *et al.*, (1994a,b) in Rohu.

PFI (%) of *Trichodina sp.* varied from 3.33% to 15% throughout the year, highest in the month of June (PFI, 15%) stated as occasional and lowest in the month of February (PFI, 3.33%) stated as rare. These were found occasionally in November, December and January and also found rare condition in the months of April, May, July, August, October and February. Majumder (2011) who studies of *Trichodina sp.* on exotic carps, which were also corroborated the results of present findings. PFI of *Dactylogyrus sp.* were highest in the month of November (PFI, 38.33%) which were stated as „occasional“ condition. The results of the present study corroborates with that of Ghosh *et al.* (1987), Ogawa (1988) and Kim *et al.* (2001). Ogawa (1988) reported higher prevalence of *Bivagina tai* (a microcotylid, monogenean) in October to January (winter months). Ghosh *et al.* (1987) also observed highest infestation of *Dactylogyrus sp.* in Indian Major Carp (*Labeo rohita*) during winter (December and February) which was similar to this study. *Argulus sp.* were only found during November, December and January (PFI, 5%, 5%, and 20% respectively) which considered as occasional and rest of the months it was not recorded and the present results were supported with the findings of Nandi *et al.*, 1991; Radheshyam *et al.*, (1993); Das and Das (1995) Shella *et al.* (2002) and Samir (2007). *Lernaea sp.*, found occasionally (PFI, 18.33 and 10% respectively) in the month of November and December and found rare in the month of February and March (PFI, 8.33%) and rest of the months these were not recorded. *Ergasilus sp.* (PFI, 5%) were found rarely in the months of December and January.

Bauer *et al.*, 1969 reported that low temperatures which may be more congenial for reproduction of crustaceans and some trichodinids and this supports the present findings. The probable reason for the availability of more developmental stages in winter may be due to the delaying of developmental process at low temperature as suggested by Schaperclaus, 1954, at a temperature of 15–17°C; Present results strongly supported by Bhuiyan *et al.* (2007), who opined about monthly fluctuation in prevalence, mean intensity and abundance of parasites in *L. rohita*. The maximum prevalence (100%) was recorded in November, December and January. IMC fingerlings become more susceptible to pathogen because of their immature poor immune system (Anderson, 1974), this strongly supports the present findings.

Occurrence of parasites in different seasons in Labeorohita

The seasonal prevalence data of parasites on Rohu also was not distinct. In case of *Myxobolus sp.* all seasonal appearance was recorded. Rainy season abundance was reportedly common (PFI, 52.77%) and lowest infections were in spring (PFI, 12.5%) (Table 5, Fig. 5). These results are strongly supported with Bhuiyan *et al.*, 2007, in *L. rohita*. Prevalence of *Thelohanellus sp.* were decreased from winter to spring (PFI, 18.75% to 16.66%). These parasites occasionally found in summer (PFI, 11.11%) and rainy (PFI, 23.8%) and commonly found in spring season and winter (PFI, 16.66% and 18.75%). This was probably due to the fact that decrease in water volume during the dry season caused nutritional imbalance resulting in less production of fish food organisms in one hand and on the other hand fall in water temperature and reduced the immune response in fish and made them more vulnerable to disease vectors. So present results supported by Akhter *et al.*

(1997), Banu *et al.* (1993), Chandra *et al.* (1997) and Hossain *et al.* (1994). *Trichodina sp.* occasionally found in monsoon and winter (PFI, 13.8% and 10.83% respectively), but rarely found in spring and summer (PFI, 1.56% and 5.55%). This was attributed outbreak of disease due to the sudden seasonal fluctuations in the water quality during winter and monsoon season. *Trichodina sp.* were extensively isolated from gills of tilapia and catfishes (Derwa, 1995; Osman, 2001; Younis, 2004 and El-Shahat, 2004) which corroborated with the present findings. Hines and Spira (1973, 1974) reported the infection of the gills of fish by these protozoan parasites.

The experimental findings also supported the fact that the fish fingerlings become more susceptible to pathogen because of their immature immune system (Anderson, 1974). Kabata (1985) reported that shallow ponds and stagnant water favours the multiplicity of ciliate like *Trichodina*. In the year 1992 in Philippines *Trichodina* were reported as the most prevalent ectoparasite followed by *Dactylogyrus* (Lumanlan *et al.*, 1992). The present study agreed with works of Subasinghe (1992), Sharif and Vijarungam (1986) who had reported these two parasites were the most common and caused mass mortality of fish during their study in the carp fish nursery operation system in Malaysia.

The documented prevalence of *Dactylogyrus sp.* highlighting that it reaches peak in spring (PFI, 20.8%), which stated as, ‘occasional’, low in summer (PFI, 10%) stated as occasional condition. The results of this study are similar with that the results of Kollmann (1972), Paperna (1963a), Aydogdu and Altunel (2002), Mo (1992), Hoole *et al.* (2001) and Ghosh *et al.* (1987). Prevalence of *Ergasilus sp.* were found only in winter (PFI, 1.66%) which was stated as, rare. *Lernaea sp.* were found rarely in rainy (PFI, 0.55%) and the other seasons were not recorded.

Development stages were also found rarely in monsoon season (PFI, 2.77%). Idris and Amba (2001) showed that temperature fluctuations during monsoon season could have contributed to the infestation. In the present study *Lernaeasp.* were found rarely in the monsoon season (PFI, 0.55) and not found in rest of the seasons which is similar to the findings of the above author.

Prevalence of different parasites in *Cirrhinus*rigala

Month-wise prevalence data of *Myxobolus sp.* also in accordance with the seasonal data as PFI were highest in November (PFI, 55%) stated as common and lowest in the month of May (PFI, 16.66%) stated as also occasional. The *Thelohanellus sp* highest in November (PFI, 41.66%) stated as occasional and lowest in the month of May (PFI, 8.33%) stated as rare (Table 6, Fig. 1, 4).

Present study was supported by the work of Farhaduzzaman *et al.*, 2010, During his study period at Rajshahi, Bangladesh, the highest number of parasites reported in December month and lowest in February. Das *et al.* (1989), Seenappa and Manohar (1980), Narasimhamurti and Kalavati (1984), Basu and Haldar (2003) recorded high prevalence of myxozoan parasites during August to January when the ambient temperature was 25°C. These findings were deviated from the work of Bhuiyan *et al.*, 2007. The parasitic infestation is greatly influenced by the season, which basically interferes with ecology and physiology of the fish. As the water quality parameters fluctuate very quickly during winter and summer season, fish becomes affected with diseases in these seasons. During the breeding season of fish lesser number of

parasites invade the host because of the presence of the oestrogen these were supported by Rahman and Jahan (2002).

The study experienced that *Trichodina sp.* were found highest in the month of December (PFI, 11.66%) and rarely seen in the month of October and February (PFI, 3.33%). It may due to high stocking density is being maintained during carp nursery operations, and this density induces bio-ecological stress to fry (Passion, 1984) and make the fry more susceptible to the infection (Sneisko, 1974). It is evident from the available literature that parasitic diseases caused significant damage in nursery systems of carp, catfish and shellfish of Srilanka (Subashinghe, 1992), Malaysia (Leong, 1992), Indonesia (Angka *et al.*, 1982), Taiwan (Song *et al.*, 1980) and India (Gopalkrishnan, 1961).

Various physicochemical factors such as water and atmospheric temperature, pH, hardness of water, dissolved oxygen, biological oxygen demand (BOD) have strong impacts on fish health and their resistance to attack by the causative agents. Present study strongly supported by Welch, 1941; Snieszko 1974; Plumb *et al.* 1988; and Shresta (1990). *Ichthyophthirius multifiliis* were found only in the month of December (PFI, 6.66%) as rare, rest of the months were not observed.

Dactylogyrus sp. were commonly encountered with a peak in January (PFI 35%) not found in March and occasional appearance with lowest in the month of May (PFI, 13.33%) except in March. These results are concomitant with that the results of Kollmann 1972, Paperna 1963a, Aydogdu and Altunel, 2002, Mo 1992, Hoole *et al.* 2001 and Ghosh *et al.*, 1987.

Table.1 Assigning numerical qualitative value to severe grade of infestations/infections

Severitygrade	Clinicalfindings
0	No signs of infection by pathogen, parasite. No lesions characteristic of syndrome present.
0.5	A very few scattered signs of infection by pathogen, parasite. No lesions characteristic of syndrome present.
0.5	A very few scattered signs of infection by pathogen, parasite. No lesions characteristic of syndrome present.
1.0	Pathogen, parasite but in numbers or amounts just above diagnostic procedure minimum detection limits. Lesions characteristic of syndrome present, but “disease” not significant. Prognosis is for insignificant effect, except in developing infections by
2.0	Low to moderate numbers of pathogen, parasite. Light to moderate lesions characteristic of syndrome present. Prognosis is for possible production losses and/or slight increases in mortality if no treatment (if treatable) applied.
3.0	Moderate numbers of pathogen, parasite. Moderate to severe lesions characteristic of syndrome present. Potentially lethal prognosis if no treatment (if treatable) applied.

Table.2 Prevalence (PFI, %) of different parasites in *Catla catla* from April 2014 to March 2015

Parasites	Monthly PFI (%) of <i>Catlacatla</i>											
	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January 2015	February	March
<i>Myxobolus</i> sp.	46.66 ^c	25 ^c	35 ^c	56.66 ^c	50 ^c	66.66 ^c	58.33 ^c	60 ^c	58.3 ^b	41.66 ^c	20 ^b	41.66 ^c
<i>Thelohanellus</i> sp.	23.33 ^b	0	26.66 ^b	31.66 ^b	11.66 ^b	0	0	25 ^b	15 ^b	25 ^b	31.66 ^c	15 ^b
<i>Trichodin</i> sp.	11.66 ^b	3.33 ^a	5 ^a	18.33 ^b	3.33 ^a	3.33 ^a	3.33 ^a	20 ^a	11.66 ^b	5 ^a	3.33 ^a	3.33 ^a
<i>Dactylogyrus</i> sp.	3.33 ^b	17 ^b	10 ^b	21.66 ^b	20 ^b	28.33 ^b	16.66 ^b	6.66 ^a	28.33 ^b	18.33 ^b	25 ^b	16.66 ^b
<i>Argulus</i> sp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5 ^a	0	5 ^a	0
<i>Lerne</i> sp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	13.33 ^b	3.33 ^a	5 ^a	0	0	0
<i>Ergasilus</i> sp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8.69 ^a	4.76 ^a	0	0
<i>Chilodonell</i> sp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.33 ^a	11.66 ^b	0	0
<i>Ichthyophthirius multifiliis</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table.3 Prevalence (PFI, %) of parasites in *Catla catla* in different seasons from April 2014 to March, 2015

Catlacatla	<i>Myxobolus</i> sp.		<i>Thelohanellus</i> sp.		<i>Trichodinasp.</i>		<i>Dactylogyrus</i> sp.		<i>Chilodonella</i> sp.		<i>Argulus</i> sp.		<i>Ergasilus</i> sp.		<i>Lernea</i> sp.		
	Total no of fish examined	No. of infected fish	PFI (%)	No. of infected fish	PFI (%)	No. of infected fish	PFI (%)	No. of infected fish	PFI (%)	No. of infected fish	PFI (%)	No. of infected fish	PFI (%)	No. of infected fish	PFI (%)	No. of infected fish	PFI (%)
Summer (April - June)	180	70	38.8 ^b	20	11.11 ^b	22	12.22 ^a	28	15.55 ^b	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rainy season (July-September) or Monsoon	180	98	43.33 ^b	26	14.44 ^b	15	8.33 ^a	41	22.7 ^b	0	0	0	0	1	0.5 ^a	1	0.55 ^a
Winter (October- January)	240	100	42.08 ^b	29	12 ^b	16	6.66 ^a	36	15.00 ^b	0	0	1	0.41 ^a	1	0.4 ^a	0	0
Spring (February- March)	120	37	30.83 ^b	12	10 ^b	4	3.33 ^a	35	2.91 ^a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

PFI=Parasitic Frequency Index(%).a=rare(0.1–9.9%);b=occasional(10–29.9%);c=common (30–69.9%);d=abundant(70–100%).

Table.4 Prevalence(PFI,%)ofdifferentparasites in*Labeo rohita*fromApril2014 to March2015

Parasites	Monthly PFI (%) <i>Labeorohita</i>											
	April 2014	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March
<i>Myxobolussp.</i>	50 ^c	33.33 ^c	61.66 ^c	56.66 ^c	40 ^c	66.66 ^c	56.66 ^c	58.33 ^c	33.33 ^c	65 ^c	16.66 ^b	26.66 ^b
<i>Thelohanellussp</i>	0	25 ^b	36.66 ^c	11.66 ^b	16.66 ^b	8.33 ^b	13.33 ^b	16.66 ^b	26.66 ^b	0	25 ^b	36.66 ^c
<i>Trichodinasp.</i>	6.66 ^a	6.66 ^a	15 ^b	5 ^a	5 ^a	0	5 ^a	10 ^b	13.33 ^b	10 ^b	3.33 ^a	6.66 ^a
<i>Dactylogyrussp</i>	25 ^b	26.66 ^b	25 ^b	26.66 ^b	18.33 ^b	25 ^b	21.66 ^b	38.33 ^b	35 ^b	28.33 ^c	30 ^c	20 ^b
<i>Argulussp.</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5 ^a	5	20 ^a	0	0
<i>Ergasilus sp.</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.66 ^a	0	0	0
<i>Lerneasp.</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18.33 ^b	10 ^b	0	8.33 ^a	8.33 ^a
<i>Developmental stage</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.66 ^a	0	0	0	0	0

PFI=Parasitic Frequency Index (%). a=rare (0.1 – 9.9%); b=occasional (10 – 29.9%); c = common (30 – 69.9%); d = abundant (70–100%)

Table.5 Prevalence (PFI, %) of parasites in *Labeo rohita* in different seasons from April 2014 to March2015

<i>Labeorohita</i>	Total no. of fish examined	<i>Myxobolussp.</i>		<i>Thelohanelluss</i>		<i>Trichodinasp.</i>		<i>Dactylogyrussp.</i>		<i>Lernaeasp</i>		D.stages	
		No. of infected fish	PFI (%)	No. of infected fish	PFI (%)	No. of infected fish	PFI (%)	No. of infected fish	PFI (%)	No. of infected fish	PFI (%)	No. of infected fish	PFI (%)
Summer (April - June)	180	65	36.11 ^c	20	11.11 ^b	10	5.55 ^a	18	10 ^b	0	0	0	0
Rainy season (July-September) or Monsoon	180	95	52.77 ^c	43	23.8 ^b	25	13.8 ^b	26	14.4 ^b	1 ^a	0.55 ^a	5 ^a	2.77 ^a
Winter (October-)	240	101	42.00 ^b	45	18.75 ^b	26	10.83 ^b	32	13.33 ^b	0	0	0	0
Spring (February-March)	120	15	12.5 ^b	20	16.66 ^b	2	1.66 ^a	25	20.8 ^b	0	0	0	0

PFI=Parasitic Frequency Index (%). a=rare (0.1 – 9.9%); b=occasional (10 – 29.9%); c = common (30 – 69.9%); d = abundant (70-100%).

Table.6 Prevalence (PFI, %) of different parasites in *Cirrhinus mrigala* from April 2014 to March 2015

Parasites	Monthly PFI (%) of <i>Cirrhinus mrigala</i>											
	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March
<i>Myxobolus</i> sp.	28.33 ^b	16.66 ^b	26.66 ^b	31.66 ^c	35 ^c	25 ^c	33.33 ^c	55 ^c	33.33 ^c	25 ^b	31.66 ^c	20 ^b
<i>Thelohanellus</i> sp.	36.66 ^c	8.33 ^a	16.66 ^b	25 ^b	11.66 ^b	0	23.33 ^b	41.66 ^b	10 ^b	0	25 ^b	20 ^c
<i>Trichodin</i> sp.	5 ^a	6.66 ^a	10 ^b	5 ^a	5 ^a	0	3.33 ^a	8.33 ^a	11.66 ^b	0	3.33 ^a	5 ^a
<i>Dactylogyrus</i> sp.	25 ^b	13.33 ^b	20 ^b	16.66 ^b	21.66 ^c	28.33 ^b	21.66 ^b	23.33 ^b	16.66 ^b	35 ^c	25 ^b	0
<i>Argulus</i> sp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Lerne</i> sp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.66 ^a	6.66 ^a	0
<i>Chilodonella</i> sp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.33 ^a	0	0	0	0	3.33 ^a
<i>Ergasilus</i> sp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
D.Stages	0	0	0	1.66 ^a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Ichthyophthirius multifiliis</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.66 ^a	0	0	0

PFI=Parasitic Frequency Index (%). a=rare (0.1 – 9.9%); b=occasional (10 – 29.9%); c = common (30 – 69.9%); d = abundant (70 – 100%)

Table.7 Prevalence (PFI, %) of parasites in *Cirrhinus mrigala* in different seasons from April 2014 to March 2015

<i>Cirrhinus mrigala</i>	Total no of fish examined	<i>Myxobolus</i> sp.		<i>Thelohanellus</i> p.		<i>Trichodina</i> sp.		<i>Dactylogyrus</i> sp.		<i>Argulus</i>		D.stages	
		No. of infected fish	PFI (%)	No. of infected fish	PFI (%)	No. of infected fish	PFI (%)	No. of infected fish	PFI (%)	No. of infected fish	PFI (%)	No. of infected fish	PFI (%)
Summer (April-June)	180	35	19.4 ^b	20	11.11 ^b	5	2.77 ^a	16	8.88 ^b	0	0	0	0
Rainy season (July-September) or Monsoon	180	36	21.25 ^b	25	13.88 ^b	10	5.55 ^a	18	10 ^b	0	0	2	1.11 ^a
Winter (October-January)	240	51	21.25 ^b	40	16.66 ^b	12	5 ^a	20	8.33 ^b	0	0	0	0
Spring (February-March)	120	20	16.66 ^b	18	15 ^b	5	4.16 ^a	10	8.32 ^a	6	5 ^a	0	0

PFI=Parasitic Frequency Index (%). a=rare (0.1 – 9.9%); b=occasional (10 – 29.9%); c = common (30 – 69.9%); d =abundant (70 –100%).

Fig.2Prevalance(PFI%)ofdifferntparasitesin*Catlacatla*from April2014 tomarch2015.

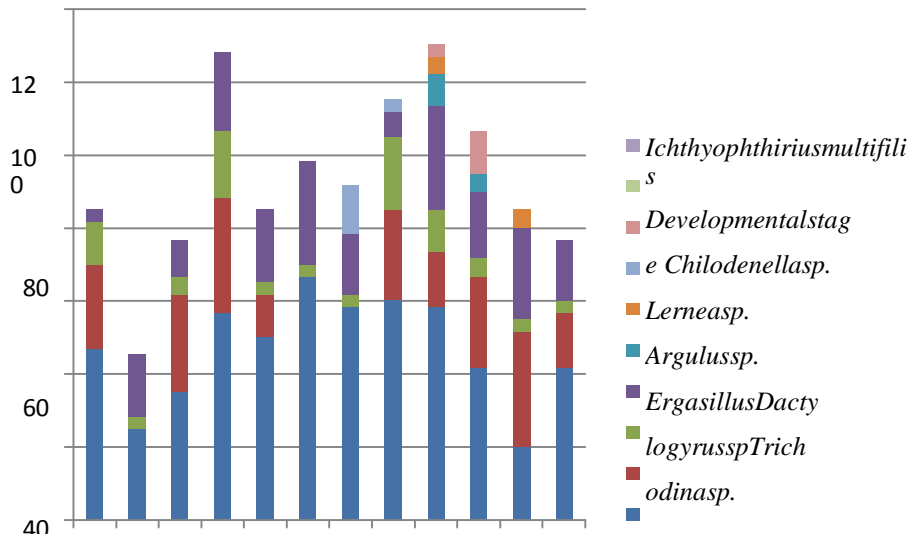
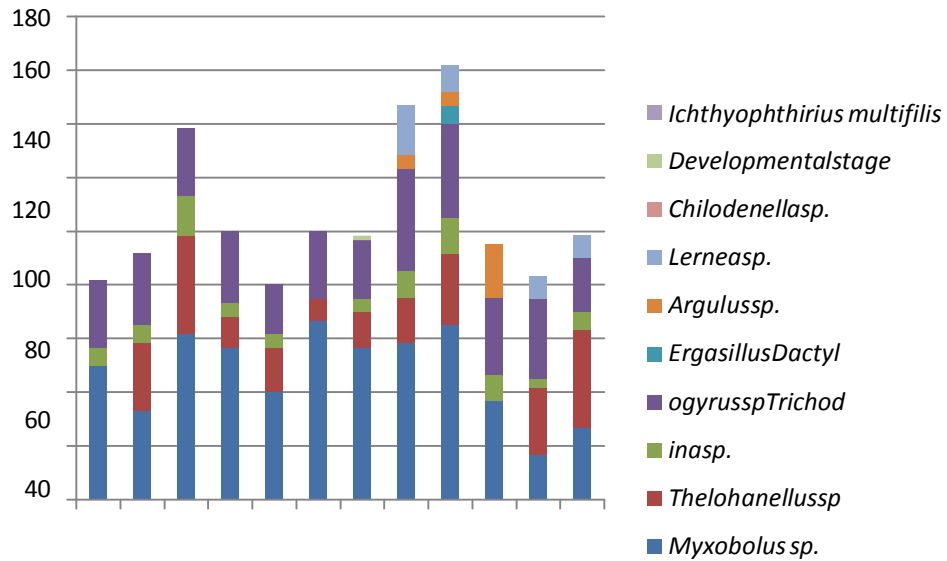
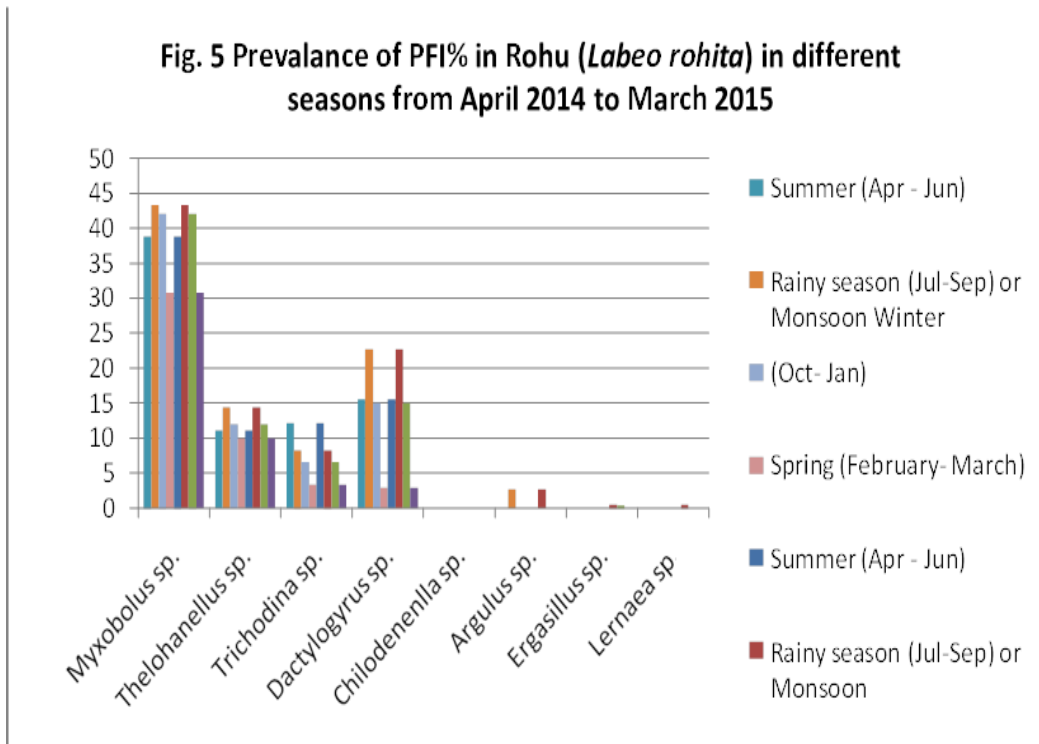
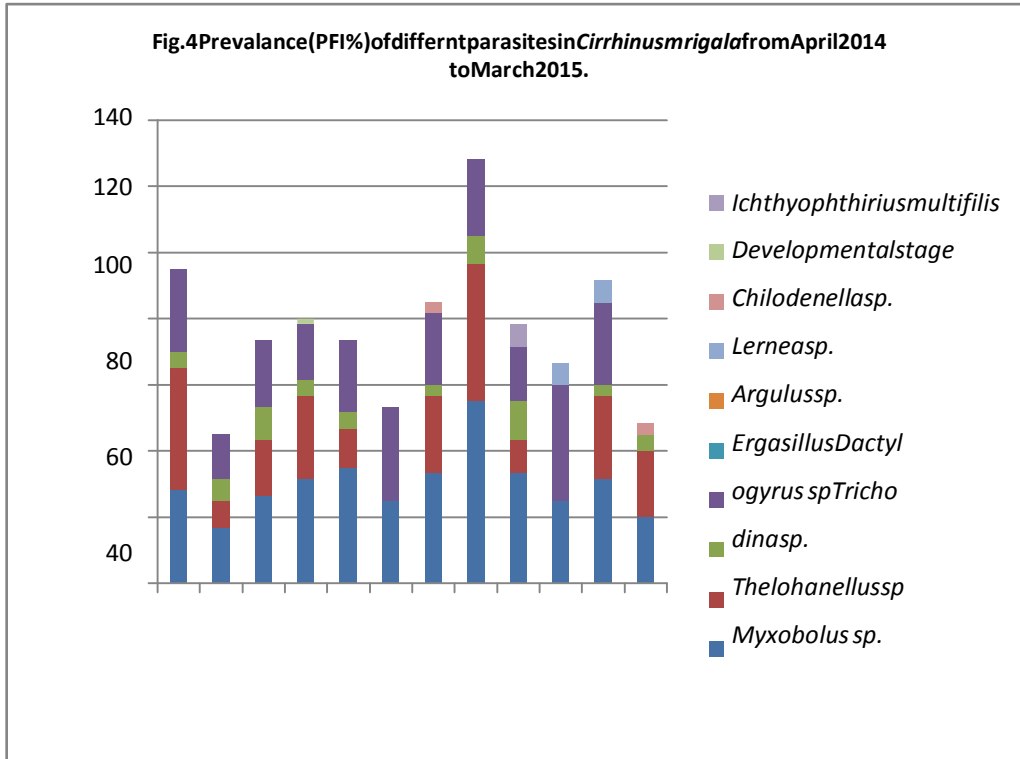


Fig.3Prevalance(PFI%)ofdifferntparasites*Labeorohita*from April 2014tomrch2015.





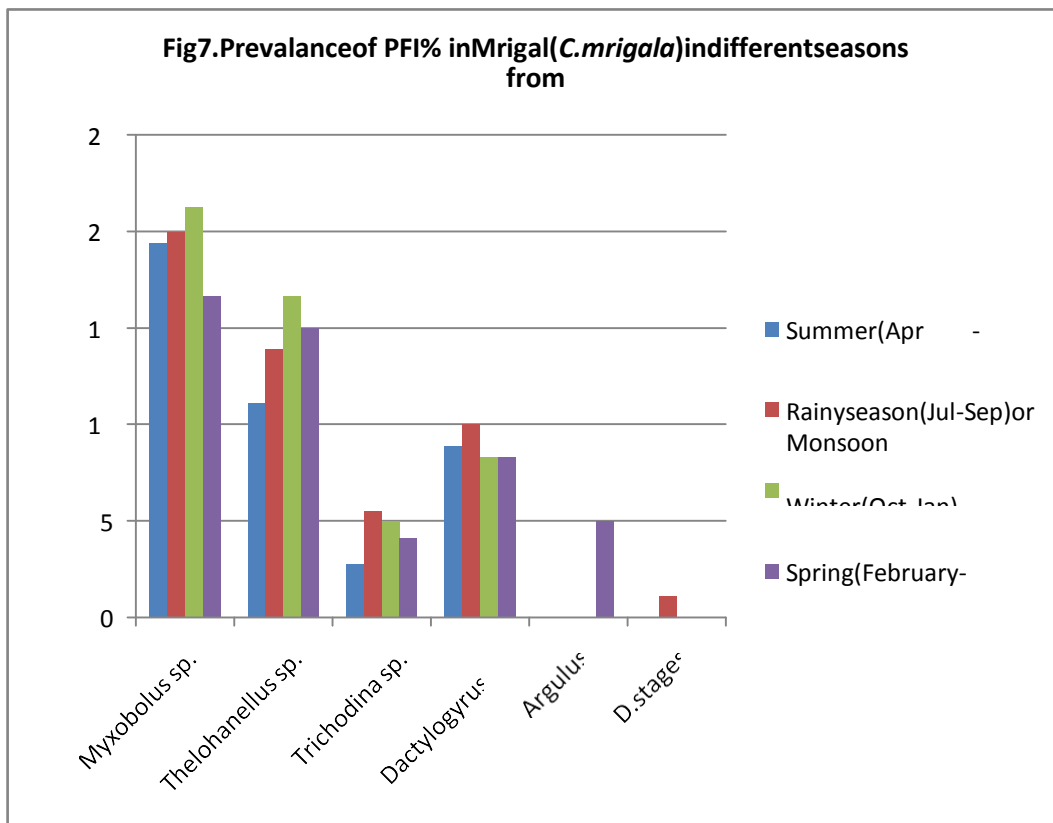
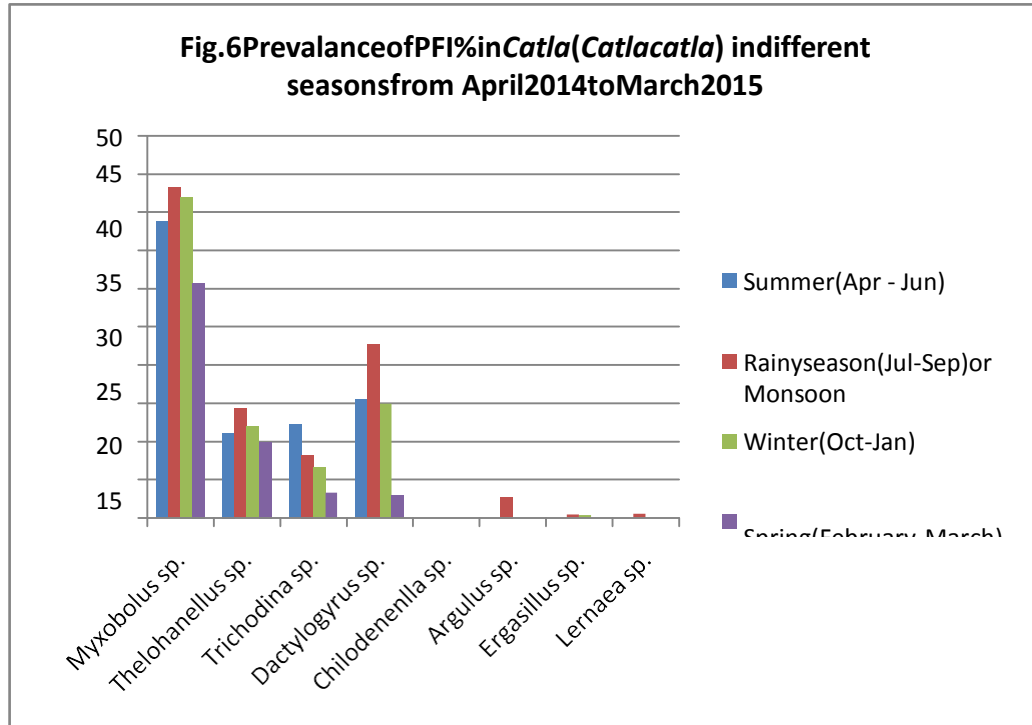
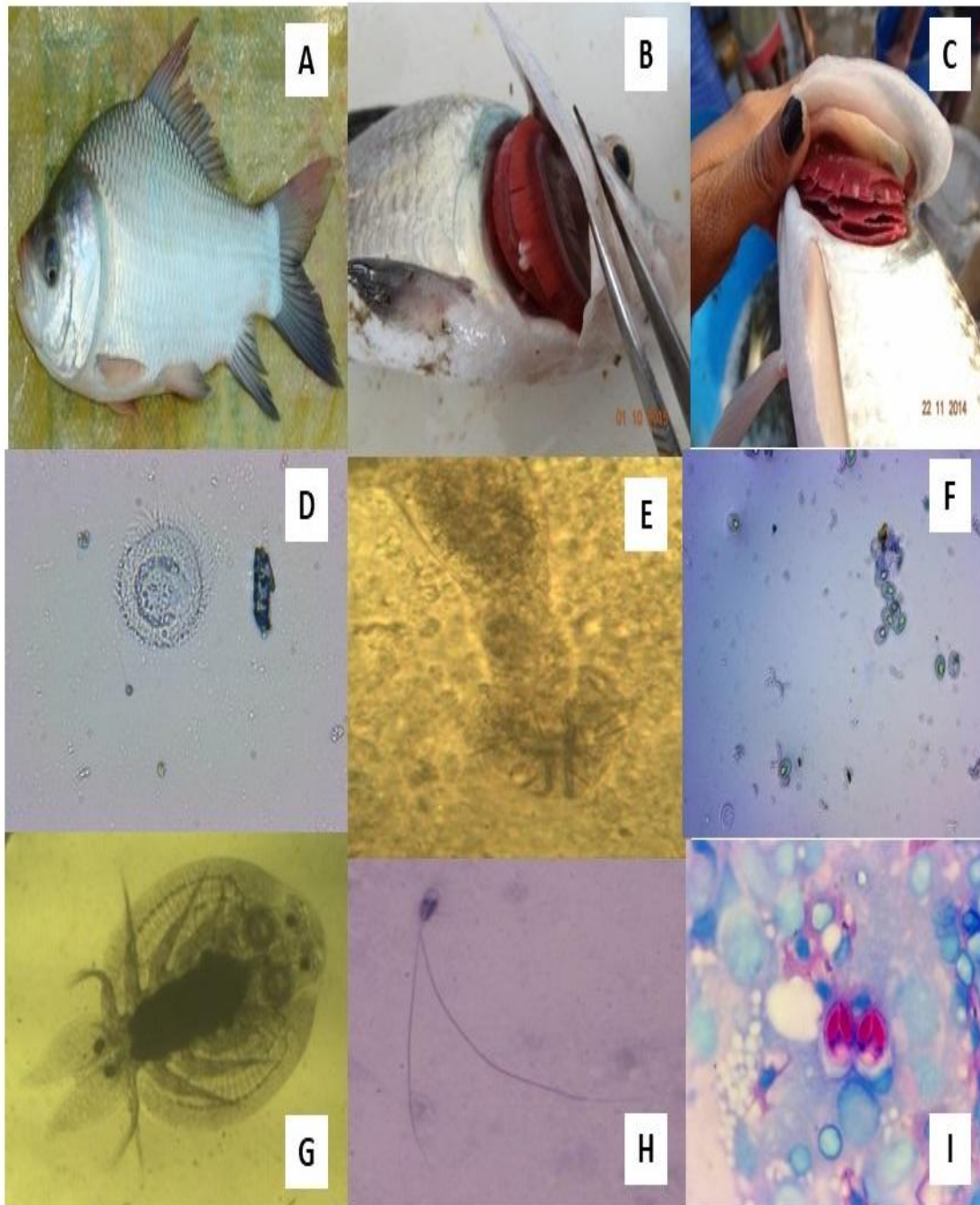


Fig.1 A- Normal and healthy *Catlacatla*; B- Cyst of *Thelohanellus* sp. infestation in gills of *Catlacatla*; C- High infestation of cyst of *Thelohanellus* sp. in gills of *Catlacatla*; D- *Trichodina* sp. with cilia present in the gills of *Labeo rohita* (Wet mount, 40x); E- *Dactylgyrous* sp. with distinct marginal hooks present in the gills of *Catla catla* (Wet mount, 100x); F- Heavy infestation of *Thelohanellus* sp. present in the gills of *Catlacatla* (Wet mount, 20x); G- *Argulus* sp. present in the gills of *Labeo rohita* (Wet mount, 40x); H- *Myxobolus* sp. present in the gills of *Catla catla* (Giemsa, 100x); I- *Myxobolus* sp. present on the gills of *Cirrhinus mrigala* (Giemsa, 100x)



Chilodonella sp. were found only in the month of October (PFI, 3.33%) and March (PFI, 3.33%), rest of the months absent. *Lernaea* sp were found in January (PFI, 6.66%) and February (PFI, 6.66%). Durborow (2003) reported *Chilodonella* glides over the fish's gill and skin surfaces which supported the present findings. Two species of *Chilodonella* occur on freshwater fishes, *Chilodonella cyprini* (Moroff, 1902) occurring on the skin and gills of carp *Cyprinus carpio* (L) and *C. hexasticha* (Kiernik, 1909) on the skin and gills of tench (*Tinca tinca*) which also corroborated the present observation. Imai *et al.*, 1985 and Ogawa *et al.*, 1985, have been reported *Chilodonella hexasticha* from the gills of tropical ornamental *Symphysodon discus*, cichlids (*Oreochromis mossambicus*, *Oreochromis niloticus*, *Oreochromis aureus*), and coldwater cyprinids (*Abramis brama*, *Abramis ballerus*, *Blicca bjoerkna*, *Cyprinus carpio*). Paperna and Van As (1983) reported that the parasitism with *C. hexasticha* produced severe gill damage in the form of epithelial hyperplasia, which shrouded the fine respirator epithelium and led to the death of the fish.

Occurrence of parasites in different seasons in *Cirrhinus mrigala*

The seasonal variation of the parasite occurrence in *Cirrhinus mrigala* is presented in (Table-7, Fig. 7). Comparatively winter season occurrence was high for *Myxobolus* sp. than *Thelohanellus* sp. Akhter *et al.* (1997), Banu *et al.* (1993), Chandra *et al.* (1997) and Hossain *et al.* (1994) were reported that more incidence of diseases in fish during winter months. *Thelohanellus* sp. commonly encountered in spring season whereas *Myxobolus* sp. get reduced and reaches its seasonal low prevalence of PFI 16.66% in spring.

They were decreased in the prevalence from summer to rainy season (PFI, 19.4% to 20%). These results were similar with the works of Bhuiyan *et al.*, 2007, in *L. rohita*. *Thelohanellus* sp. were constantly increased in the prevalence from summer and monsoon to winter season (PFI, 11.11% and 13.88% to 16.66%) and lowest in summer (PFI, 11.11%) which stated as occasional. This was probably due to the fact that decrease in water volume during the dry season caused nutritional imbalance resulting in less production of fish food organisms in one hand and on the other hand fall in water temperature and reduced the immune response in fish and made them more vulnerable to disease vectors. During the study period, the occurrence of *Trichodina* sp. was highest during rainy season (PFI, 5.55%) which is stated as "rare". The results were similar with the findings of Balta *et al.* (2008), who had reported that *Trichodina* sp. infestations were observed and reached the highest levels during the rainy season. Temperature may be the main factor for the prevalence of *Trichodina* sp. Dujn (1973) also reported deteriorated water quality such as unsuitable water temperature is a reason for *Trichodiniasis*.

Prevalence of *Dactylogyrus* sp. highest found in monsoon season (PFI, 10%) which was stated its condition as occasional and lowest in spring (PFI, 8.32%), which stated as rare. During the study period *Argulus* sp. were found rare only in spring season (PFI, 5%). Rest of the seasons were not found. Developmental stages were found rarely in monsoon season (PFI, 1.11%) and rest of the seasons these were not found. These results were similar with the findings of Das *et al.* (2015) who had reported that *Argulus* sp. were found in Spring season (PFI, 2%) which is stated as rare and not found in the rest of the seasons. The occurrence of developmental stages of eggs/parasites were found only in monsoon season (PFI, 1.11%), which were

rare and not found in rest of the seasons. This is similar to the work of Das *et al* (2015) who had reported that the developmental stages were found rarely in Monsoon season (PFI, 5%).

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