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REPORT NO. 345

EXAMINATION OF FISH SENT IN FROM DENINGS LAKE,
SEC. 26, DOVER TWP., LENAWEE CO., R. 2 E., T. 7 S.

Thirteen bullheads and one small-mouth black bass, collected February 12, 1936 by Lester T. Harkness from Denings Lake in Sec. 26 of Dover Twp., Lenawee Co., Michigan. Small-mouth bass negative for parasites. Bullheads carried a heavy infestation of Clinostomum sp. (a flat-worm parasite) in the metacercarial stage (encysted larvae). The worms were found in the flesh at the base of the fins, especially concentrated at the base of the caudal, dorsal and anal fins. Six hundred and twenty parasites were removed from the thirteen bullheads, one fish having an unusually heavy infestation of three hundred and eight parasites.

Life-history of Clinostomum:

Adult stage: in the mouth and esophagus of fish-eating birds as herons, herring gulls, bitterns, etc.

Larval stages: First intermediate host; snail, species unknown.

Second intermediate host; frogs or fish, larvae encysted in the skin or flesh.

The parasites are generally not considered as harmful to the fish, although when encysted deeply within the muscles at the base of the fins, it is likely that considerable irritation arises with the possibility of secondary bacterial infections.

Suffocation is the probable cause of the fishes' death.

Report by

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