

ORIGINAL ARTICLE**FIRST RECORD OF TWO DIPLECTANID MONOGENOIDS FROM THREE SPARID FISHES IN IRAQI MARINE WATERS**

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Received Date: 02 July 2022, Accepted Date: 07 October 2022, Published Date: 20 December 2022

This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).**ABSTRACT**

Parasitological examination of gills of three species of sparid fishes in the territorial waters of Iraq was performed, two diplectanid monogenoids were isolated and described, *Lamelloidiscus indicus* Tripathi, 1959 from both Haffara seabream *Rhabdonargus haffara* (Forsk ll, 1775) and Goldline seabream *R. sarba* (Forsk ll, 1775) and *Protolamelloidiscus senilobatus* Kritsky, Jim nez-Ruiz and Sey, 2000 from King soldierbream *Argyrops spinifer* (Forsk ll, 1775). The record of the parasites is considered new to the parasite fauna of Iraq. The redescription of *L. indicus* for the first time which is collected from a new distribution area (Arabian Gulf). *R. haffara* is considered a new host record.

Keywords: Arabian Gulf, Fish, Iraq, Marine, Monogenoidea, Parasite.

INTRODUCTION

Member of Sparidae have 39 valid genera and 164 valid species in the world, 15 species of the genus *Argyrops* Swainson and six species of genus *Rhabdonargus* (Forsk ll, 1775) (Fricke *et al.*, 2022). It spreads from the tropical and temperate Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans; chiefly marine; very rare in fresh- and brackish water; usually most common along the shore from shallow water (including estuaries) to deeper water as demersal inhabitants of the continental shelf and slope, most are carnivorous, feeding on benthic invertebrates feed on invertebrates, primarily mollusks and crustaceans; it is commercial food and game fish (Froese and Pauly, 2022).

King soldierbream *Argyrops spinifer* (Forsk ll, 1775) distributes in the Indian Ocean: including the Red Sea and Arabian Gulf, to Singapore and the southernmost end of the Malay Peninsula, Goldline seabream *Rhabdonargus sarba* (Forsk ll, 1775) occurs in the Indo-West Pacific: the Red Sea and East Africa to Japan, China, and Australia; Haffara seabream *Rhabdonargus haffara* (Forsk ll) distributes in the Western Indian Ocean: Red Sea and especially common in the north (Froese and Pauly, 2022).