



Occurrence of *Catoessa gruneri* (Crustacea: Isopoda), Parasitic on *Photopectoralis bindus* from the Arabian Gulf with the First Description of its Male and Manca

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Abstract: 170 specimen of Orangefin ponyfishfish *Photopectoralis bindus* were collected during the period from January 2011 till June 2012 from the northwest of Arabian Gulf (29° 44' to 29° 49' N and 48° 35' to 48° 51' E). Fish samples were examined for parasitic infections. The isopod *Catoessa gruneri* Bowman and Tareen, 1983 was recorded from the gill pouch. Descriptions and some ecological aspects of females, males and manca larvae of the isopod were reported. The highest percentage of infection of manca was 98.8%, while the highest levels of prevalence of infection was 1.8 in male. The present descriptions of the male and manca represent the first reports around the world.

Key words: Marine fish, Parasitic Isopod, Cymothoidae, Iraq.

Introduction

Orangefin ponyfish *Photopectoralis bindus* (Valenciennes, 1835), belongs to the family Leiognathidae. Its distribution being in Indo-west Pacific, i.e from Port Sudan in the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf to Japan, the Arafura Sea, and Australia. They live on muddy-sand bottoms of coastal waters, often enters estuaries. According to Froese and Pauly (2019) there are four valid species in the genus *Photopectoralis*.

The Isopods are a group of crustaceans belong to the class Malacostraca (Kabata, 1996). Some isopods are terrestrial, while many are aquatic, and some of them being parasites of fish. They are eumalacostracans

including 119 different families (Martin and Davis, 2001). Cymothoidae is the only family that its adults seen on teleost fishes of marine and freshwaters in tropicals and sub-tropicals (Lester, 2005). Some of the young cymothoids burrow under the scales of their hosts while members of *Lironeca* are usually found beneath the operculum, it cause a marked pressure and atrophy of the adjacent gills (Kabata, 1996). Williams and Bunkley-Williams (1996) stated that the game fish chub mackerel along the Peruvian coast are parasitized by isopods, causing 15% loss of body weight and costing fishermen approximately 1.3 billion kilograms of fish