ABSTRACT

In the present study, 10 species of marine water fishes (*Pagrus pagrus, Argyrosomus regius, Morone labrax, Mullus surmuletus, Scomberomorus commerson, Atherina, Saurida undosquamis, Euthynnus affinis, Sardinella spp.* and *Trachus mediterraneus*) were collected from Suez Canal area (Suez and Ismailia Provinces) in the period extended from April 2006 till March 2007.

Out of 441examined marine fishes specimens, 339 (76.87%) have been found to be infected with one or more species of helminth parasites. The infection rate in different species of fish was higher in *Atherina، Euthynnus affinis* and *Trachus mediterraneus* (100%), followed by *Pagrus pagrus* (92.18%), *Sardinella spp.* (87.5%), *Argyrosomus regius* (76.47%), *Morone labrax* (60%), *Scomberomorus commerson* (48.27%), *Saurida undosquamis* (41.86%) and in *Mullus surmuletus* (39.65%).

The collected parasites include nine species of trematodes (*Erilepturus lemeriensis*, *Lecithocladium excisum*, *Allostomachicolina secundus*, *Lethadena profonda*, *Dinosoma rubrum*, *Podocotyle parupenai*, *Podocotyle angulata*, *Cainocreadoides serrani* and *Propycnadenoids secundus*), six species of cestodes larvae (*Ligula intestinalis*, *Proteocephalus sp.*, *Ophiovalipora minuta*, Tetraphyllidean larvae, Pleurocercoid larvae and Plerocercus larva of Trypanorhyncha), five species of adult nematodes (*Hysterothylacium reliqueus*, *Hysterothylacium bidentatum*, *Spirocamallanus sp.*, *Oncophora melanocephala* and

Spinitectus inermis), two species of larval nematodes (*Anisakis simplex* larvae and *Anisakis sp.* larvae) and one acanthocephalan (*Bolbosoma vasculosum*).

The prevalence rate of infection with trematodes, cestodes larvae, adult nematodes, larval nematodes and acanthocephala was 32.65, 23.35, 14.74, 37.64, and 2.04%, respectively.

Concerning the seasonal dynamics of helmith parasites in the examined fish species, it was found that, the highest infection rate was in Spring (91.86%), followed by Winter (77.88%), then Summer (72.34%), while the lowest one was in Autumn (64.16%).

The taxonomy and morphological characters of each collected parasite was including in the present work, with notes on the histopathological changes.

Moreover, the ultrastructure of the plerocercoid larvae *Ligula intestinalis* and *Anisakis simplex* larvae were studied using scanning electron microscope (SEM).

CONTENTS