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# Research Article

# Prevalence and intensity of *Paradiplozoon homoion* (Monogenea: Diplozoidae) from Manyas spirlin, *Alburnoides manyasensis*, an endemic fish of Turkey: new host and geographical record

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Received: August 2019 Accepted: September 2020

# **Abstract**

In this study, the occurrence of a parasitic helminth infecting a Turkish endemic fish, Manyas spirlin, *Alburnoides manyasensis* from the Nilüfer stream, Bursa, was studied from winter 2017 to autumn 2018. A total of 46 *A. manyasensis* were examined for the presence of the helminth. The helminth was identified as *Paradiplozoon homoion* (Monogenea: Diplozoidae) and occurred on the gills of host fish. A total of 115 specimens of *P. homoion* infected 32 of 46 fish examined, with prevalence and mean intensity of infection of 69.57% (41.67% in Summer to 90.00% in Winter) and 3.59 (1.00 in Summer to 6.22 in Winter) respectively. Additionally, prevalence and mean intensity of infection was calculated per seasons, host size and sex. The highest values for prevalence and intensity of infection were found in winter for *P. homoion*. To our knowledge, this is the first ichthyoparasitological study for *A. manyasensis* in Turkey. This is also the first record of *P. homoion* from this host fish and locality.

**Keywords:** Turkey, Manyas spirlin, *Alburnoides manyasensis*, *Paradiplozoon homoion*, Seasonality, Infection statistics, Monogenea

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# Introduction

As many as 409 freshwater fish species have been reported from Turkey's inland waters, 194 of these are endemic (Cicek et al., 2018). Considering family level distribution, the largest number of endemic species (110 species) are cyprinids, which include 8 species of Alburnoides Jeitteles. genus 1861. Alburnoides manyasensis (Turan et al., 2013), commonly known as "Manyas spirlin", has a very limited distribution and occurs predominantly in tributaries of the Marmara Sea, Balıkesir Province. This study is the first ichthyoparasitological survey on this fish.

To date, 6 diplozoid species have been reported from Turkey, 5 species of the genus **Paradiplozoon** (Paradiplozoon homoion (Bychowsky and Nagibina, 1959), Paradiplozoon megan (Bychowsky and Nagibina, 1959) Achmerov 1974, Paradiplozoon bingolense (Civáňová et al., 2013), Paradiplozoon bliccae (Reichenbach-Klinke, 1961) and Paradiplozoon barbi (Reichenbach-Klinke, 1961) and from the genus Diplozoon there is Diplozoon paradoxum Von Nordmann (Öktener, 2015; WoRMS, 2020). Until 2000, morphological charactereristics predominantly were used for description and identification of diplozoid species, thereafter molecular characterization supplement morphology (Matejusová et al., 2001, 2013, Civáňová *et al.*, Avenant-Oldewage et al., 2014, Dos Santos et al., 2015, Dos Santos and AvenantOldewage 2016; Dos Santos and Avenant-Oldewage, 2020). Most of the diplozoid species recorded from Turkey, with the exception of *P. barbi*, have been studied using molecular techniques and can be readily identified using available genetic data. This study presents the first report of the molecular characterization of Р. homoion collected from Turkey, though this species is well known and studied from other localities.

Paradiplozoon homoion was previously reported in Turkey from flower fish, common carp, bleak, roach, bream, white bream and rudd (Koyun and Altunel, 2007, Soylu, 2007, Soylu and Emre, 2007, Öztürk, 2011, Akmirza and Yardimci, 2014, Öztürk and Özer, 2015, Yardımcı et al., 2018). However, this study provides the first record of P. homoion from the endemic manyasensis. This is also the first record of the parasitic helminth fauna of A. manyasensis in the Nilüfer stream. Information about preference regarding season and host variables (size and sex) is also provided.

# Materials and methods

Forty-six individuals of *Alburnoides* manyasensis were collected from Nilüfer stream (Bursa) between Winter 2017 and Autumn 2018, with seasonal intervals. Fish were collected from the stream by electrofishing. During each sampling effort, 10 to 12 *A. manyasensis* specimens were collected. The fish were transferred to plastic

containers with stream water and were immediately transported to the research laboratory. Fish were kept in 20L aerated aquaria and examined within 2 to 3 hours of collection. They were killed by severing the spinal cord posterior to the cranium, then measured and divided into two groups based on length, the first group 2.00 to 7.00 cm and second group 7.10 to 12.00 cm. The sex of each fish was determined during dissection; 22 were female and 24 male. All internal organs, gill filaments, eyes, body and the surface were examined for parasites using stereomicroscope. One monogenean species was collected from the gills and either prepared using glvcerin ammonium picrate (Malmberg, 1957) or preserved in absolute ethanol. Data on the host fish was categorized according to the season of collection and host length and sex. Prevalence and intensity of infection were calculated following Bush et al. (1997). Data were analyzed using SPSS v. 25 to determine the significance of trends and differences among variables.

Morphological identification of the monogenean species was done following Khotenovsky (1985)and confirmed with **DNA** analysis. Genomic DNA was extracted from one individual using a NucleoSpin® Tissue (Macherey-Nagel, Germany) kit following the manufacturer's protocols. fragment of ITS2 rDNA (5'amplified using primers GGCTYRYGGNGTCGATGAAGAAC (5'-GCCGGA GCAG-3') B1 and

TCCGAATCCTGGTTAGTTTCTTTT CCT-3'). according to reaction conditions of Matejusová et al. (2001). Successful amplification was verified in 1% GelRed (Biotuim) impregnated agarose gel and amplicons sequenced using BigDye v3.1 chemistry (Applied Biosystems) following Avenant-Oldewage al. (2014).et Electropherograms were inspected and edited manually (if required) using Geneious R6 (Kearse et al., 2012) and run through the BLAST (NCBI) database (Altschul et al., 1990) to identify the species.

### Results

Based on the morphology observed for the collected parasite specimens, the worms were identified as *Paradiplozoon homoion*. The generated genetic data was identical to sequence data currently available from GenBank for *P. homoion* (accession numbers KP340972, AJ300715 and AF369760), confirming the identification of the worms.

Out of 46 A. manyasensis examined 32 were infected with 115 parasite specimens. Infection variables were recorded as follows: prevalence 69.57%, mean intensity 3.59, and abundance 2.50 (Table 1). The parasites were collected in four different seasons and thus the infection variables were also calculated per season, as per Table 1. The highest prevalence and intensity were recorded in winter, with the lowest values observed in summer. significance of the differences in

number of parasites collected per season were calculated using a Mann-Whitney U test, which indicated that there was significant difference between infection in summer compared to winter (p<0.001, U=8.50) and spring compared to winter (p=0.001, U=13.00).

Table 1: Prevalence, abundance and mean intensity values of *Paradiplozoon homoion* in *Alburnoides manyasensis* from Nilüfer stream, Bursa, Turkey for four different seasons.

Infection parameters	Winter 2017	Spring 2018	Summer 2018	Autumn 2018	Total
Number of fish examined	10	12	12	12	46
Number of infected fish	9	8	5	10	32
Prevalence (%)	90.00	66.67	41.67	83.33	69.57
Abundance	5.60	1.17	0.50	3.25	2.50
Mean intensity	6.22	1.38	1.00	2.80	3.59
Maximum intensity	10	5	2	10	-

The prevalence and intensity levels of *P. homoion* according to length and sex of the host fish are presented in Table 2. Higher prevalence was observed in larger fish (75.00%) compared to those in small size class (57.14%). Similarly, the mean intensity reached its maximum level (4.21) in large size classes. According to Kendall's Tau test, the variables of host size and

number of parasites was strongly positively correlated (p=0.009,  $\tau$ =0.29). Prevalence level of P. homoion was higher in females (77.27%) than males (60.00%), whereas the mean intensity was higher in males (4.92) compared to females (3.18). However, the difference were not significant based on Mann-Whitney U test (p=0.898; U=215.00).

Table 2: Prevalence and intensity values of *P. homoion* in *A. manyasensis* from Nilüfer stream according to host length and sex

	Number of fish examined	Number of infected fish	Prevalence (%)	Mean intensity	Maximum intensity
Fish length (cm)					
2.00-7.00	14	8	57.14	1.75	5
7.10-12.00	32	24	75.00	4.21	10
Fish sex					
Female	22	17	77.27	3.18	10
Male	20	13	60.00	4.92	10
Juvenile	4	2	50.00	1.00	1

## **Discussion**

Only P. homoion occurred throughout the study period. In Turkey this parasite reported from bleak, Alburnus 2001;Koyun alburnus(Koyun, and Altunel. 2007). Danube bleak. Alburnuschalcoides and roach, Rutilus rutilus (Öztürk 2005, 2011), flower fish, Pseudophoxinus antalyae and common carp, Cyprinus carpio(Soylu, 2007, Soylu and Emre, 2007, Aydogdu et al., 2009) and mosul bleak, Alburnus mossulensis(Tunç and Koyun, 2018). Detailed data related to *P. homoion* occurring in Turkey, as per the abovementioned authors, are given in Table 3.

Table 3: Prevalence and mean intensity values of *Paradiplozoon homoion* in different host fishes from Turkey.

Host	Prevalence (%)	Mean intensity	Authors	City	Date
A. alburnus	30.2		Koyun	Kütahya (Turkey)	2001
R. rutilus	10.4		Öztürk	Bursa (Turkey)	2005
A. chalcoides	6.2		Öztürk	Bursa (Turkey)	2005
P. antalyae	73.6	$8,1\pm0,4$	Soylu and Emre	Antalya (Turkey)	2007
C. carpio	1.3	-	Soylu and Emre	Antalya (Turkey)	2007
P. antalyae	54.6	-	Soylu	Antalya (Turkey)	2007
A. alburnus	30.0		Koyun and Altunel	Lake Enne (Turkey)	2007
C. carpio	54.4	_	Aydogdu et al.	Bursa (Turkey)	2009
R. rutilus	5.4	0±0	Öztürk	Balıkesir (Turkey)	2011
A. mossulensis	19.8		Tunç and Koyun	Bingöl (Turkey)	2018

Prevalence levels recorded in the present study (69.57%, 32 out of 46 fish examined) were similar compared to findings of Soylu and Emre (2007) who reported 73.6% prevalence of *P. homoion* infecting *P. antalyae* from Kepez, Antalya.

In terms of seasonal variation, the highest prevalence was recorded in winter, while it was lowest in summer (Table 2). Influence of season on infection level of this species was investigated by some of the above mentioned records (Öztürk, 2005;Koyun and Altunel, 2007; Soylu, 2007; Soylu and Emre, 2007; Öztürk, 2011; Tunç and Koyun, 2018). Soylu (2007) reported that prevalence of *P. homoion* was highest in flower fish in winter (79.3%) and lowest in spring, corroborating the findings presented here.

In the present study, prevalence and mean intensity of *P. homoion* was highest in larger fish with a range of 7.10-12.00 cm (Table 3). The

relationship between the level of P. homoion infection and size of fish is studied by Koyun (2001), Soylu (2007) and Öztürk (2011). All of these authors found a negative correlation between the infection level of P. homoion and host length in contrast to our findings. They postulated that infection may be related to the inability of small fish to resist parasites resulting in more parasites. We suggest that P. homoion infection increased with the size of hosts as larger fish provide more space for parasite attachment as suggested by Koyun and Altunel (2007), Tekin-Özan et al. (2008), Kurupınar and Öztürk (2009), and Aydogdu et al. (2014, 2015). It may also be possible that P. homoion opportunistically infected A. manyasensis which has not developed resistance to the parasite as the fish mature. This may indicate a recent colonization of this host species by the diplozoid.

Paradiplozoon homoion infection with respect to sex was highest on females for prevalence but higher on males for mean intensity (Table 2). On the other hand, Tunç and Koyun (2018) claim the opposite as they found higher *P. homoion* infections in male fish. This may indicate that the males of *A. mossulensis* and the females of *A. manyasensis* have similar behavior or feeding habits.

In conclusion, the present study is the first parasitological survey of *A. manyasensis*, which found to be infected by *P. homoion*. It is therefore a new parasite species record for the host fish in Turkey and a new locality for

distribution of *P. homoion*. Additionally, the present study adds some valuable information on seasonal occurrence and the physical parameters (length and sex) of the host on infection variables of the parasite.

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