

copy to: Mark Crow

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

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JAN 14 1931

FISH DIVISION

January 12, 1931

Report No. 46

REPORT ON VISCERA OF A LARGE SUCKER FROM SILVER LAKE IN BLAIR
TOWNSHIP, GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

On January 8, 1931, the viscera of a large female sucker was received from Mr. Mark Crow, District Warden, Traverse City, Michigan.

According to Mr. Crow the fish was caught by a fellow who brought it to him. This individual, according to Mr. Crow, caught the fish in Silver Lake in Blair Township, Grand Traverse County, Michigan.

The specimen was fresh and in a fairly good state of preservation when received.

The viscera, except the ovaries had been destroyed by numerous, exceedingly large larval tapeworms. The number of larval worms could not be determined with certainty, but approximately thirty five feet of worms were taken from the specimen and perhaps is as heavy an infestation as anyone has seen.

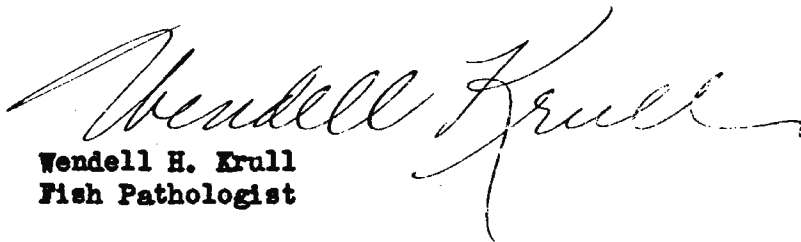
Ligula is the genus name of the worm. The life cycle of these worms involves a cyclops (water flea) fish and water bird. The tapeworm approaches maturity in the fish host and when eaten by the bird lives for only a period of hours, after which it is voided.

The larval worms are usually found in minnows and suckers. They have been taken from trout, black bass, rock bass and other fish, but these apparently are not the usual hosts.

The adult worms have been taken from grebes and mergansers and it is likely that other birds are involved.

It is not likely that the game fishes will become seriously affected judging from the experience of several parasitologists who have examined a large number of game fishes in lakes where suckers and minnows were infected with these worms. On the basis of life history work and ecological relationships, however the reason for the above statement cannot be given. We shall, therefore, be glad to get any specimens of game fish if they are found to be infected.

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH


Wendell H. Krull
Fish Pathologist

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