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COOPERATING WITH THE  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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October 19, 1936

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UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS  
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

REPORT NO. 391

PARASITISM IN LARGEMOUTH BLACK BASS FROM RAILROAD LAKE,  
KINNE CREEK CLUB

Five largemouth black bass collected by Mr. William Loutit in Railroad Lake, Kinne (Lake Co.)  
Creek Club, Michigan, July 26, 1936 were examined for parasites with results as  
follows:

Fish #	Flesh	Liver	Stomach	Intestine	Gills	Kidney	Other organs
1	Blackspot occasional	Clearspot occasional	Acanthocephala Num.	Acanthocephala numerous	neg.	neg.	neg.
2	Do. Yellow grub	neg.	do.	do.	neg.	neg.	neg.
3	Blackspot occasional	Clearspot occasional	do.	do.	neg.	neg.	neg.
4	do.	do.	do.	do.	neg.	neg.	neg.
5	do.	do.	do.	do.	neg.	neg.	neg.

The Blackspot parasites (Neascus ambloplitis) in the flesh were neither noticeable or numerous, an average of about 20 individuals being present in the flesh of the body. The one Yellow grub (Clinostomum) found was rather small and was situated at the base of the tail.

Internally a few Clearspot parasites (Neascus vancleveii) were found in the liver of four fish but not in numbers great enough to do any noticeable damage. The stomach and intestine contained large numbers of Spiny-headed worms (Acanthocephala) and while these are harmful to fish in general no marked damage seemed to have been done. The ovaries of the one female in the collection were entirely free of parasites and no indications were found of any parasites that might do damage to the reproductive organs.

In general the parasites seemed to have little effect on the fish.

The rate of growth was calculated but, inasmuch as the normal rate of growth for bass in Michigan is not known, it is hard to say whether this is above or below normal. The values are as follows:

Rate of Growth of Bass from Railroad Lake

Fish #	Winters of life	Length 1st Winter	Length at 2d Winter	Length at 3d Winter	Length when collected	Sex	Condition
1	2	2.28 in.	6.62 in.		8.4 in.	Male	2.32
2	3	3.26	7.25	9.45	10.1	Female	2.14
3	3	2.62	6.30	8.67	9.6	Male	2.16
4	3	3.07	4.89	7.20	8.7	Male	2.09
5	1	5.50			8.0	Male	3.57
Aver.		3.3 in.	6.3 in.	8.4 in.			2.46

As may be seen from the table, the average length of the bass at the first winter of life was 3.3 in., at the second winter 6.3 in. and at the third winter 8.4 in. The condition, relation of weight to length, of 2.46 is about average for bass though in some areas it is higher than this, 2.60 being a good figure.

In general the parasites present in these fish do not seem to have affected the general health or condition of these fish and no tissue damage was found. None of the parasites found are capable of infesting man.

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