Notes on the parasites of European grayling, *Thymallus* thymallus (L.) (Actenopterygii: Salmonidae), from selected rivers in Poland

Marek Kulikowski, Leszek Rolbiecki, Jerzy Rokicki

Department of Invertebrate Zoology and Parasitology, University of Gdańsk, Wita Stwosza 59, 80-308 Gdańsk, Poland

Corresponding Author: Marek Kulikowski; e-mail: kulikowski@ug.edu.pl

The European grayling, *Thymallus thymallus* (Linnaeus, 1758), is a salmonid fish. It grows up to 60 cm length and 6.7 kg of weight, and inhabits clean, faster flowing rivers. In Poland, the grayling is an economically important fish species, mainly due to fishing tourism, but of little-known parasite fauna. As many as 282 digestive tracts and fins collected from 282 graylings were examined. The fish were caught alive from nine Polish rivers (Dobrzyca, Łeba, Łupawa, Molstowa, Parsęta, Radunia, Reda, Wda, and Wieprza) between 2010 and 2014. The parasites found represented Monogenea: *Gyrodactylus salaris* Malmberg, 1957; Digenea: *Diplostomum spathaceum* (Rudolphi, 1819), *Crepidostomum farionis* (Müller, 1784), *C. metoecus* (Braun, 1900), *Plagioporus stefanskii* (Ślusarski, 1958); Cestoda: *Cyathocephalus truncatus* (Pallas, 1781); Nematoda: *Camallanus truncatus* (Rudolphi, 1814), *Cucullanus truttae* Fabricius, 1794, *Cystidicoloides ephemeridarum* (von Linstow, 1872); Acanthocephala: *Echinorhynhus salmonis* Müller, 1784, *E. truttae* (Schrank, 1788); Crustacea: *Argulus foliaceus* (Linnaeus, 1758), and Mollusca: Unionidae gen. sp. The overall infection level (including all rivers) amounted to prevalence 86.5%, mean intensity 56.4, and intensity 1–842. The nematode *C. ephemeridarum* was the most frequent parasite (65.6%, 44.2, 1–842). The graylings showed diverse infective ability (qualitative and quantitative composition, and population structure) depending on the river.