

Parasitic Metazoa in smelt (*Osmerus eperlanus L.*) from selected lakes of the Drawa Watershed Area

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The fish underwent parasitic examination which included the skin, fins, peritoneum, gastrointestinal tract, liver, swim bladder, eyes, gills and muscles. Each organ was examined under the stereoscopic microscope, and any parasites found were placed in 70% alcohol.

The prevalence of parasitic Metazoa was 81.6% in the fish from Lake Żerdno and 94% from Lake Pile. Three species of parasites and one collective group of two classes: Digenea and Cestoda were found. Digenea were represented by metacercariae of *Diplostomum* spp., Cestoda by *Proteocephalus longicollis* and plerocercoid of *Triaenophorus nodulosus*. The prevalence of metacercariae of *Diplostomum* spp. in the fish from Żerdno Lake was 59.2% (intensity of 1–4), while a higher intensity of 74% was observed in fish from Pile Lake (intensity of 1–5). The prevalence of *P. longicollis* was 34.7% and an intensity of 1–16 in the smelt caught in Lake Żerdno, compared to 86% and an intensity of 1 – 84 in the smelt from Lake Pile. Pleroceroids of *T. nodulosus* were found in the livers of smelt from both lakes: 11 smelt (22%) from Lake Pile and three (6.1%) from Lake Żerdno. The intensity of infection was small; on average, two parasites per fish. Parasite Metazoa occurred in fish of every age; however, it was the most frequent in those of 2+ years of age. The age did not influence the intensity of infection.

Metacercariae of *Diplostomum* spp. and the tapeworm *P. longicollis* have also been observed in smelt by other authors (Rokicki 1975, Valtonen et al. 2001, Wiśniewski and Piasecki 2001). However, this is the first description of the plerocercorid of *Triaenophorus nodulosus* in this species.