**Brief Communication**

**Conger myriaster**, a new second intermediate host of *Heterophyopsis continua* (Digenea: Heterophyidae)

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**Abstract:** Six metacercariae were found from the gill filaments of *Conger myriaster* purchased at Mokpo-shi in Korea on 7 September, 1996. Based on the morphology of the excysted specimen, we identified them as metacercariae of *Heterophyopsis continua*. *C. myriaster* is a new intermediate host of *H. continua* in the literature.

**Key words:** *Heterophyopsis continua*, metacercaria, the second intermediate host, *Conger myriaster*

*Heterophyopsis continua* is a species of family Heterophyidae and is parasitic in fish eating birds and mammals. Three human cases of natural infection by *H. continua* were recorded in Korea (Seo et al., 1984; Hong et al., 1996).

Brackish water or marine fishes — *Lateolabrax japonicus*, *Mugil cephalus*, *Acanthogobius flavimanus*, *Plecoglossus altivelis* and *Clupanodon punctatus* — were recorded as the second intermediate hosts of *H. continua* in Korea (Chun, 1960; Seo et al., 1984; Cho and Kim, 1985; Sohn et al., 1994).

On 7 September, 1996, we purchased several species of marine fish in a fisheries market in Mokpo city in order to investigate helminth parasites. We found 6 metacercariae in the gill filaments of two conger eels (*Conger myriaster*). Among those metacercariae, one excysted metacercaria was fixed in 70% hot ethylalcohol. The fixed specimen was stained with Semichon's acetocarmine.

Morphology of the stained specimen is as follows: Body elongated leaf-like, dorsoventrally flattened, 1.260 mm long and 0.230 mm wide (Fig.1). Testes set with small spines which is sparse posteriorly. Oral sucker subterminal, 0.065 x 0.078 mm. Ventral sucker 0.120 x 0.113 mm, lying at the slightly anterior to the half of body. Prepharynx very long, 0.176 mm in length. Pharynx elliptical, 0.075 x 0.050 mm. Oesophagus very short. Intestinal caeca extended to posterior end of body. Genital sucker larger than oral sucker but smaller than ventral sucker, 0.078 x 0.100 mm, situated slightly posterosinistrally to ventral sucker. Rodlets on the genital sucker were all the same size, approximately 100 in number, and arranged in a single circle. Ovary elliptical, 0.028 x 0.043 mm. Two testes smooth, globular and a little obliquely tandem. Anterior testis 0.055 x 0.053 mm and posterior testis 0.060 x 0.050 mm. Excretory vesicles Y-shaped, extended to the posterior margin of ovary.

The characteristics of this specimen was coincide with those of *Heterophyopsis continua*. There was no report that *C. myriaster* acts as the second intermediate host of *H. continua*. We, therefore, report here *C. myriaster* as a fish intermediate host of *H.*
continua for the first time in the world.

Generally, the infection environment of H. continua to fish was considered via brackish water near river mouth, but C. myriaster and C. punctatus are not brackish water fish but coastal water fish. Therefore it is possible that the first intermediate hosts of H. continua may be the euryhaline organisms which can survive both in brackish water and sea water.

REFERENCES


Fig. 1. Diagram of excysted metacercaria of Heterophyopsis continua collected from the gill filaments of Conger myriaster (ventral view, scale bar = 0.3 mm)
=초록=

긴이형흡충 (*Heterophyopsis continua*)의
새로운 중간숙주인 붕장어 (*Conger myriaster*)

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1996년 9월 7일 전남 목포항에서 구입한 붕장어 9마리 해장에서 6개체의 피낭유충이 검출되 었다. 이중 네모판한 개체의 형태를 관찰한 바 긴이형흡충의 피낭유충으로 동정되었으며, 붕장어 가 긴이형흡충의 제2중간숙주 역할을 한다는 것을 처음으로 보고한다.