

NEW RECORDS OF DIGenea (PLATYHELMINTHES) IN LABRID FISHES FROM THE ALGERIAN COAST

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INTRODUCTION & AIM

Due to their biological diversity and ecological importance, Labridae represent an important family of marine fish (Nelson, 2006). A study of the **biodiversity of Digenea** in two species of teleost fish, Labridae *Symphodus tinca* Linnaeus, 1758 and *Xyrichtys novacula* Linnaeus, 1758, collected along the Algerian coast, has enabled us to identify four parasitic species that we are reporting for the **first time in Algeria**.

METHOD

Between 2019 and 2022, the intestines of 243 Labridae specimens belonging to two species, *S. tinca* Linnaeus, 1758, and *X. novacula* Linnaeus, 1758, were examined for the **presence of digeneans**.



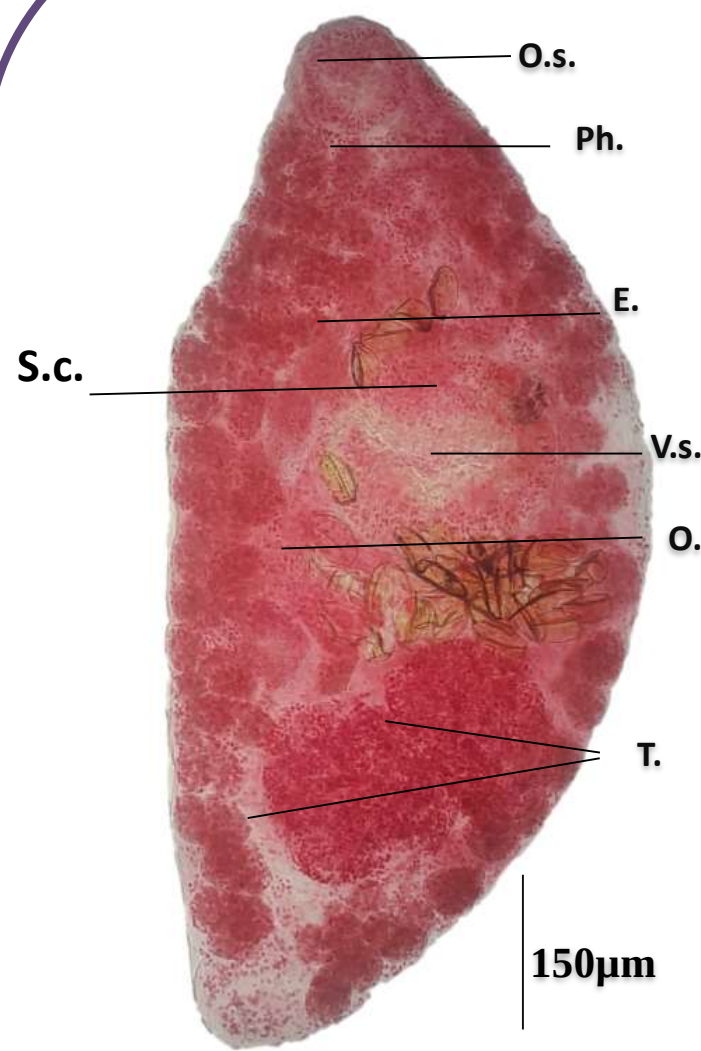
Symphodus tinca Linnaeus, 1758



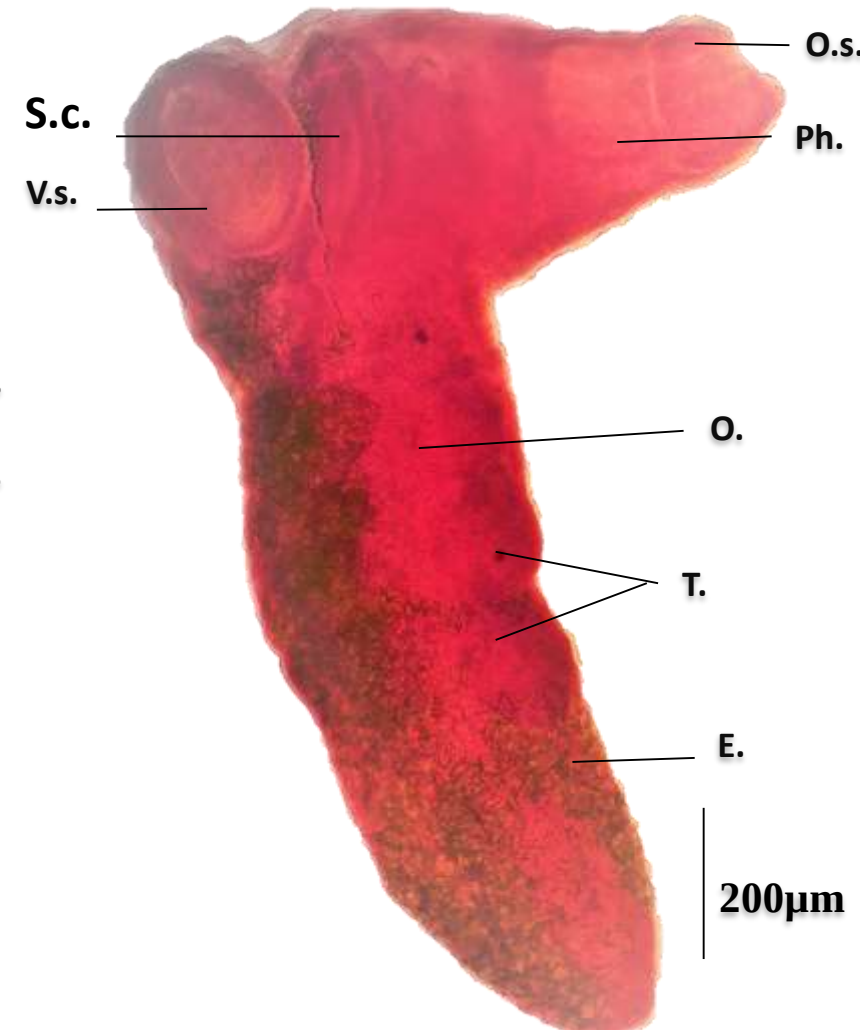
Xyrichtys novacula Linnaeus, 1758

The digeneans collected were fixed in 70% alcohol with a few drops of aqueous Bouin's solution, then stained with boric carmine, dehydrated in alcohol baths (70%, 96%, and 100%), clarified with eugenol, and mounted between slides and coverslips with Canada balsam.

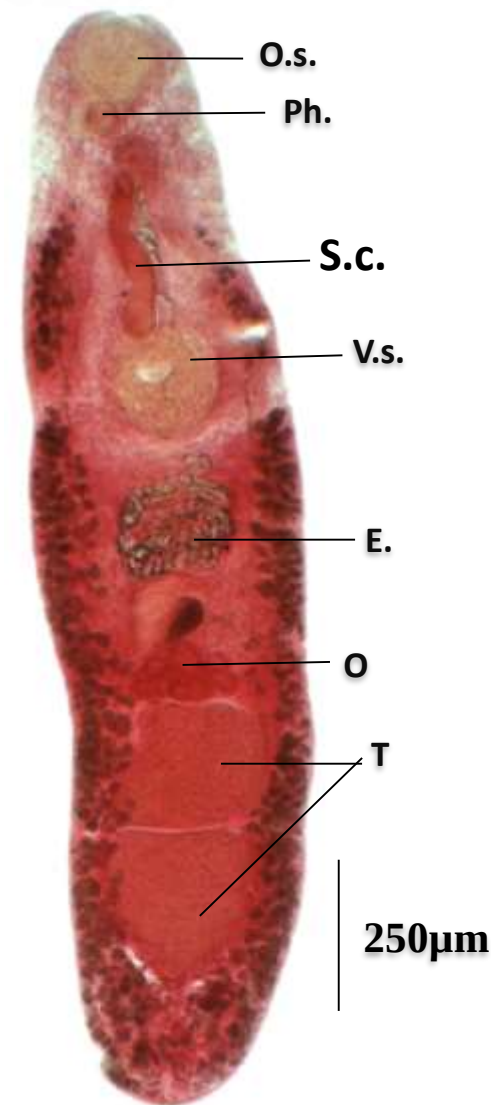
RESULTS & DISCUSSION



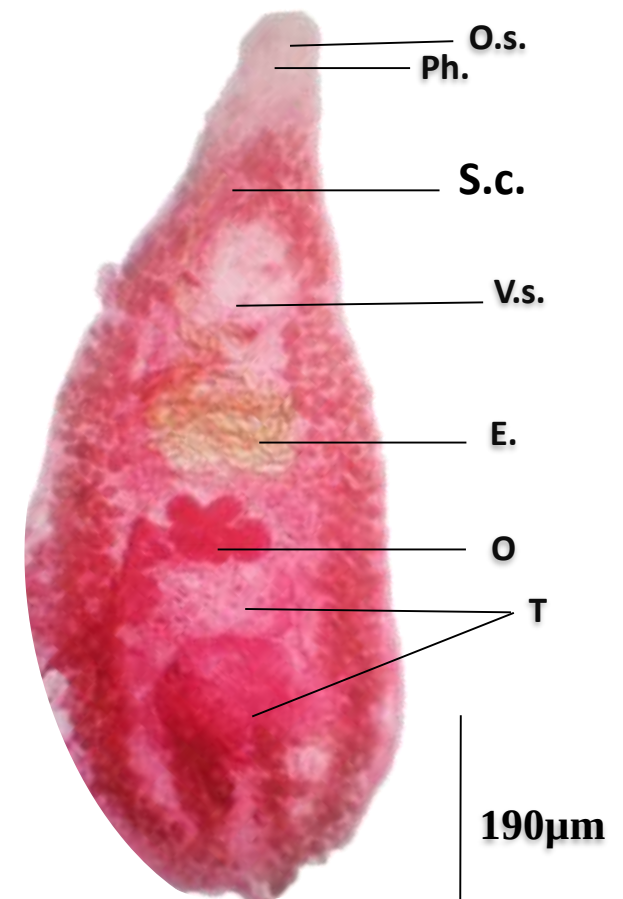
Gaevskajatrema perezii
Mathias, 1926



Proctoeces maculatus
Looss, 1901



Helicometra fasciata
Rudolphi, 1819



Helicometra sp

O.s.: oral sucker; Ph.: pharynx; V.s.: Sucker ventral; O.: Ovary; T.: Testis; S.c.: Cirrus sac; E.: Egg

CONCLUSION

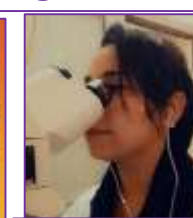
This taxonomic and morpho-anatomical study of Digenea, intestinal parasitic flatworms of the Labrid family found on the Algerian coastline has identified four parasitic species belonging to two families: Opecoelidae Ozaki 1925 and Fellodistomidae Nicoll, 1909: *Proctoeces maculatus* Looss, 1901; *Gaevskajatrema perezii* Mathias, 1926; *Helicometra fasciata* Rudolphi, 1819; and *Helicometra* sp., respectively.

- ❖ These parasites, already reported in the Mediterranean, are **new** to the parasitofauna of **Algerian** teleosts.
- ❖ This work contributes to our knowledge of the **biodiversity of Digenea** in Algerian teleosts.

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Acknowledgments



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