

Shields, B.A., P. Bird, W.J. Liss, K.L. Groves, R. Olson, P.A. Rossignol. "A Nematode *Anisakis simplex* in American Shad (*Alosa sapidissima*) in Two Oregon Rivers." *Journal of Parasitology*. 88 (5). October 2002. 1033-1035. (Reviewed by Tracy Maloney)

This paper represents the first report of the nematode *Anisakis simplex* (*A. simplex*) in the American shad (*Alosa sapidissima*) within the Pacific Northwest. Populations of shad, edible herring-like marine fish that enter rivers to spawn, were tested for the presence of the nematode. The results discussed within the article reveal that all the adult shad sampled from spawning populations in the Willamette and Umpqua Rivers had been infected with *A. simplex* at varying intensities. The degree of infection ranged from 6 to 89 worms per fish.

The article then discusses how this report of nematode presence within the Willamette contrasts sharply with prior accounts and studies that have been performed on local American shad. The author states that this investigation confirms that the fish may be an intermediate host for *A. simplex*; this would hence assist in explaining the presence of the nematode in the Pacific Northwest. The conclusion of the article suggests that this new parasite-host relationship has led to an ecological expansion in the Willamette and that *A. simplex* may pose an emerging health risk for human consumers.

Critique

This article presents a captivating find that adds to the imperativeness of human health awareness in the Willamette River. Being that *A. simplex* is an emerging species not native to the river, the journal article serves as an intriguing read to its audience. Adding to the validity of this text as a research source, the terminology is basic enough so that a general audience may benefit from its information. The only limitation to this article is that there is not a clear discussion of the exact health risks that *A. simplex* poses to humans. This could be attributed however to the fact that there apparently hasn't been a great deal of research performed on this organism- especially within the American Pacific Northwest water systems.

The author does a thorough job of explaining the results of the investigation and further discusses what the nematode presence implies beyond the infestation of the American shad. This parasite poses a potential health risk that local residents and recreationalists should be aware of. This is an excellent article to attain such knowledge of this newly introduced species.

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