

## Survey on Helminth parasites of Common Kilka *Clupeonella cultriventris* caught from the south and southeastern parts of the Caspian Sea

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In the present research, 114 specimens of common kilka caught from Babolsar and Amir Abad catching ports were studied for helminth parasitology during winter, summer and autumn. A Digenea parasite, *Pseudo pentagramma symmetrica* (Chulkova, 1939) was the only parasite found in the digestive tract. A high intensity of infection by *Microsporidium sacs* was observed in a few specimens. The prevalence and mean intensity of infection by this parasite, in common kilka caught from Amir Abad in summer, was higher than other seasons and stations. Results from Chi-square showed a significant relationship between fish gender and parasite occurrence, as the number of parasite-infected females was higher than the infected males, regardless of station and season. No significant relationship was detected between the catching port and parasite prevalence and approximately one fifth of the specimens were infected by this parasite in each station. Also, there was no correlation between the prevalence and mean intensity of this parasite with stomach emptiness index.

**Keywords:** Helminth parasite, Common kilka, Caspian Sea.