

NEW LOCALITY RECORDS FOR *ICHTHYOXENUS MONTANUS*
SCHIOEDTE & MEINERT (CRUSTACEA, ISOPODA, CYMOTHOIDEA).

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ABSTRACT

Ichthyoxenus montanus Schioedte & Meinert has been reported for the first time from the gangetic plains from the host *Pseudeutropius atherenoides*.

Ichthyoxenus montanus Schioedte & Meinert was described from Himalayas (exact locality unknown) in 1884. After the lapse of nearly a century the parasite has been reported recently by the author (Ram, 1979) from Suraha lake in U. P. parasitizing siluroid fishes, *Pseudeutropius atherenoides* and *Mystus bleekeri*. In the month of May 1979 the author purchased a small quantity of fishes which included small fish fries of many fish species alongwith some specimens of *Pseudeutropius atherenoides*. All the fishes were freshly infiltrated from the tributaries of river Ganga near Patna, Bihar. On examination it was found that about 25-30% specimen of only *Pseudeutropius atherenoides* were infected with the isopod parasite, *Ichthyoxenus montanus*. The hosts measured 5.0 to 6.7 cm. in length. Each host usually harboured a single large female parasite with eggs in its brood pouch. In some cases a smaller parasite was accompanied by a still younger form. The youngest parasite infecting the host measured about 3 m.m. in length while newly hatched youngs were only 2 mm.

From the 60 specimens recovered from the hosts about 50% of the parasites were females with eggs. The largest parasite was 8.5 mm. in length. The site of infection was behind the pelvic fin as reported earlier (Ram, 1979).

From the above account the following conclusions seem to emerge :

1. The isopod, parasite, *Ichthyoxenus montanus*, has a wider distribution in the Gangetic Plains.
2. The parasite attacks the young as well as adult hosts.
3. The parasite can infect its host soon after hatching out from the brood pouch.
4. The parasite seems to be developing host specificity for *Pseudeutropius atherenoides*.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is thankful to the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta, and Dr. P. D. Gupta, Deputy Director, Gangetic Plains Regional Station, Patna, for facilities and encouragements.

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