

PARASITOFAUNA OF ALLOCHTHONOUS FISH SPECIES IN THE OPEN WATERS OF THE DANUBE RIVER BASIN (SERBIAN PART) – IMPACT ON THE NATIVE FISH FAUNA

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Abstract. In this review data on parasitofauna of allochthonous fish species in the Danube River Basin in Serbia is presented. Up to now, 33 ecto- and endoparasites of seven examined allochthonous invasive fish species have been reported. Some of the identified parasitic species are new for fish parasitofauna in the Serbian waters (*Trichodina nobilis*, *Balantidium* sp., *Philometroides cyprini*, *Philometroides parasiluri*, *Eustrongylides* sp., *Ergasilus sieboldi*, *Lernaea cyprinacea*, *Sinergasilus polycolpus*). In the open waters of Serbia (the Danube River Basin) a total of 26 non-indigenous fish species were recorded, of which 16 were the allochthonous invasive fishes. The major means of introductions and translocations were found to be the aquaculture, fish stocking and transportation. Habitat modification was found to be the factor that largely contributes to the capability of the water bodies to become a suitable recipient area. The large presence of alien fish species (27.66%) and its parasites creates a serious threat to the stability of freshwater ecosystems and the survival of the native ichthyofauna. The main environmental consequences of alien fish spreading are related to the alteration in fish community structure and function, as well as the introduction of the alien parasite species.

Keywords: *parasites, alien fish, alteration in fish community, Danube, Serbia*

Introduction

The introduction of fish specimens into aquatic ecosystems is common around the world. The main purpose of these introductions over the past three decades is for aquaculture, reinforcement of natural populations, biological control or recreation activities (exotic fish aquaria, angling, etc.) (Welcomme, 1981, 1988; Stewart, 1991). Ballast water of ships, deliberate fish stocking and introduction into aquaculture were pointed as prospective agents of dispersal of non-indigenous fish species in aquatic ecosystems (Gherardi et al., 2009).

Alien fishes have been introduced for many reasons in Europe: ornament, sport, improvement of wild stocks, aquaculture, biological control and accident (Elvira, 2001).

Aquatic introductions are made possible by a range of factors, including species-specific traits as well as by human activities such as river regulation, the connection of bordering basins by canals or ballast transport (Grigorovich et al., 2003). The success of introduction depends on the capability of species to avoid predators and parasites (Torchin et al., 2003). According to that, introduced species attain higher population densities and greater individual sizes in the recipient areas as compared to nonspecific

in their native range (Torchin et al., 2001). Non-indigenous species may affect indigenous species by competing for resources, transferring pathogens, or significantly altering the habitat. The introduction of non-indigenous species may work synergistically with some factors, such as water pollution, to alter the population and distribution of indigenous species (Elvira, 2001). The main environmental consequences of alien fish spreading are related to the alteration in fish community structure and function, as well as the introduction of the non-indigenous parasite fauna. Despite the importance of host manipulation by parasites for ecosystems and health, the effects of environmental changes on their ecological roles are largely ignored (Labaude et al., 2015). In contrast to other ecological effects, the importation of parasites, pathogens and diseases can be made via alien fish never intended to be released into the wild. Many diseases of salmonids that infect hatchery-reared fish and also occur in wild populations have been imported. Rainbow trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss* (Walbaum, 1792) from the western part of North America has carried furunculosis to Europe (Borno and Colquhoun, 2009). The importation of pathogens that are not group specific is a great risk associated with the introduction of exotic species (Elvira, 2001).

The consequences of biotic invasions are diverse and interconnected, since invaders can alter fundamental ecological properties such as dominant species in a community, productivity, nutrient cycling and thus can alter the structure and function of the ecosystem (Mack et al., 2000). Also, when present in sympatry, invasive species have the potential to amplify or diminish their ecological impacts through their trophic interactions, like it is tested for *Cyprinus carpio* and *Pseudorasbora parva* (Jackson and Britton, 2014).

Aquatic ecosystems in Serbia, especially those settled in north, lowland district, are influenced by biological invasion and contamination. The Danube River is an important invasion corridor, so called “Southern Invasion Corridor” (Galil et al., 2007) highly suitable for introduction of invasive fish species in Serbian waters (Jankovic et al., 1987; Hegedis et al., 1991; Cakic et al., 1996, 2004; Maletin et al., 1997; Simonovic and Nikolic, 1997; Simonovic et al., 1998, 2001). Also, the role of hydro-morphological alterations in aquatic invasions in this region has already been shown in the case of introduction and acclimation of invertebrate and fish species (Jankovic et al., 1987; Lenhardt et al., 2011). Thus, the Iron Gate area, downstream stretches of the main tributaries of the Danube River (the Sava, the Tisa and the Velika Morava River), that are under the influence of hydro-morphological changes, as well as artificial channel network Danube-Tisa-Danube, seemed to be suitable recipient areas for introduction and population establishment of non-native taxa.

Non-native ichthyofauna in Serbia has mostly been investigated as the part of ecological or taxonomical studies of particular areas. The data on alien fish fauna within the Serbian part of the Danube River originated from a number of studies and monitoring programs (Cakic and Hristic, 1987; Maletin et al., 1997; Jankovic, 1998; Simonovic et al., 1998, 2001; Lenhardt et al., 2011; Zorić et al., 2014). Introduction of allochthonous species into Serbian waters were made primarily in order to increase ichthyoproduction for weed control, sport fishing purposes and also accidentally (Lenhardt et al., 2011).

The aim of the present study is to report parasitic species of allochthonous fish species in the Serbian waters in the period of the last 31 years, and to investigate their contribution to diversity of fish parasitofauna.

Materials and methods

The study comprehends the data derived from several long-term investigations of freshwater fish species in the surface waters of the Danube River Basin in Serbia. During these studies, many allochthonous fish species have been identified and processed. Fish samples were collected using multi-mesh nets with mesh size of 10-60 mm, as well as by electrofishing (HONDA 1.2 kW, 6 A). After sampling, fish specimens were anesthetized in clove solution and sacrificed with a quick blow to the head. Fish species were identified according to Simonović (2006). The material of non-native freshwater fishes was analyzed for ecto- and endoparasites using standard parasitological procedure. Squash slides were taken from the skin and gills and observed under a light microscope (400 x magnitudes) within two hours. The slides were impregnated with silver-nitrate according to the modified Klein-Feussner method. The collected parasites were preserved in 4% formaldehyde (Acantocephala, Digenea/Trematoda, Cestoda, Bivalvia), in a mixture of ammonium picrate and glycerin (Monogenea) or in a mixture of glycerin and alcohol (Nematoda). Metazoan parasites were bleached, stained, prepared and fixed for determination and collection. Isolation, sorting and identification of parasite fauna have been done in the laboratory. Appropriate identification keys were used for the determination of parasite fauna representatives to the lowest taxonomic level (Bykhovskaya-Pavlovskaya et al., 1962; Banina, 1984; Shulman and Jankovsky, 1984; Stein, 1984; Bauer, 1987; Lom and Dikova, 1992; Moravec, 1994).

Results

In total, 26 non-indigenous fish species from nine different families have been reported from the Serbian part of the Danube River basin area (*Table 1*), contributing to the total species richness of ichthyofauna of Serbia 27.66%. Their parasitic species have been investigated and identified. In this paper, a total of 33 parasites (ecto- and endo-) are reported. The impact of those aliens on native fish is the topic for further research.

The list of allochthonous fish species, their status and occurrence in recipient area, pathway of introduction in our waters as well as their origin are presented (*Table 1*).

Table 1. Non-indigenous fish species (26) within the Danube River Basin in Serbia

Taxa	ST	OC	MI	OR
<u>Fam. Polyodontidae</u>				
<i>Polyodon spathula</i> (Walbaum, 1792)	NN	R	AC	NA
<u>Fam. Coregonidae</u>				
<i>Coregonus peled</i> (Gmelin, 1789)	U	R	FS	E
<u>Fam. Salmonidae</u>				
<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i> (Mitchill, 1815)	NN	R	AC	NA
<i>Salvelinus alpinus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	NN	R	AC	E
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> (Walbaum, 1792)	NN	F	AC	NA
<i>Salmo letnica</i> (Karaman, 1924)	N	R	FS	E
<u>Fam. Cyprinidae</u>				
<i>Pseudorasbora parva</i> (Schlaegel, 1842)	N	FA	AC	A
<i>Ctenopheryngodon idella</i> (Valenciennes, 1844)	N	FA	AC	A
<i>Hypophthalmichthys molitrix</i> (Valenciennes, 1844)	N	FA	AC	A

<i>Hypophthalmichthys nobilis</i> (Richardson, 1844)	N	FA	AC	A
<i>Carassius gibelio</i> (Bloch, 1783)	N	FA	FS	A
<i>Alburnus albidus</i> (Costa, 1838)	N	FA	FS	E
<i>Pachychilon macedonicus</i> (Steindachner, 1892)	U	R	UC	E
<i>Rutilus basak</i> (Heckel, 1843)	U	R	FS	E
<i>Scardinius graecus</i> Stephanidis, 1937	U	R	UC	E
<u>Fam. Ictaluridae</u>				
<i>Ameiurus nebulosus</i> (Le Sueur, 1819)	N	FA	AC	NA
<i>Ameiurus melas</i> (Rafinesque, 1820)	N	FA	AC	NA
<u>Fam. Centrarchidae</u>				
<i>Lepomis gibbosus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	N	FA	AC	NA
<i>Micropterus salmonides</i> (Lacepede, 1802)	N	FA	FS	NA
<u>Fam. Gobiidae</u>				
<i>Neogobius melanostomus</i> (Pallas 1811)	N	FA	S	PC
<i>Neogobius fluviatilis</i> (Pallas, 1811)	N	FA	UC	PC
<i>Ponticola kessleri</i> (Gunther, 1861)	N	F	S	PC
<i>Babka gymnotrachelus</i> (Kessler, 1857)	N	F	S	PC
<i>Proterorhinus semilunaris</i> (Heckel, 1837)	N	F	UC	PC
<u>Odontobutidae</u>				
<i>Perccottus glenii</i> (Dybowsky, 1877)	N	R	UC	A
<u>Fam. Syngnathidae</u>				
<i>Syngnathus abaster</i> (Risso, 1826)	N	FA	S	PC

Status (**ST**) – N-Naturalized, NN-not naturalized, U-unknown. Occurrence (**OC**) – FA-frequent and abundant, F-frequent, R-rare or single findings. Means of Introduction (**MI**) – AC-aquaculture, FS-fish stocking, S-shipping, UC-unclear. Origin (**OR**) – PC-Ponto-Caspian, A-Asia, NA-North America, E-Europe out of Ponto-Caspian Area

In *Table 2* the list of parasitic species (14 ecto- and 19 endoparasites) are presented, in seven allochthonous invasive fish species from the Serbian part of the Danube River Basin. Among them, some of the identified parasitic species are new for fish parasitofauna in the Serbian waters (*Trichodina nobilis*, *Balantidium sp.*, *Philometroides cyprini*, *Philometroides parasiluri*, *Eustrongylides sp.*, *Ergasilus sieboldi*, *Lernaea cyprinacea*, *Sinergasilus polycolpus*) (marked *, see *Table 2*).

Table 2. Parasitic species (ecto-and endoparasitic species) of seven allochthonous invasive fish species, Danube River in Serbia

Taxonomy group	Parasitic species	Fish host	Reference
Eumycota	<i>Saprolegnia sp.</i>	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Nikolic et al., 2010
Myxosporidia	<i>Myxobolus sp.</i>	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Cakic, 2002
Ciliophora	<i>Ichthyophthirius multifiliis</i> (Fouquet, 1876)	<i>Carassius gibelio</i>	Nikolic and Simonovic, 1998a
		<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Cakic, 2002
		<i>Ameiurus nebulosus</i>	Nikolic and Simonovic, 1998b
	<i>Chilodonella cyprini</i> (Moroff, 1902)	<i>Carassius gibelio</i> <i>Ameiurus nebulosus</i>	Nikolic and Simonovic, 1998b Nikolic and Simonovic, 1999a

	<i>Chilodonella hexasticha</i> (Kiernik, 1909)	<i>Carassius gibelio</i> <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Nikolic et al., 2006 Nikolic et al., 2006
	<i>Trichodina nigra</i> (Lom, 1960)	<i>Carassius gibelio</i> <i>Ameiurus nebulosus</i>	Nikolic et al., 2003 Nikolic et al., 2003
	<i>Trichodina nobilis</i> (Chen, 1963)*	<i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i> <i>Hypophthalmichthys molitrix</i>	Nikolic and Simonovic, 1998a Nikolic and Simonovic, 1998a
	<i>Trichodina acuta</i> (Lom, 1961)	<i>Ameiurus nebulosus</i>	Nikolic et al., 2003
	<i>Trichodina</i> sp.	<i>Carassius gibelio</i> <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Nikolic et al., 2003 Cakic, 2002
	<i>Trichodinella epizootica</i> (Raabe, 1950)	<i>Lepomis gibbosus</i> <i>Ameiurus nebulosus</i>	Nikolic and Simonovic, 1999a,b Nikolic and Simonovic, 1999a,b
	<i>Trichodinella subtilis</i> (Lom, 1959)	<i>Ameiurus nebulosus</i>	Nikolic and Simonovic, 1999a,b
	<i>Balantidium</i> sp. (Claparède & Lachmann, 1858)*	<i>Carassius gibelio</i>	Cakic and Hristic, 1987
	<i>Apiosoma piscicola</i> var. <i>minor</i> (Blanchard, 1885)	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Nikolic and Simonovic, 1999a
	<i>Apiosoma piscicola piscicola</i> (Blanchard, 1885)	<i>Ameiurus nebulosus</i>	Nikolic and Simonovic, 1999b
Monogenea	<i>Gyrodactylus derjavini</i> (Mikailov, 1975)	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Nikolic and Simonovic, 1999b
	<i>Urocleidus similis</i> (Mueller, 1936)	<i>Lepomis gibbosus</i>	Kiskaroly and Tafro, 1988
Digenea	<i>Diplostomum spathaceum</i> (Nordmann, 1832)	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Nikolic and Simonovic, 1999b
	<i>Posthodiplostomum cuticula</i> (Nordmann, 1832)	<i>Carassius gibelio</i>	Cakic et al., 1998
Cestoda	<i>Triaenophorus nodulosus</i> (Pallas, 1781)	<i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i>	Cakic and Hristic, 1987
Nematoda	<i>Philometroides cyprini</i> (Ishii, 1931)*	<i>Carassius gibelio</i>	Cakic et al., 1998
	<i>Philometroides parasiluri</i> (Yamaguti, 1935)*	<i>Percottus glenii</i>	Nikolic et al., 2007
	<i>Schulmanella petruschewskii</i> (Schulman, 1948)	<i>Lepomis gibbosus</i>	Peric, 1994
	<i>Eustrongylides</i> sp. (Jägerskiöld, 1909)*	<i>Percottus glenii</i>	Moravec, 2008 (Nikolic et al., 2007)
Acanthocephala	<i>Acanthocephalus anquillae</i> (Müller, 1780)	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> <i>Ameiurus nebulosus</i>	Cakic, 2002
	<i>Neoechinorhynchus rutili</i> (Müller, 1780)	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Cakic and Hristic, 1987
	<i>Pomphorhynchus laevis</i> (Müller, 1776)		Babic, 1935
	<i>Pomphorhynchus bosniacus</i> (Kiskarolj & Cankovic, 1969)		Cakic, 2002
	<i>Metechinorhynchus salmonis</i> (Muller, 1780)		Cakic, 2002
	<i>Pseudoechinorhynchus borealis</i> (Linstow, 1901)		Cakic, 2002
Hirudinea	<i>Piscicola geometra</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	<i>Carassius gibelio</i>	Cakic et al., 1998
Crustacea	<i>Ergasilus sieboldi</i> (von Nordmann, 1832)*	<i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i> <i>Lepomis gibbosus</i>	Cakic and Hristic, 1987
	<i>Lernaea cyprinacea</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)*	<i>Hypophthalmichthys molitrix</i> <i>Lepomis gibbosus</i>	Cakic and Hristic, 1987 Cakic and Hristic, 1987
	<i>Sinergasilus polycolpus</i> (Markevich, 1940)*	<i>Hypophthalmichthys molitrix</i>	Cakic, 1986 Cakic et al., 1998

*A new parasite species in the ichthyoparasitofauna in Serbian open waters

Detailed data of parasite species records from seven examined invasive allochthonous fish species from Serbian open waters are presented in *Table 3*. Sampling localities are marked in *Figure 1*.

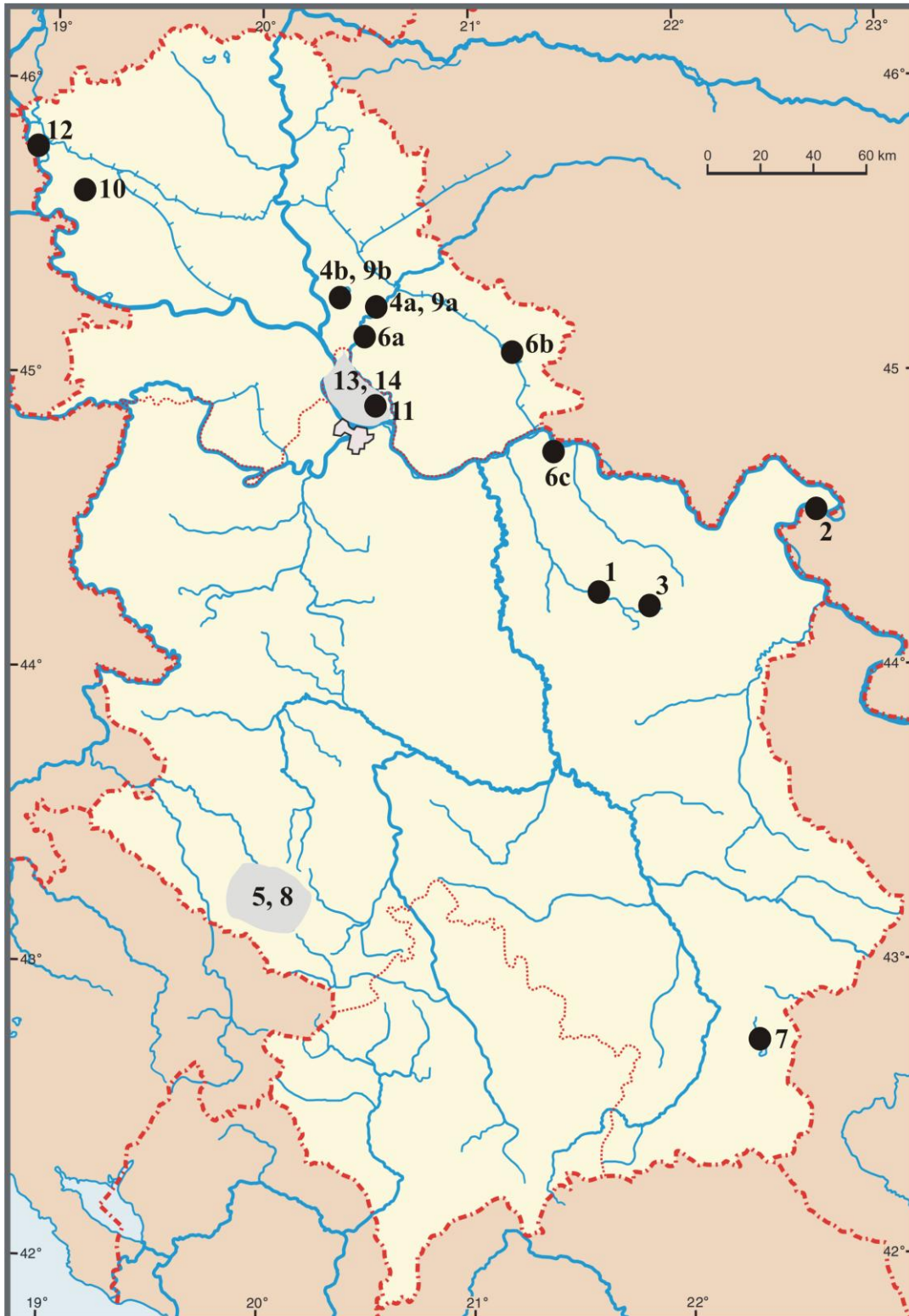


Figure 1. Map of sampling localities on Serbian surface waters. (Numbers in map are given in *Table 3*)

Table 3. Details about sampling of invasive fish species and their parasites

Cited reference	Sampling date and location	Symbol	GPS coordinates
Nikolic et al., 2010	1998, Krepoljin	1	N 44°16' 0", E 21°37' 0"E
Nikolic et al., 2007	2003, Vajuga near Kladovo	2	N 44°33'15.84", E 22°37'58.08"
Nikolic et al., 2006	1998, Žagubica	3	N 44°12'0", E 21°48'0"
Nikolic et al., 2003	1994, (a)Uzdin and (b)Ečka	4	N 45°12'10", E 20°37'7" N 45°19'4", E 20°26'20"
Cakic, 2002	October 1986 - May 1989, Uvac river basin on Sjenica-Pešter plateau	5	N 43°-43°30', E 19° 45'-20° 15'
Nikolic and Simonovic, 1999a	1991-1998, (a)Baranda (b)Vršački ritovi (c)Silver lake	6	N 45°5'4", E 20°26'22" N 45°9'23", E 21°10'11" N 44°45'36", E 21°27'0"
Nikolic and Simonovic, 1999b	1993, Vlasina lake	7	N 42°42', E 22°20'
Cakic et al., 1998	October 1986 - May 1989, waters of Sjenica-Pešter plateau	8	N 43°-43°30', E 19° 45'-20°15'
Nikolic and Simonovic, 1998a	1994, (a)Uzdin and (b)Ečka	9	N 45°12'10", E 20°37'7" N 45°19'4", E 20°26'20"
Nikolic and Simonovic, 1998b	1995, Svilojevo	10	N 45°39', E 19°4'
Peric, 1994	1993, Sibnica channel (Pancevacki rit wetland)	11	N 41°4'12", E 30° 8'59.99"
Kiskaroly and Tafro, 1988	1985-1987, Danube river (Channel system DTD)	12	N 45°45'27.24", E 19°0'35.96"
Cakic and Hristic, 1987	1984-1985, lowland channels of Pancevacki rit wetland	13	N 45° 2'46.91" - 44°52'19.25" E 20°22'33.80" - 20°35'0.82"
Cakic, 1986	1984-1985, waters of Pancevacki rit channels	14	N 45° 2'46.91" - 44°52'19.25" E 20°22'33.80" - 20°35'0.82"
Babic, 1935	Serbian part of Danube and Sava rivers		

Discussion

The Danube River is one of the main target areas for invasive fish species, as well as one of the most convenient ways for their dispersal. In the Danube River drainage area in Serbia 26 non-indigenous fishes have been recorded (Maletin et al., 1997; Simonovic and Nikolic, 1997; Simonovic, 2006).

One of the most adverse effects of the introduction of non-indigenous fish species on the native ones is associated with the introduction of exotic parasitic species. The unfavorable consequences of parasitism related with introduction of non-native fish species and spreading of parasites to native taxa have already been reported in Serbia (Cakic and Hristic, 1987; Cakic et al., 1998, 2001, 2004; Nikolic and Simonovic, 1998a,b, 1999a,b; Nikolic et al., 2003, 2006, 2007, 2010).

According to previous investigations in Serbia, the fish parasite fauna was supplemented by *Trichodina nobilis* (Ciliata), *Triaenophorus nodulosus* (Pallas, 1781) (Cestoda) and *Philometroides cyprini* (Nematoda) after the deliberate introduction of Asian fish species, such as Grass carp *Ctenopharyngodon idella*, Bighead carp *Hypophthalmichthys nobilis* (Richardson, 1845), silver carp *Hypophthalmichthys*

mollitrix (Valenciennes, 1844) into fish farms (Nikolic and Simonovic, 1998a) and invasion by *Philometroides parasiluri* (Yamaguti, 1935) and *Eustrongylides* sp. (Jägerskiöld, 1909) from *P. glenii* (Nikolic et al., 2007). Comparing with the results reported for the last 70 years (Djikanovic et al., 2012), eight parasitic species found in allochthonous fish are new for parasitofauna in the Serbian open water.

Ectoparasites of allochthonous fish species in Serbian open waters are examined. They can be detected as an outcome of fish juveniles' introduction or together with alien fish species. With fish juveniles several Asiatic ectoparasitic species were imported from the family of *Trichodinidae*, as a consequence of fish introduction in fishponds without previous health condition control (Nikolic and Simonovic, 1998a,b; Nikolic et al., 2007).

Endoparasites of allochthonous fish species in Serbian open waters have been the subject of a few hydrobiological investigations (Cakic et al., 1998, 2001, 2004). In relation to the growing concern about biological invasions in the Serbian section of the Danube River and interconnected ecosystems (Cakic et al., 1998, 2001, 2004; Simonovic et al., 1998, 2001; Simonovic, 2006) this work provides worthy information on the parasitofauna of non-indigenous fish species.

Metazoan parasites of *Neogobius* fishes (monkey goby *Neogobius fluviatilis* (Pallas, 1814), bighead goby *Ponticola kessleri* (Günther, 1861) and round goby *Neogobius melanostomus* (Pallas, 1814)) have been investigated in the Slovak section of the Danube River. Thirteen parasite species were identified, and the most prevalent parasites were *Pomphorhynchus laevis* (Acanthocephala) and glochidia of *Anodonta anatine*. The maximum parasite diversity was found in *N. fluviatilis* (Ondračkova et al., 2005). These finds are common to parasites in the Middle Danube basin. Gobiid fish (*Neogobius melanostomus* and *N. fluviatilis*) from the north-western Black Sea were analysed for presence of helminth species, and representatives from Cestoda (1), Trematoda (6), Nematoda (6) and Acanthocephala (3) have been reported (Kvach, 2005). In Serbian open waters no parasites for *Neogobius* fishes were observed. Parasitofauna of gobiid species in the Serbian part of the Danube River has not been investigated yet.

In the brown bullhead *Ameiurus nebulosus* some Trematodes from family Allocreadiinae and a few helminth parasites were found in the USA (Arnold, 1934; Krueger, 1954), while in the Serbian section of the Danube ectoparasites from the group Ciliophora and *Acanthocephalus anguillae* (Acanthocephala) (Cakic and Hristic, 1987; Kiskaroly and Tafro, 1988; Nikolic and Simonovic, 1998b, 1999a,b; Nikolic et al., 2003) have been recorded. *Piscicola geometra* (Hirudinea) was recorded in Prussian carp *Carassius gibelio* (Bloch, 1782) from a lake in Turkey (Arslan and Emiroglu, 2011). Prussian carp from the Srebarna Biosphere Reserve was infected with two trematode species (*Posthodiplostomum cuticola* and *Diplostomum rutili*) and two nematode species (*Contracaecum microcephalum* and *Raphidascaris acus*) (Shukerova, 2005). In the Serbian open waters, Prussian carp have been infected by *Posthodiplostomum cuticola* and *Philometroides cyprinid* and some ectoparasites (Ciliophora) (Cakic and Hristic, 1987; Nikolic and Simonovic, 1998a,b; Cakic et al., 2001; Nikolic et al., 2003, 2006).

Some Monogenean parasites (*Dactylogyrus suchengtai*, *D. hypophthalmichthys* and *D. scrjabini*) were recovered from the silver carp at a fish farm in Hungary (Molnar, 1984). In our study, one Ciliophora and two crustaceans were found for this fish (Cakic and Hristic, 1987; Cakic et al., 1998; Nikolic and Simonovic, 1998a). Intestinal lesions

in the Grass carp caused by infection of *Balantidium ctenopharyngodonis* (Protozoa: Ciliophora) were reported by Molnar and Reinhardt (1978). Species *Trichodina nobilis*, *Ergasilus sieboldi* and *Triaenophorus nodulosus* have been detected in this alien fish species in the Serbian section of the Danube River Basin (Nikolic and Simonovic, 1998a).

During the survey in Denmark, the Rainbow trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss* has been examined and 12 protozoans and 10 metazoan species were found (Buchmann and Bresciani, 1997). In Serbian surface waters, a diverse parasitofauna of rainbow trout has been detected (Babic, 1935; Cakic, 1992; Nikolic and Simonovic, 1999a,b; Nikolic et al., 2006, 2010). Helminth fauna of the Chinese sleeper (*Nippotaenia mogurndae*, *Asymphylodora* sp.) and *Lepomis gibbosus* (*Triaenophorus nodulosus*, *Proteocephalus percae*, Echinorhynchidae) have been reported (Košuthová et al., 2009). Two monogenean parasites were found on the gill filaments of the pumpkinseed *Lepomis gibbosus* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Sterud and Jorgensen, 2006). Some monogenean parasites of pumpkinseed from the Slovak part of the Danube River Basin have been collected (*Gyrodactylus* sp., *Onchocleidus similis*, *O. dispar* and *Actinocleidus recurvatus*) (Ondračková et al., 2011). Monogenea *Urocleidus similes*, Nematoda *Schulmanella petruschewskii*, two crustaceans (*Ergasilus sieboldi*, *Lernaea cyprinacea*) as well as one species from Ciliophora (*Trichodinella epizootica*) were identified for *Lepomis gibbosus* in our study (Cakic and Hristic, 1987; Kiskaroly and Tafro, 1988; Cakic et al., 1998; Nikolic and Simonovic, 1999a).

The cestode *Nippotaenia mogurndae* is reported for the Chinese sleeper *Perccottus glenii* (Perciformes: Odontobutidae) (Košuthová et al., 2004; Reshetnikov et al., 2011). Except this cestoda species, the parasite community consisted of *Trichodina domerguei* and of 3 species, *Diplostomum spathaceum* (metacercaria), *Echinochasmus spinosus* (met.), and *Eustrongylides excisus* (larvae) (Mierzejewska et al., 2012). The parasites of the *Perccottus glenii* were studied in different parts of Ukraine and 15 taxa of parasites were registered; among them were 1 species of Microsporidia, 5 species of ciliates, 2 species of cestodes, 2 species of trematodes, 2 species of nematodes, 1 species of acanthocephalan, 1 species of parasitic crustacean and 1 mollusk (glochidia) (Kvach et al., 2013). For this alien fish, two Nematodes have been recorded in Serbian open waters (*Philometroides parasiluri*, *Eustrongylides* sp.) (Nikolic et al., 2007; Moravec, 2008).

Generally, the helminth fauna of invasive fish species reported from the new territories is less rich than their native areas (Drake, 2003; Torchin et al., 2003).

The consequences of introducing pathogens or hosts into new geographical zones where certain parasites exist can affect the healthiness of native fish population (Blanc, 2001; Pegg et al., 2015). The impacts of alien fish introduction on the fish populations in open waters are several: Demographic impacts (the impacts on the survival of fish populations are rarely quantified, except in the particular case of lake ecosystems, or populations targeted for fishing or long-term scientific studies); Genetic impacts (genetic differences of the hosts could play a critical role in the nature and outcome of helminthiasis – Wakelin (1978, 1992), hybridization was also considered with introgression of the resistance character or selective rearing of the survivors of a given population (Blanc, 2001). One of the negative impacts of alien species on freshwater ecosystems is the introduction of alien infectious agents, representing one of the greatest risks associated with ecological implications of introduction of species (Britton, 2013; Britton et al., 2011). As such, topmouth gudgeon in Europe is a carrier of several

pathogens (Gozlan et al., 2005), posing a risk not only to freshwater aquatic species, as this threat has also expanded to marine fishes.

Usually, invasive species have less parasite richness than in their native habitats (Torchin et al., 2003). The release of parasites and pathogens is one of the conditions of successful invasion (Kvach et al., 2013).

Conclusion

The large presence of alien fish species and its parasites creates a serious threat for the stability of freshwater ecosystems and the survival of the native ichthyofauna. In the Serbian surface waters contribution of allochthonous fish species to the total species richness of ichthyofauna is 27.66%. Invasive species are often superior competitors in relation to the evolutionary isolated native species populations (Mills et al., 2004). Negative impacts on native species include predation, trophic competition, behavioural interference, hybridization, spread of novel parasites and diseases, alteration of food webs and modification of biochemical cycles (Mills et al., 2004; Cucherousset and Olden, 2011; Kalogianni et al., 2014).

Invasion of allochthonous fishes in the Danube River Basin in Serbia caused important changes in the native fish fauna composition and also enriched the fish parasite fauna.

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