

FEATURES OF THE PARASITIC SYSTEM FORMATION IN COMMON CARP IN THE AQUACULTURE OF THE NORTH-EASTERN AND EASTERN REGIONS OF UKRAINE

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Summary. The research aimed to determine the peculiarities of the formation of the parasitic system in common carp in the aquaculture of the North-Eastern and Eastern regions of Ukraine. According to the results of the research, 27 species of parasites were found in common carp (12 — protozoa, 6 — monogeneans, 3 — trematodes, 2 — cestodes, 4 — parasitic crustaceans). Three species (11.1%) of registered parasites were invasive. 22 species (81.5%) of detected common carp's parasites develop directly and 5 (18.5%) — with the participation of definitive and intermediate hosts. 26 species (96.3%) of common carp's parasitic fauna were found in crucian carp and 21 species (77.8%) in other coarse fish species (roach, rudd, bleak, perch). It has been established that among the protozoa, pathogens from the genera *Trichodina*, *Chilodonella*, and *Ichthyophthirius* were of epizootic importance for young common carp; *Eimeria carpellii*, *Ichthyobodo necator*, *Myxobolus ellipsoides*, and *Myxobolus dogieli* had relevance. The level of prevalence in common carp fingerlings during outbreaks of chylodonellosis was 72%, two-year-olds — 65%, three-year-olds — 27%, during outbreaks of ichthyofitiriosis — 45%, 56%, and 24%, respectively. Prevalence of *Trichodina acuta* and *Trichodina nigra* in common carp fingerlings was, respectively, 52% and 38%, *Ichthyobodo necator* — 16%, *Eimeria carpellii* — 22%, *Myxobolus ellipsoides*, and *Myxobolus dogieli* — 17–18%. Among the pathogens of helminthic diseases in the aquaculture, monogenetic suckers (*Dactylogyrus anchoratus*, *Dactylogyrus extensus*, *Dactylogyrus vastator*, *Gyrodactylus cyprini*, and *Gyrodactylus katharineri*), as well as cestodes (*Bothriocephalus acheilognathi* and *Khawia sinensis*) were the most epizootic significance for common carp. Prevalence of parasites from the genus *Dactylogyrus* reached 68–87% in fingerlings, from the genus *Gyrodactylus* — 21–36%. The highest level of *Bothriocephalus acheilognathi* infection (82%) was registered in fingerlings. The maximum prevalence of *Khawia sinensis* (62%) was observed in two-year-olds. Outbreaks of diseases caused by crustaceans *Lernaea cyprinacea* and *Argulus foliaceus* with a high level of prevalence have been reported in fish from fingerlings to three-year-olds. The level of prevalence of *Lernaea cyprinacea* was 69%, *Argulus foliaceus* — 22%

Keywords: parasitic system, protozoa, helminths, parasitic crustaceans, common carp, aquaculture

Introduction. The most common object of freshwater aquaculture in Ukraine is the common carp (*Cyprinus carpio* Linnaeus, 1758). It was bred by domestication of wild carp. This species of fish is resistant to adverse factors of the aquatic environment — does not die from the reduction of dissolved oxygen in water to 0.8–1.0 mg/dm³, can withstand high densities of placing, transportation. Common carp is quite resistant to a number of parasitic and infectious diseases. The temperature optimum for reproduction, nutrition and growth is 18–26°C. In the conditions of fish farms of Ukraine, common carp is grown mainly in the polyculture together with herbivorous species, which allows to make maximum use of the natural fodder base of reservoirs, because under such farming conditions fish species are not food competitors (Hrynzhewskyi, 1998; Andriushchenko and Alymov, 2008). However, high placing density with intensification of farming methods, hydrological links of ponds, the presence of aboriginal fish species, a large number of piscivorous birds provoke outbreaks of parasitic diseases and, as a consequence, reduced fish productivity. It should be noted that coarse fish species (crucian carp, roach, rudd, bleak, perch, etc.) are of great

importance in the formation of the center of invasions. These fish species are often reservoir of invasions and can be a source of infection and a cause of disease outbreaks (Davydov and Temnikhanov, 2003). There are many scientific works devoted to the study of parasitocenoses of industrial fish species in inland waters of Ukraine. However, the parasitic fauna of common carp differs in different regions. In addition, seasonal and age dynamics of infection of fish has its own characteristics (Davydov et al., 2005, 2011; Pukalo and Loboiko, 2005; Sachuk and Yuskiv, 2010; Katiukha and Vozniuk, 2016; Mandyhra and Zbozhynska, 2008). Separate studies have focused on the role of non-industrial ichthyofauna in the spread of pathogens (Katyukha and Orel, 2018).

The purpose of the study was to determine the peculiarities of the formation of the parasitic system in common carp in the aquaculture of the North-Eastern and Eastern regions of Ukraine. In this regard, the following tasks were set: to study the species composition of parasites, to determine the level of infection of fish, to study the age dynamics of infection, to identify epizootically significant species of parasites that can cause disease outbreaks.

Materials and methods. Fifteen specimens of each fish species and age groups were studied in a specialized laboratory of the National Scientific Center 'Institute of Experimental and Clinical Veterinary Medicine' (Kharkiv, Ukraine). Ichthyological material was taken in different seasons of the year from spawning, growing, feeding, and wintering ponds in specialized fish farms, as well as agricultural ponds of Kharkiv, Sumy, Poltava, and Donetsk regions.

Ichthyological analysis was performed by the method of incomplete helminthological autopsy according to Bykhovskaya-Pavlovskaya (1985) and Markevich (1951). Species affiliation of parasites was determined by the 'Keys to Parasites of Freshwater Fish of the Fauna of the USSR' (Bauer, 1984, 1985, 1987).

Prevalence of infection (PI, %) was determined by the formula:

$$PI = \frac{x}{y} \times 100\%$$

where: x — the number of fish in which parasites were found; y — the total number of studied fish.

Statistical processing of the obtained results was carried out following the recommendations on biometrics using the parametric Student's *t*-test (Van Emden, 2019).

Results and discussion. According to the results of the research (Table 1), 27 species of parasites were found in common carp: 12 species (44.4%) of protozoa, 6 (22.2%) — monogeneans, 3 (11.1%) — trematodes, 2 (7.4%) — cestodes, 4 (14.8%) — parasitic crustaceans.

Table 1 — Species composition of common carp's, crucian carp's, and coarse fish's parasites and places of their localization in the conditions of aquaculture of the North-Eastern and Eastern regions of Ukraine

No.	Parasite species	Localization	Fish species		
			Com- mon carp	Cru- cian carp	Other coarse fish (roach, rudd, bleak, perch)
1	* <i>Cryptobia branchialis</i> (Nie in Chen, 1956)	gills	+	+	+
2	<i>Ichthyobodo necator</i> (= <i>Costia necatrix</i>) (Henneguy, 1883)	gills, skin	+	+	+
3	<i>Eimeria carpelli</i> Leger et Stankovitch, 1921	intestine	+	+	+
4	<i>Myxobolus cyprini</i> Doflein, 1898	kidneys, muscles	+	+	+
5	<i>Myxobolus carassii</i> Klokacheva, 1914	gills, abdomen	+	+	+
6	<i>Myxobolus ellipsoides</i> Thélohan, 1892	all organs and tissues	+	+	+
7	<i>Myxobolus dogieli</i> Bykhovskaya-Pavlovskaya et Bykhovski, 1940	kidneys, intestine wall, gills	+	–	–
8	<i>Chilodonella piscicola</i> (Zacharias, 1894) Jankowski, 1980	gills, body surface	+	+	+
9	<i>Ichthyophthirius multifiliis</i> Fouquet, 1876	gills, body surface	+	+	+
10	<i>Trichodina acuta</i> Lom, 1961	gills, body surface	+	+	+
11	<i>Trichodina nigra</i> Lom, 1961	gills, body surface	+	+	+
12	<i>Trichodinella epizootica</i> (Raabe, 1950) Sramek-Husek, 1953	gills, body surface	+	+	+
13	<i>Dactylogyrus anchoratus</i> (Dujardin, 1845)	gills	+	+	–
14	<i>Dactylogyrus vastator</i> Nybelin, 1924	gills	+	+	–
15	<i>Dactylogyrus extensus</i> Mueller et Van Cleave, 1932	gills	+	+	–
16	<i>Gyrodactylus cyprini</i> Diarova, 1964	gills, body surface	+	+	–
17	<i>Gyrodactylus katharineri</i> Malmberg, 1964	gills, body surface	+	+	+
18	<i>Diplozoon paradoxum</i> von Nordmann, 1832	gills	+	+	+
19	<i>Diplostomum spathaceum</i> (Rudolphi, 1819) mtc	eyes	+	+	+
20	<i>Posthodiplostomum cuticola</i> (Nordmann, 1832) mtc	skin	+	+	+
21	<i>Ichthyocotylurus variegatus</i> (= <i>Tetracotyle variegata</i>) (Creplin, 1825) Odening, 1969 mtc	abdomen	+	+	+
22	* <i>Khawia sinensis</i> Hsü, 1935	intestine	+	+	+
23	* <i>Bothriocephalus acheilognathi</i> Yamaguti, 1934	intestine	+	+	+
24	<i>Philometra sanguinea</i> (Rudolphi, 1819)	fins	–	+	–
25	<i>Ergasilus sieboldi</i> von Nordmann, 1832	gills	+	+	–
26	<i>Ergasilus briani</i> Markevich, 1933	gills	+	+	+
27	<i>Lernaea cyprinacea</i> Linnaeus, 1758	skin	+	+	+
28	<i>Argulus foliaceus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	skin	+	+	+

Remarks: * — invasive species, mtc — metacercariae.

Only 3 species (11.1%) from the detected parasites are invasive species. It should be noted that 22 species (81.5%) of detected common carp's parasites develop directly and 5 (18.5%) — with the participation of definitive and intermediate hosts. Herewith, the fish is an additional (second intermediate) host in the life cycle of 3 species (11.1%) of parasites.

In common carp 18 species (66.7%) of the detected pathogens are parasites of the surface of the body, skin and gills, three species are parasites of the intestine, one species — a parasite of the eyes, one species — a parasite of the abdominal cavity. Representatives of the genus *Myxobolus* were found in various organs and tissues.

It was found that only one species from the genus *Myxobolus* showed specificity to the host: *M. dogieli* was found only in common carp. Representatives of the genus *Dactylogyrus* were found only in common carp and crucian carp. *G. katharineri* was found in all studied carp fish, while *G. cyprini* — only in common carp and crucian carp. It should be noted that nematodes of the genus *Philometra* were not detected in common carp, but a species-specific parasite *Ph. sanguinea* was detected in crucian carp.

Thus, according to the obtained data, it was established that 96.3% of common carp's parasitic fauna were found in crucian carp and 77.8% — in other coarse fish species (roach, rudd, bleak, perch). This fact must be taken into

account when planning preventive and anti-epizootic measures in the fight against parasitic diseases of common carp in aquaculture.

According to the results of studying the age dynamics of common carp infection with pathogens of protozoa infectious diseases, the data shown in Fig. 1 were obtained.

Thus, the data in Fig. 1 show that outbreaks of diseases caused by parasitic protozoa were recorded mainly in fingerlings and two-year-olds. Flagellates *C. branchialis* were found in 8–10% of fingerlings and two-year-olds, and *I. necator* mainly in fingerlings (16%), less often in two-year-olds (7%).

Sporozoa *M. cyprini* and *M. carassii* with almost the same prevalence of infection (7–10%) were registered in fish of both fingerlings and two-year-olds, while *M. ellipsoides* and *M. dogieli* were registered mainly in fingerlings (17–18%).

Outbreaks of eimeriosis (*E. carpelli*) were observed in 22% of common carp fingerlings, and only parasite carriage was recorded in older fish.

It should be noted that among all detected protozoa outbreaks of the diseases among three-year-old fish were registered when infection by pathogens *Ch. piscicola* and *I. multifiliis*. High levels of infection were observed both among fingerlings — 72% and 45%, among two-year-olds — 65% and 56%, and among three-year-olds — 27% and 24%, respectively.

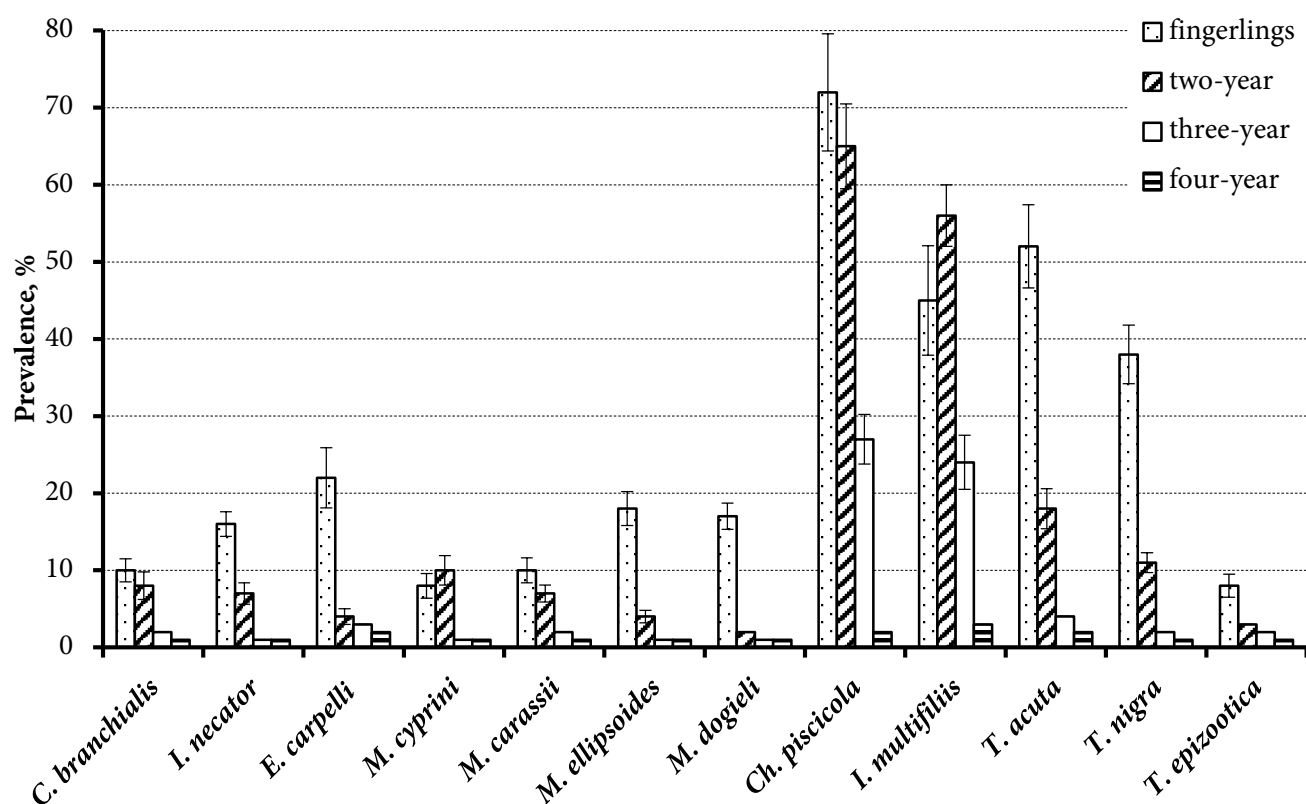


Figure 1. Age dynamics of infection of common carp with pathogens of protozooses during outbreaks of diseases in fish farms of the North-Eastern and Eastern regions of Ukraine

A different picture was observed when infecting fish with pathogens of other ciliophorosis — *T. acuta*, *T. nigra*, *T. epizootica*: the highest level of infection was registered in fingerlings — 52%, 38%, 8%, and the infection of two-year-olds was much lower — 18%, 11%, 3%, respectively. Infection of four-year-olds with protozoa was practically not registered, and the level of mean intensity testified to parasitic carriers of pathogens.

When studying the seasonal dynamics of fish infection with protozoa, it was found that infection of fingerlings and two-year-old common carp with myxosporidia (*M. cyprini*, *M. carassii*, *M. ellipsoides*, *M. dogieli*) was recorded throughout the summer and the maximum level of prevalence was recorded in autumn. In winter, the level of infection decreased. A similar pattern was observed when infecting fish with the causative agent of eimeriosis — *E. carpellii*.

Among fingerlings, the peak level of infection with parasites *I. necator* was recorded in July. An increase in the infection of fish with *T. nigra* and *T. epizootica* was observed in August. In August–September, the maximum infection of fingerlings and two-year-olds with *C. branchialis* was determined.

Outbreaks of ichthyofitiriosis infection (*I. multifiliis*) were more often registered in spawning ponds when growing young, as well as in the autumn among common carp of different age groups after transferring to winter ponds. The highest level of infection of fish with

C. piscicola and *T. acuta* was recorded in winter ponds from October to April.

Thus, according to the results of the conducted researches it was established that the pathogens from the genera *Trichodina*, *Chilodonella*, and *Ichthyophthirius* had the greatest epizootic significance for the young common carp; representatives of the genera *Eimeria* and *Ichthyobodo*, as well as some species from the genus *Myxobolus* were relevant. Fish of older age groups were parasitic carriers of protozoa, only species *C. piscicola* and *I. multifiliis* sometimes caused outbreaks of diseases under the high density of placing — in winter ponds.

The age dynamics of common carp infection with helminthiasis and crustaceosis pathogens during disease outbreaks in fish farms in the North-Eastern and Eastern regions of Ukraine is shown in Fig. 2.

The data in Fig. 2 show that outbreaks of dactylogyrosis and gyrodactylosis were recorded primarily in fingerlings, with prevalence by parasites of the genus *Dactylogyrus* reaching 68–87%, while prevalence by parasites of the genus *Gyrodactylus* in fingerlings — 21–36%. Older fish were parasitic carriers of pathogens. *D. paradoxum* monogeneans had no epizootic significance — they were recorded only sporadically.

Metacercariae of trematodes *P. cuticola*, *D. spathaceum*, *I. variegatum* were registered both in fingerlings and two-year-olds, but the level of prevalence ranged from 8–13%.

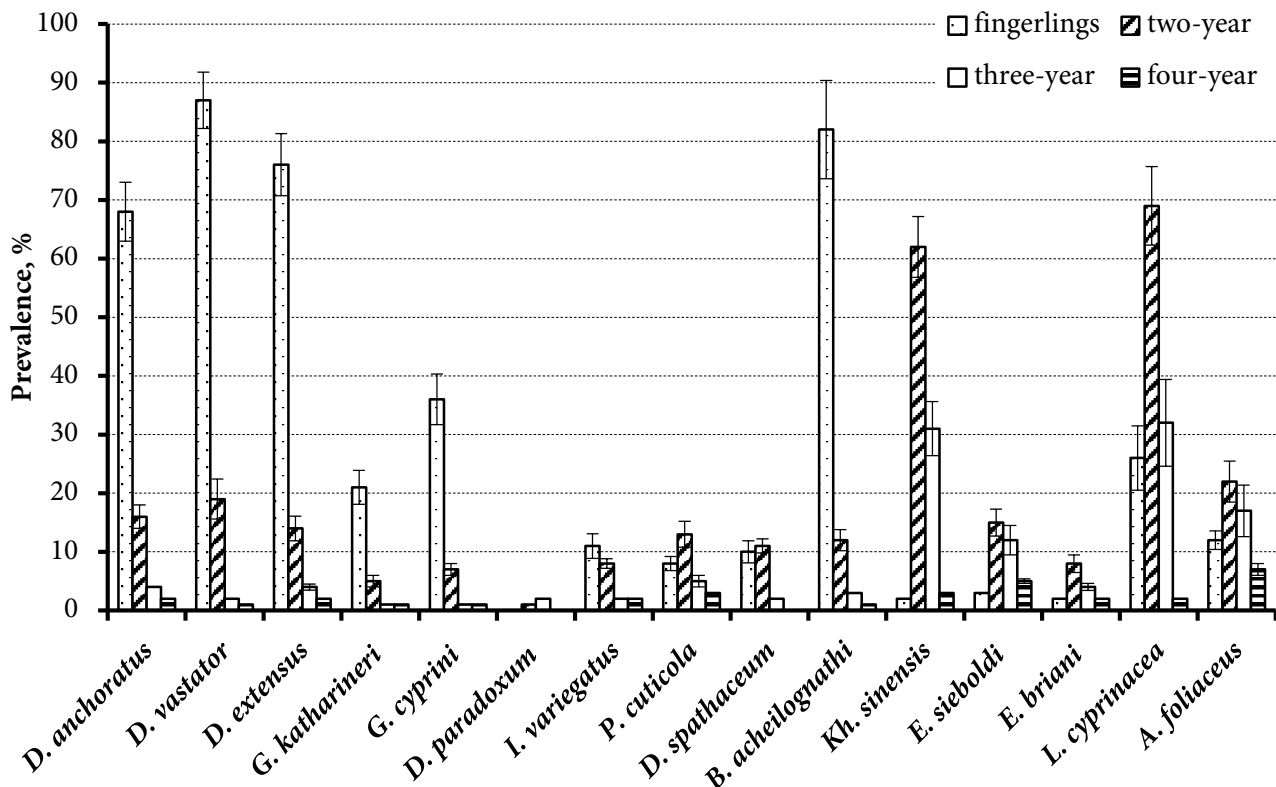


Figure 2. Age dynamics of infection of common carp with helminthic and crustacean pathogens in disease outbreaks in fish farms in the North-Eastern and Eastern regions of Ukraine

The opposite pattern was observed when common carp was infected with cestodes *B. acheilognathi* and *Kh. sinensis*. Thus, the highest level of infection with *B. acheilognathi* was registered in fingerlings — 82%, with an infection of two-year-olds no more than 12%.

Instead, the maximum prevalence with *Kh. sinensis* was registered in two-year-olds — 62%, while among these-year-olds the level of infection did not exceed 2%. A high level of infection with *Kh. sinensis* was registered in three-year-old fish — 31%. These cestodes have a complex cycle of development: for *B. acheilognathi* intermediate hosts are cyclops, and for *Kh. sinensis* — oligochaetes. Common carp in the first months of life has a planktonic type of food, and later — benthic, which explains the difference in the age dynamics of infection.

According to the obtained data, parasitic crustaceans were more often found in two-year-old fish. Thus, the highest level of prevalence of two-year-old common carp *L. cyprinacea* was 69%, *E. sieboldi* — 15%, *E. briani* — 8%, *A. foliaceus* — 22%, and fingerlings — 26%, 3%, 2%, 12%, respectively. High levels of *L. cyprinacea* and *A. foliaceus* infection were reported in unfavorable farms and among three-year-old fish — 32% and 17%, respectively.

The results of the analysis of the seasonal dynamics of fish infection with pathogens of monogenitosis showed some of its features during the year. Thus, the outbreak of infection of *D. anchoratus*, *D. extensus* were registered among fingerlings in June, in July the level of infection decreased slightly, but in August there was a sharp increase in prevalence to 68% and 76%, respectively. Another picture was observed with *D. vastator* infection: in June, the peak of infection was registered — up to 87%, then the prevalence decreased, but it increased again in September, but not more than 40%. As the water temperature decreased, the prevalence decreased. Pathogens *G. cyprini* and *G. katharineri*, on the contrary, were found mainly in fingerlings in the spring in winter ponds.

Infection with pathogens of trematode infections (*P. cuticola*, *D. spathaceum*, *I. variegatus*) was recorded throughout the growing season. The peak of infection was observed in the autumn. During the winter, the level of *P. cuticola* infection decreased, while the prevalence of *D. spathaceum* and *I. variegatus* did not change.

During the whole summer period, common carp infection with *B. acheilognathi* cestodes was also registered, and the prevalence gradually increased and gained maximum value in August–September. Another picture was observed during infection with cestodes *Kh. sinensis*: the first peak of the infection was observed in fingerlings in the spring, and after re-infection during the spring–summer period, the second peak of the infection was recorded - in two-year-olds, in the autumn.

The highest level of infection with parasitic crustaceans from the genera *Ergasilus* and *Lernaea* was recorded throughout the summer period with the maximum level

of prevalence in July–August. Crustaceans *A. foliaceus* were recorded on fish throughout the year, but the peak of infection was observed in June–July.

Thus, the results of the study showed that monogenetic suckers (*D. anchoratus*, *D. extensus*, *D. vastator*, *G. cyprini*, *G. katharineri*), cestodes (*B. acheilognathi*, *Kh. sinensis*), crustaceans (*L. cyprinacea* and *A. foliaceus*) had the greatest epizootic value in aquaculture for common carp.

Our results on the epizootic significance of the detected pathogens are confirmed by the data of other authors. Significant species diversity of freshwater fish parasites in natural hydroecosystems is considered harmless. However, under the conditions of artificial cultivation, many species of pathogens can cause epizooty, lead to pathologies in the body of fish, lead to a decrease in fish productivity.

First of all, such pathogens include protozoa, monogeneans and parasitic crustaceans (Mikheev, Pasternak and Valtonen, 2003; Wei, Li and Yu, 2013; Bastos Gomes et al., 2017; Molnár, 1996; Molnár and Székely, 2014; Lux, 1990). Invasive parasites play a significant role in the epizootology of parasitic diseases (Scholz, Kuchta and Williams, 2012; Oros, Hanzelová and Scholz, 2009). The increase in the number of piscivorous birds associated with environmental measures is contributing to the increase in the infection of common carp and other pond fish with trematode metacercariae.

Data on the epizootic significance of trematode infections are confirmed by other researchers (Ondracková et al., 2004; Jithila and Prasad, 2018; Georgieva et al., 2013). The obtained results on the infection of non-industrial fish species with pathogens of parasitic diseases dangerous to common carp, are consistent with the data of O. M. Davydov (Davydov and Temnikhanov, 2003; Davydov et al., 2011, 2012), according to which coarse fish can be a reservoir of a number of dangerous parasitic diseases such as ichthyofthiriosis, chylodonellosis, lerneosis, etc.

Conclusions. 1. In fish farms of the North-Eastern and Eastern regions of Ukraine, 27 species of parasites were found in common carp: 12 — protozoa, 6 — monogeneans, 3 — trematodes, 2 — cestodes, 4 — parasitic crustaceans. Three species (11.1%) of registered parasites were invasive. 22 species (81.5%) of detected common carp's parasites develop directly and 5 (18.5%) — with the participation of definitive and intermediate hosts. 26 species (96.3%) of common carp's parasitic fauna were found in crucian carp and 21 species (77.8%) in other coarse fish species (roach, rudd, bleak, perch).

2. It has been established that among the protozoa, pathogens from the genera *Trichodina*, *Chilodonella*, and *Ichthyophthirius* were of epizootic importance for young common carp; *Eimeria carpelli*, *Ichthyobodo necator*, *Myxobolus ellipsoides*, and *Myxobolus dogieli* had relevance. The level of prevalence in common carp

fingerlings during outbreaks of chylodonellosis was 72%, two-year-olds — 65%, three-year-olds — 27%, during outbreaks of ichthyofitiriosis — 45%, 56%, and 24%, respectively. Prevalence of *Trichodina acuta* and *Trichodina nigra* in common carp fingerlings was, respectively, 52% and 38%, *Ichthyobodo necator* — 16%, *Eimeria carpellii* — 22%, *Myxobolus ellipsoides*, and *Myxobolus dogieli* — 17–18%.

3. Among the pathogens of helminthic diseases in the aquaculture, monogenetic suckers (*Dactylogyrus anchoratus*, *Dactylogyrus extensus*, *Dactylogyrus vastator*, *Gyrodactylus cyprini*, and *Gyrodactylus katharineri*), as well as cestodes (*Bothriocephalus acheilognathi* and *Khawia sinensis*) were the most epizootic significance for common carp. Prevalence of parasites from the genus *Dactylogyrus* reached 68–87% in fingerlings, from the genus *Gyrodactylus* — 21–36%. The highest level of *Bothriocephalus acheilognathi* infection (82%) was registered in fingerlings. The maximum prevalence of *Khawia sinensis* (62%) was observed in two-year-olds.

4. Outbreaks of diseases caused by crustaceans *Lernaea cyprinacea* and *Argulus foliaceus* with a high level of prevalence have been reported in fish from fingerlings to three-year-olds. The level of prevalence of *Lernaea cyprinacea* was 69%, *Argulus foliaceus* — 22%.

Prospects for further research. The obtained results on the age and seasonal dynamics of infection allow the introduction of a set of treatment and prevention measures in the control of pathogens (Dunn and Hatcher, 2015). Thus, to combat monogenetic suckers and parasitic crustaceans, it is recommended to take preventive measures at the beginning of the growing season — in June among fish of all ages.

Therapeutic treatment of fish with larval trematodes is recommended twice — in July and in September among fingerlings and two-year-olds. The most effective period for intestinal cestodes treatment is August–September. Preventive treatment of fish of all ages with parasitic protozoa should be carried out after transferring fish to winter ponds.

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