

A STUDY ON THE POTENTIAL USE OF FISH  
NEMATODE, *paraphilometroides nemipteri*, AS  
BIOLOGICAL INDICATOR FOR THE MARINE FISH,  
*Nemipterus peronii* (Val.), AND OTHER RELEVANT  
PARASITES

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MASTER OF SCIENCE  
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A study on the potential use of fish nematode, *paraphilometroides nemipteri*, as biological indicator for the marine fish, *nemipterus peronii* (Val.), and other relevant parasites / Muhammad Hafiz Borkhanuddin



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MUHAMMAD HAFIZ BIN BORKHANUDDIN

Thesis Submitted in Fulfillment of the requirement for the  
Degree of Master of Science in the Institute of Tropical Aquaculture  
Universiti Malaysia Terengganu  
January 2010

MENT OF THESE PAPERS TO THE UNIVERSITY AND I AM PROUD TO  
SUBMIT THIS PROJECT AS PART OF MY DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

## AN ASSESSMENT ON THE POTENTIAL USE OF FISH MERMATODES

AS BIOLOGICAL INDICATOR FOR THE  
MONITORING OF WATER POLLUTION AND ITS FOLLOWING PARASITES

## DEDICATION

To my parents, Dr. Faizah bt. Shaharudin

*I dedicate this thesis to my mother, Norliah Mahmood and my father, Borkhanuddin Zainal; without their dedication and sacrifice during my study years at University, I would not had made it. This work also dedicated to my sisters and friends.*

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Malaysia Terengganu in fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

**A STUDY ON THE POTENTIAL USE OF FISH NEMATODE,  
*Paraphilometroides nemipteri*, AS BIOLOGICAL INDICATOR FOR THE  
MARINE FISH, *Nemipterus peronii*, AND OTHER RELEVANT PARASITES**

**MUHAMMAD HAFIZ BIN BORKHANUDDIN**

**January 2010**

**Chairperson : Prof. Dr. Faizah Bt Shaharom**

**Member : Dr. Zainudin Bin Bachok**

**Institute : Institute of Tropical Aquaculture (AKUATROP)**

Threadfin bream, and to a much lesser extent monocle breams, are an important component of commercial and artisanal fisheries of Indo-West Pacific region. The *Nemipterus peronii*, L., or 'kerisi', has high commercial value in Malaysia fish market. Analysis on landing trends of Nemipterids in the East Coast of Peninsular Malaysia shows that almost 50% of this group is *N. peronii*. However, Nemipterids, which is also one of the major demersal fish resources, has been exploited at 30% within a ten year basis. Continuous research on the inshore fisheries resources is necessary to obtain important information related to biology, habitat, feeding behavior, species composition, distribution, population structure, and seasonal fluctuation of commercially important

species. Base upon this fact, biological studies of the 'kerisi' seem to be important. Because of its benthic and carnivorous nature the 'kerisi' could be easily infected by various parasites from the environment. Knowledge of parasites fauna of the most commercially important fish, *N. peronii* seems to be important. However, there are very scant data on the 'kerisi' parasites, especially from Malaysia waters. The aim of this study was to use the marine nematode *Paraphilometroides nemipteri* as a potential biological indicator for *N. peronii* population stocks. Apart from that, this research was also conducted to survey the parasite fauna of 'kerisi' and to perform statistical analysis that of prevalence and mean intensity of the infected parasites.

The value of parasitic nematode, *P. nemipteri* of the bream or 'kerisi' *N. peronii* as biological tags for population stock identification is assessed. Seven hundred and ninety-three *N. peronii*, obtained from the nine most important landing ports in East Coast of Peninsular Malaysia. Univariate analysis was performed to evaluate the characteristics of the infections of *P. nemipteri* on *N. peronii* samples or sub-population level of the host. Only prevalence higher than 5% in at least one locality could be considered in the analysis. Measures were compared between areas studied. Identification of stocks is based on significant differences in the mean intensity of adult *P. nemipteri*. Analysis of *P. nemipteri* occurrence showed that this species appeared at all study site from Tumpat, Kelantan to Tg. Sedili in Johor state and within the endemic region of the worm.

Higher occurrence in particular area such as Dungun and Kemaman might indicate the presence of a single stock of population of *N. peronii* for these areas.

A total of one hundred and one (101) *N. peronii* were examined for the parasite fauna. This demersal fish were caught at Kuala Terengganu coastal waters via trawl in 2008. A total of nine different parasite species, one Digenea, two Monogenea, two Nematoda, one Acanthocephala, and three Crustacea, were found. Most Monogenea Digenea, a Nematoda, Acanthocephala, and Crustacea are known from a wide host range and specificity. Several of the encountered parasites occurred at a very high prevalence (> 30%), indicating that the studied host are most probably instrumental to complete the parasite life cycles in the area of investigation. Several of the encountered parasites occurred at a low prevalence (10% -20%) such as recorded for the *Lernanthropus* sp. and the *Serrasentis* sp. Parasitic fauna and the infection status presented herein is believed to be useful for further revelations of the community structure of marine fishes and fish host biology in Terengganu waters and generally on the East Coast of Peninsular Malaysia. Apart from that, occurrence of the parasites might be used effectively as biological indicator to assess or study biological parameters of the host infected as presented in this research.

Abstrak thesis yang dikemukakan kepada pihak Senat Universiti Malaysia Terengganu sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk Ijazah Master Sains

**KAJIAN POTENSI PENGGUNAAN NEMATOD MARIN,  
*Paraphilometroides nemipteri*, SEBAGAI INDIKATOR BIOLOGI  
KEPADA IKAN MARIN, *Nemipterus peronii*, DAN LAIN-LAIN RELEVAN  
PARASIT**

**MUHAMMAD HAFIZ BIN BORKHANUDDIN**

**Januari 2010**

**Pengerusi : Prof. Dr. Faizah Bt Shaharom**

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Kumpulan ikan kerisi, Nemipterid, merupakan komponen yang penting dalam industri perikanan komersial di kawasan Indo-Barat Pasifik. *Nemipterus peronii*, L., atau 'kerisi' merupakan stok ikan penting dan mempunyai nilai pasaran yang tinggi di Malaysia. Analisis penangkapan kumpulan ikan-ikan kerisi di Pantai Timur Semenanjung Malaysia menunjukkan 50% daripada ikan kerisi yang ditangkap adalah species *N. peronii*. Walaupun begitu, kumpulan ikan Nemipterid, telah dieksplotasi pada kadar 30% dalam tempoh masa sepuluh tahun. Kajian yang berterusan dalam industri sumber perikanan pantai adalah perlu bagi mendapatkan informasi penting berkaitan dengan biologi, habitat, tabiat pemakanan, komposisi spesies, taburan, struktur populasi, dan fluktuaasi

bermusim bagi spesies penting ini. Berdasarkan pada kenyataan ini, kajian biologi ikan kerisi adalah dilihat sebagai penting. Oleh kerana kecenderungan ikan kerisi untuk hidup di kawasan dasar laut dan tabiat pemakanannya yang karnivor, spesies ini mudah dijangkiti oleh pelbagai parasit dari persekitaran. Oleh yang demikian, pemahaman mengenai parasit pada ikan kerisi adalah penting. Walau bagaimanapun, tidak banyak data yang boleh diperolehi mengenai parasit ikan ini terutamanya dari Perairan Malaysia. Oleh yang demikian, tujuan kajian ini dijalankan dalam untuk menyelidik potensi penggunaan nematod marin *Paraphilometroides nemipteri* sebagai indikator biologi untuk mengetahui stok populasi ikan kerisi, *N. peronii*. Selain itu, kajian ini juga dijalankan untuk menyenaraikan fauna parasit ikan kerisi disamping mengadakan analisis statistik iaitu peratusan jangkitan dan kepadatan purata parasit yang dijumpai.

Kesesuaian parasit nematode, *P. nemipteri* pada ikan kerisi, *N. peronii* sebagai indikator biologi untuk pengenalpastian populasi stok dinilai. Tujuh ratus dan sembilan puluh tiga (793) *N. peronii* di dapatkan dari sembilan pusat pendaratan ikan di sepanjang Pantai Timur Semenanjung Malaysia. Analisis 'univariate' dijalankan untuk menilai cirri-ciri jangkitan *P. nemipteri* kepada sampel atau sub-populasi *N. peronii*. Hanya peratusan jangkitan yang tinggi dari 5% dikira dalam analisis ini. Penilaian ini seterusnya dibandingkan bagi kesemua lokasi kajian. Pengenalpastian stok populasi adalah berdasarkan

perbezaan signifikan peratusan jangkitan dan kepadatan purata *P. nemipteri* dewasa. Kehadiran *P. nemipteri* direkodkan pada semua lokasi kajian iaitu dari Tumpat, Kelantan sehingga ke Tg. Sedili, Johor menunjukkan ikan kerisi ini berada di dalam kawasan endemik parasit ini. Peratusan jangkitan yang tinggi di setengah-setengah lokasi kemungkinan menunjukkan kehadiran populasi tunggal *N. peronii* di kawasan berkenaan.

Sejumlah satu ratus dan satu (101) ekor *N. peronii* diperiksa bagi mendapatkan parasit fauna ikan ini. Sampel ikan ini ditangkap di perairan Kuala Terengganu menggunakan pukat tunda pada 2008. Sembilan jenis spesies parasit dijumpai iaitu, satu *Digenea*, dua *Monogenea*, dua *Nematode*, satu *Acanthocephala*, dan tiga *Crustacea*. Kebanyakan parasit seperti *Monogenea*, *Digenea*, satu spesies *Nematode*, *Acanthocephala*, dan *Crustacea* yang diperolehi di ketahui dari pelbagai jenis perumah sebelum ini dan tiada spesifik lokasi jangkitan. Beberapa jenis parasit yang dijumpai merekodkan peratusan jangkitan yang tinggi (> 30%), menunjukkan ikan kerisi ini penting bagi parasit-parasit ini untuk melengkapkan kitar hidup mereka di lautan. Walau bagaimanapun, beberapa jenis parasit juga menunjukkan kadar peratusan yang rendah (10% – 20%) seperti yang direkodkan oleh *Lernanthropus* sp. dan *Serrasantis* sp. Parasit fauna dan status jangkitan yang di laporkan dalam kajian ini adalah dipercayai berguna pada masa akan datang bagi merungkai struktur komuniti ikan laut dan biologi ikan perumah di Perairan Terengganu dan di Pantai Timur

Semenanjung Malaysia secara amnya. Selain itu, kehadiran parasit juga dilihat sebagai mampu digunakan sebagai indikator biologi untuk menilai parameter biologi perumah yang dijangkiti sebagaimana yang direkodkan dalam kajian ini.