

THERSITINA GASTEROSTEI /COPEPODA/ FACTOR OF THE STICKLEBACK
SELECTION IN PUCK BAY

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From the beginning of June to mid July 1992 in the beach of Puck a large number of dead stickleback /*Gasterosteus aculeatus*/ were being observed. There were very few fishes in the shore water; they were weak enough to be taken out by hand. The sticklebacks found were 5-8 cm long /mean length 6.5 cm/. Females prevailed and they were just before or in the course of spawning. 90 stickleback individuals were selected at random to be investigated in the point of view of parasitology. The following parasites were found on the fish: *Glugea anomala* /Moniez, 1887/, *Diplostomum spathaceum* /Rudolphi, 1819/, *Apatemon annuligerum* /Nordmann, 1832/, *Schistocephalus solidus* /Müller, 1776/ and *Thersitina gasterostei* /Pagenstecher, 1861/. Except for *Thersitina gasterostei* the extensity and intensity invasion of particulate parasite species was close to summer norm in the last three years i. e. 100% at the intensity of 50-150 specimens. The parasite was found under the posterior part of the gill operculum, clasping the mucus that covers the skin. May and June high temperatures may have caused favourable conditions for this parasite reproduction and O₂ content drop in the water. The investigated sticklebacks' gill cavities were mostly filled with Copepoda. Due to much change in the environment *Thersitina gasterostei* happened to become a natural selection factor of stickleback in the examine part of Puck Bay.