



# Marine fish parasites in the Cat Ba Archipelago, Vietnam: the results of 2010-2023 field surveys

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**Abstract** Between 2010 and 2023, a longitudinal study was undertaken to uncover the diversity of the parasite fauna of marine fishes in the Cat Ba Archipelago, a world biosphere reserve, in Vietnam. A total of 1,042 specimens representing 80 different fish species were collected and examined. Of these, 68 fish species, represented by 994 specimens (95.39%), were infected with parasites. A total of 162 parasitic species were discovered, including 54 trematodes,

37 monogeneans, 27 crustaceans, 15 myxozoans, 10 acanthocephalans, 10 nematodes, 7 cestodes, and 2 hirudineans. Over the course of the survey, twenty new species were described, including 7 acanthocephalans and 13 trematodes. Additionally, twenty species were recorded for the first time from the Cat Ba Archipelago and twenty-two species had new host records reported. The prevalence and mean intensity of parasite infection were found to be unaffected by season. These data on the parasitic fauna of Cat Ba Archipelago not only expand our knowledge of the diversity of Vietnam, but also provide strong baseline data for measuring future change resulting from environmental perturbations.

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## Introduction

Cat Ba Archipelago, located along the southeastern edge of Lan Ha Bay in Northern Vietnam, comprises 367 islands spread across an area of nearly 300 km<sup>2</sup> (Thanh et al., 2015). The largest island, Cat Ba Island, covers an area of 260 km<sup>2</sup>. Situated at the heart of the island is Cat Ba National Park, encompassing 109 km<sup>2</sup> of land area and an additional 52 km<sup>2</sup> of inshore waters and mangrove-covered tidal zones. The park was recognized by UNESCO in 2004 as a world network biosphere reserve. Together with Halong Bay, Cat Ba Archipelago forms spectacular karst landscapes, characterized by limestone cones and towers submerged within the sea (Thung et al. 2019).

Within the archipelago, there are seven distinct ecosystems present on the limestone islands, namely tropical rainforest, cave, mangrove, tidal, salt lake, coral, and soft bottom systems. This ecological diversity contributes to the rich biodiversity found within the region. A total of 4,622 species have been recorded within the Cat Ba Archipelago and adjacent areas, including 11 freshwater and 361 marine fishes (Thung et al., 2019). However, Thung et al. (2019) did not document the parasite species diversity on and within these fishes, although several publications of endo- and ecto-parasites are available, e.g. Amin and Ha (2011), Garasev et al. (2011a, b), Amin et al. (2011a, b, c, 2018), Dmitrieva et al. (2013, 2018), Kazachenko et al. (2014a, b, 2017), Besprozvannykh et al. (2015, 2016, 2017, 2018), Atopkin et al. (2017a, b). Therefore, within this paper, we provide a more robust sampling of the ecto- and endo-parasite diversity of marine fishes within the Cat Ba Archipelago conducted over 13 years (2010-2023).

## Materials and methods

### Fish sampling

Fish samples were collected throughout the Cat Ba Archipelago on nine occasions, seven times in the dry season (March-April) and twice in the rainy season (September-October) between 2010 and 2023. Fish samples were purchased alive from the local fishery, euthanized immediately with benxocaine (100 mg/l), placed individually in polythene bags, kept in an ice box, and carried fresh to the laboratory. Each fish was identified to species according to Huong (2001), Phung (2001), Thi (2008), Allen (2009) and also by data on FishBase (<https://www.fishbase.se/>).

### Sample collecting

The skin, fins, scales, eyes, mouth, oral cavity, nostril, intestine, stomach, kidney, gall bladder, and muscle of fish hosts were thoroughly examined for the presence of parasites under an Olympus SZ61 stereomicroscope. Additionally, smears obtained from cysts on various organs, e.g. bile of gall bladder, contents of the urinary bladder, and muscle tissues, were examined on an Olympus CH40 microscope to detect myxozoa and protistan parasites. Parasites were collected,

fixed, and preserved following standard procedures described by Buchmann (2007).

### Parasite identification

For morphological identification, permanent mounts were prepared following standard methods for trematodes, monogeneans, cestodes, acanthocephalans, and nematodes (Kritsky et al., 1978; Buchmann, 2007; Hoffman, 1999). Crustaceans (copepods, isopods) were cleared in lactic acid before dehydration and microscopical examination (Kabata, 1979). Hirudinea were observed with a dissecting microscope and internal anatomy was observed through histological sections prepared following the methods of Sawyer et al. (1975). Smear preparations for myxozoa and protistan parasites were conducted according to Lom & Arthur (1989). To supplement light microscope examination, the external morphology of acanthocephalans and nematodes were also imaged on a scanning electron microscope (FEI X L30 ESEMFE) (Amin & Ha, 2011; Hien et al., 2021).

The taxonomic identification of some parasites was also based on the molecular and phylogenetic analysis. DNA from parasite specimens were extracted using a Qiagen™ (Valencia, California, USA) DNeasy® Tissue Kit, or Hot-SHOT technique (Truett et al., 2000); and target genes were amplified using appropriate primers. The COI, 18S, ITS1-5.8S-ITS2, and 28S genes of acanthocephalans were amplified using the following primers LCO1490 (5'-GGT CAA CAA ATC ATA AAG ATA TTG G-3') (forward) and HC02198 (5'-TAA ACT TCA GGG TGA CCA AAA AAT CA-3') (reverse) (Folmer et al., 1994) for the COI gene; Worm A (5'-GCG AAT GGC TCA TTA AAT CAG-3') and 1270R (5'-CCG TCA ATT CCT TTA AGT-3') (Littlewood & Olson, 2001) for the 18S gene; BD1 (5'-GTC GTA ACA AGG TTT CCG TA-3') and BD2 (5'-TAT GCT TAA ATT CAG CGG GT-3') (Galazzo et al., 2002) for the ITS1-5.8S-ITS2 region; L300F (5'-CAA GTA CCG TGA GGG AAA GTT G-3') and ECD2 (5'-CCT TGG TCC GTG TTT CAA GAC GGG-3') (Littlewood et al., 2000) for the 28S gene. For trematodes, various genes, e.g. 18S rDNA, 28S rDNA, and ITS1-5.8S-ITS2 (Atopkin et al. 2017a,b; Besprozvannykh et al. 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018) were amplified by the primer sets 18S-E (5'-CCG AAT TCG TCG ACA ACC TGG TTG ATC CTG CCA GT-3'), 18S-F (5'-CCA GCT TGA TCC

**Table 1** Parasite group prevalence from Fishes sampled from Cat Ba Archipelago.

Fish species	Number examined	Parasite group (No. infection/no. parasites)							
		Acantho-cephalan	Ces-todes	Tremato-des	Mono-genean	Nema-toda	Hiru-dinea	Crusta-cean	Myxo-zoa
I									
<b>ACANTHURIFORMES</b>									
<b>1 Leognathidae Gill</b>									
1 <i>Aurigequula fasciata</i> (Lacépède)	5	4/7			1/1				
2 <i>Equulites rivulatus</i> (Temminck & Schlegel)	3						1/1		
3 <i>Photolateralis stercorarius</i> (Evermann & Seale)	1								
<b>2 Siganiidae Richardson</b>									
4 <i>Siganus fuscescens</i> (Houttuyn)	64			13/111	53/520	11/58		2/2	
II									
<b>ANGUILLIFORMES</b>									
<b>3 Anguillidae Rafinesque</b>									
5 <i>Anguilla marmorata</i> Quoy & Gaimard	5								
<b>4 Muraenesocidae Kaup</b>									
6 <i>Muraenesox cinereus</i> (Forsskål)	38		2/7	9/45		9/163		12/82	
III									
<b>AULOPIFORMES</b>									
<b>5 Synodontidae Gill</b>									
7 <i>Saurida tumbil</i> (Bloch)	10			1/3					
IV									
<b>BELONIFORMES</b>									
<b>6 Belonidae Bonaparte</b>									
8 <i>Ablennes hians</i> (Valenciennes)	20								
9 <i>Strongylura leiura</i> (Bleeker)	1				1/2				
10 <i>Strongylura strongylura</i> (van Hasselt)	8	3/5		3/19	7/65			3/9	
11 <i>Xenentodon cancila</i> (Hamilton)	4				1/5				
<b>7 Hemiramphidae Gill</b>									
12 <i>Hemiramphus far</i> (Forsskål)	5			4/9	5/35				1

Table 1 (continued)

	Fish species	Number examined	Parasite group (No. infection/no. parasites)							
			Acantho-cephalan	Ces-todes	Tremato-des	Mono-genean	Nema-toda	Hiru-dinea	Crusta-cean	Myxo-zoa
13	<i>Hemirhamphus marginatus</i> (Forsskål)	15			2/3	10/51				3
14	<i>Hyporhamphus quoyi</i> (Valenciennes)	28	3/5			7/48				
15	<i>Rhynchorhamphus georgii</i> (Valenciennes)	61		2/3		11/22				
V	CARANGARIA incertae sedis									
8	<b>Sphyraenidae Rafinesque</b>									
16	<i>Sphyraena obtusata</i> Cuvier	10		1/2		2/2			2/5	
9	<b>Polynemidae Rafinesque</b>									
17	<i>Leptomelanosoma indicum</i> (Shaw)	2	1/4		1/35				1/3	
VI	CENTRARCHIFORMES									
10	<b>Teraponitidae Richardson</b>									
18	<i>Terapon jarbua</i> (Forsskål)	16				2/26			1/3	
11	<b>Tetraodontidae Richardson</b>									
19	<i>Terapon theraps</i> Cuvier	2			1/3	1/1				
VII	CLUPEIFORMES									
12	<b>Dorosomatidae Gill</b>									
20	<i>Anodontostoma chacunda</i> (Hamilton)	3			2/10					
21	<i>Clupanodon</i> sp.	5								
22	<i>Tenuulosa thibaudeaui</i> (Durand)	10				3/38				
13	<b>Engraulidae Gill</b>									
23	<i>Coilia rebmitschii</i> Bleeker	10				4/5				
24	<i>Thryssa dussumieri</i> (Valenciennes)	17				5/13			5/15	
14	<b>Pristigasteridae Bleeker</b>									

Table 1 (continued)

	Fish species	Number examined	Parasite group (No. infection/no. parasites)										
			Acantho-cephalan	Ces-todes	Tremato-des	Mono-genean	Nema-toda	Hiru-dinea	Crusta-cean	Myxo-zoa			
25	<i>Ilisha elongata</i> (Anonymous [Bennett])	2			1/25		1/1						
26	<i>Ilisha megaloptera</i> (Swainson)	5				4/41							
VIII	EUPERCARIA <i>incertae sedis</i>												
15	<b>Gerreidae Bleeker</b>												
27	<i>Gerres filamentosus</i> Cuvier	8				2/50					1/2		
28	<i>Gerres oyena</i> (Forsskål)	5											
16	<b>Malacanthidae Poey</b>												
29	<i>Branchiostegus japonicus</i> (Houttuyn)	5											
17	<b>Nemipteridae Regan</b>												
30	<i>Nemipterus japonicus</i> (Bloch)	15		1/5	1/1	9/309	2/4						13
18	<b>Sciaenidae Cuvier</b>												
31	<i>Argyrosomus japonicus</i> (Temminck & Schlegel)	12		2/7	3/4	11/52	4/24				4/13		
32	<i>Nibea albiflora</i> (Richardson)	8	3/54	1/1	5/26	5/42	2/8				1/1		
33	<i>Nibea soldado</i> (Lacépède)	1											
34	<i>Johnius belangerii</i> (Cuvier)	15	2/7		1/1						4/5		
35	<i>Johnius carouna</i> (Cuvier)	5		1/5	3/7	3/4	3/9						
36	<i>Otolithes ruber</i> (Bloch & Schneider)	5	3/5								1/2		
19	<b>Sillaginidae Richardson</b>												
37	<i>Sillago sihama</i> (Forsskål)	14			8/53	13/411	1/1						
20	<b>Sparidae Rafinesque</b>												
38	<i>Acanthopagrus latus</i> (Houttuyn)	3			3/31							1/3	
IX	GONORYNCHIFORMES												

Table 1 (continued)

Fish species	Number examined	Parasite group (No. infection/no. parasites)							
		Acanthocephalan	Ces-todes	Tremato-des	Mono-genean	Nema-toda	Hiru-dinea	Crusta-cean	Myxo-zoa
<b>21 Chanidae Günther</b>									
<i>Chanos chanos</i> (Forskål)	1								
<b>X HOLOCENTRIFORMES</b>									
<b>22 Holocentridae Bonaparte</b>									
<i>Sargocentron rubrum</i> (Forskål)	20		4/4	12/153					
<b>XI MUGILIFORMES</b>									
<b>23 Mugilidae Jarocki</b>									
<i>Crenimugil heterocheilos</i> (Bleeker)	10	1/3	3/3	4/157					
<i>Crenimugil seheli</i> (Fabricius)	41		26/473	1/4					
<i>Ellocheilus vaigiensis</i> (Quoy & Gaimard)	3	1/9	1/52	2/38					
<i>Liza longimanus</i> (Günther)	3	1/1	2/53						
<i>Mugil cephalus</i> Linnaeus	35	2/2	11/151	10/370		5/13	7/10		
<i>Osteomugil cunnesius</i> (Valenciennes)	18		5/65	1/50	1/1		1/4	5	
<i>Osteomugil engeli</i> (Bleeker)	95	1/2	49/592	9/80			1/1	15	
<i>Osteomugil speigleri</i> (Bleeker)	36		1/1						
<i>Planiliza affinis</i> (Günther)	1			1/1					
<i>Planiliza haematocheilus</i> (Temminck & Schlegel)	3	1/1	3/11						
<i>Planiliza melinoptera</i> (Valenciennes)	83		11/35	17/37			1/2		
<i>Planiliza planiceps</i> (Valenciennes)	3		2/138	1/1					
<i>Planiliza subviridis</i> (Valenciennes)	31	10/20	22/240	10/60					13
<b>XII MULLIFORMES</b>									
<b>24 Mullidae Rafinesque</b>									

Table 1 (continued)

	Fish species	Number examined	Parasite group (No. infection/no. parasites)									
			Acantho-cephalan	Ces-todes	Tremato-des	Mono-genean	Nema-toda	Hiru-dinea	Crusta-cean	Myxo-zoa		
54	<i>Upeneus tragula</i> Richardson	10				5/95					5/13	
XIII	MYLJOBATIFORMES											
25	<b>Dasyatidae Jordan &amp; Gilbert</b>											
55	<i>Hemitrygon akajei</i> (Müller & Henle)	1										
XIV	SCOMBRIFORMES											
26	<b>Ariommatidae Haedrich</b>											
56	<i>Ariomma indica</i> (Day)	10		5/14	4/12		1/1					
27	<b>Scombridae Rafinesque</b>											
57	<i>Scomberomorus commerson</i> (Lacépède)	12			1/1		11/91					4
28	<b>Trichiuridae Rafinesque</b>											
58	<i>Trichiurus lepturus</i> Linnaeus	20		3/30	2/3		8/11	6/21			4/4	
XV	SILURIFORMES											
29	<b>Plotosidae Bleeker</b>											
59	<i>Plotosus lineatus</i> (Thunberg)	10	10/350					1/1			1/2	
XVI	PERCIFORMES											
30	<b>Carangidae Rafinesque</b>											
60	<i>Alepes djedaba</i> (Forsskål)	15			10/134		6/69					
61	<i>Atropus atropos</i> (Bloch & Schneider)	5			1/5						1/1	
62	<i>Atule mate</i> (Cuvier)	10			7/45							
63	<i>Decapterus mariuadi</i> (Temminck & Schlegel)	5										
64	<i>Decapterus russelli</i> (Rüppell)	10					2/2				1/5	
65	<i>Megalaspis cordyla</i> (Linnaeus)	5					5/65					2

Table 1 (continued)

	Fish species	Number examined	Parasite group (No. infection/no. parasites)								
			Acantho-cephalan	Ces-todes	Tremato-des	Mono-genean	Nema-toda	Hiru-dinea	Crusta-cean	Myxo-zoa	
66	<i>Scomberoides commersonianus</i> Lacépède	9		1/1	5/76	4/23	1/1			2/2	
67	<i>Selar crumenophthalmus</i> (Bloch)	5			3/24	2/2					
68	<i>Selaroides leptolepis</i> (Cuvier)	3			1/1		2/6				
69	<i>Parastromateus niger</i> (Bloch)	5			3/6						
<b>31</b>	<b>Platycephalidae Swainson</b>										
70	<i>Platycephalus indicus</i> (Linnaeus)	23	1/5	1/1	5/24	4/82	1/2			1/4	7
<b>32</b>	<b>Scatophagidae Gill</b>										
71	<i>Scatophagus argus</i> (Linnaeus)	7								1/2	
<b>33</b>	<b>Serranidae Swainson</b>										
72	<i>Diploprion bifasciatum</i> Cuvier	12								6/12	
73	<i>Epinephelus bleekeri</i> (Vaillant)	1									
74	<i>Epinephelus sexfasciatus</i> (Valenciennes)	5			1/2	5/59					
75	<i>Epinephelus trophis</i> Randall & Allen	2									
<b>34</b>	<b>Scorpaenidae Risso</b>										
76	<i>Pterois russelii</i> Bennett	1									
XVII	PLEURONECTIFORMES										
<b>35</b>	<b>Cynoglossidae Jordan</b>										
77	<i>Cynoglossus bilineatus</i> (Lacépède)	9								1/1	
XVIII	TETRAODONTIFORMES										
<b>37</b>	<b>Monacanthidae Nardo</b>										



**Table 1** (continued)

Fish species	Number examined	Parasite group (No. infection/no. parasites)									
		Acantho-cephalan	Ces-todes	Tremato-des	Mono-genean	Nema-toda	Hiru-dinea	Crusta-cean	Myxo-zoa		
78 <i>Aluterus monoceros</i> (Linnaeus)	1		1/1								
79 <i>Monacanthus chinensis</i> (Osbeck)	4		1/1				4/14				
<b>38 Tetraodontidae Bonaparte</b>											
80 <i>Lagocephalus lunaris</i> (Bloch & Schneider)	5		1/1	2/60	1/1		1/1				
<b>Total</b>	1,042	47/480	19/73	251/2,604	280/3,193	47/302	6/15	76/222			63/-

TTC TGC AGG TTC ACC TAC-3') for the 18S gene (Littlewood & Olson, 2001), DIG12 (5'-AAG CAT ATC ACT AAG CGG-3') and 1500R (5'-GCT ATC CTG AGG GAA ACT TCG-3') for the 28S gene (Tkach et al., 2003), and ITSF (5'-CGC CCG TCG CTA CTA CCG ATT G-3') (Andres et al., 2014) and S4R (5'-TAT GCT TAA ATT CAG CGG GT-3') for the ITS1-5.8S-ITS2 fragment (Besprozvannykh et al., 2019). The nucleotide sequences were assembled manually and aligned by specific software. Reconstruction of the phylogenetic relationship was performed using data of other closely related parasitic species available in the GenBank database.

### Statistical analysis

Data were entered into an Excel worksheet (Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, Washington) and analyzed using STATA/IC 12 (Stata Corp LP, College Station, TX). Parasites count data from fish samples were transformed to binomial data. Fish with infection of any parasite species was coded to "1" and uninfected fish was coded to "0". Parasite infections of fishes were analyzed using logistic regressions, with fish species, fish family, fish order, and season as predictors after adjusting for groups of fish collected from a single fish haul and collection times. Differences with P-values below 0.05 were considered significant.

## Results

### Fish host diversity and parasite prevalence

In total, 1,042 marine fish specimens, representing 80 species of 38 genera and 17 orders were collected and examined (Table 1). Perciformes was the most diverse order sampled with 16 species, followed closely by Mugiliformes with 13 species; the remaining 15 orders were represented by one to eight species each (Table 1). Mugilidae and Carangidae were the most diverse families, comprising 13 and 10 species, respectively. The number of species present in other families ranged from 1 to 6. Five species including 3 mugilids *Osteomugil engeli* (Bleeker), *Planiliza melinoptera* (Valenciennes), *Crenimugil seheli* (Fabricius), 1 siganid *Siganus fuscescens* (Houttuyt), and 1 hemiramphid *Rhynchorhamphus georgii*

**Table 2** Host and Parasite data for Cat Ba Archipelago

Parasite species	Fish host	Infection site	No. infected/No. examined	Intensity of infection: mean (range)	GenBank numbers of submitted sequences	Specimen stored
<b>ACANTHOCEPHALA</b>						
ECHINORHYNCHIDA SOUTHWELL ET MACFIE, 1925						
<b>Arhythmacanthidae Yamaguti, 1935</b>						
<b><i>Heterosentis</i> van Cleave, 1931</b>						
* <i>Heterosentis holospinus</i> Amin, Heckmann & Nguyen, 2011	<i>Plotosus lineatus</i>	intestine	10/10	35 (3-60)	MN715352- MN715355	University of Nebraska's State Museum's Harold W. Manter Laboratory, USA (HWML): nos. 49254-49255; Department of Parasitology, Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources, Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (IEBR)
<b>Isthmosacanthidae Smales, 2012</b>						
<b><i>Serrasentis</i> Van Cleave, 1923</b>						
*** <i>Serrasentis sagittifer</i> (Linton, 1889) Linton, 1932	<i>Platycephalus indicus</i>	intestine	1/23	5	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Rhadinorhynchidae Lühe, 1912</b>						
<b><i>Micracanthorhynchina</i> Strand, 1936</b>						
* <i>Micracanthorhynchina kuwaitensis</i> Amin & Sey, 1996	<i>Hyporhamphus quoyi</i>	intestine	3/28	1.7 (1-2)	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Family Transvenidae Pichelin &amp; Cribb, 2001</b>						
<b><i>Pararhadinorhynchus</i> Johnston &amp; Edmonds, 1947</b>						
* <i>Pararhadinorhynchus magnus</i> Nguyen, Amin, Ha & Heckmann, 2018	<i>Mugil cephalus</i>	intestine	2/35	1	MN820556;MN820614; MN472865; MN472866; MN395026; MN395027	HWML no. 139410-139411; IEBR
NEOECHINORHYNCHIDA WARD, 1917						
<b>Neoechinorhynchidae Ward, 1917</b>						
<b><i>Neoechinorhynchus</i> Hamann in Stiles &amp; Hassall, 1905</b>						
* <i>Neoechinorhynchus (Neoechinorhynchus) ascus</i> Amin, Ha & Ha, 2011	<i>Osteomugil engeli</i>	intestine	1/95	2	n.s.	HWML nos. 49218-49219; IEBR
* <i>Neoechinorhynchus (Neoechinorhynchus) dimorphospinus</i> Amin & Sey, 1996	<i>Planiliza haematocheilus</i>	intestine	1/3	1	n.s.	IEBR
	<i>Planiliza subviridis</i>	intestine	10/31	2 (1-4)	MK510080	HWML; IEBR
<i>Neoechinorhynchus (Neoechinorhynchus) johnii</i> Yamaguti, 1939	<i>Johnius belangerii</i>	intestine	2/15	3.5 (2-5)	MK260005-MK260008	HWML nos. 139459, 139460, 139465, 139466, 139468; IEBR
	<i>Otolithes ruber</i>	intestine	3/5	1.7 (1-2)		HWML nos. 139462, 139467; IEBR

**Table 2** (continued)

Parasite species	Fish host	Infection site	No. infected/No. examined	Intensity of infection: mean (range)	GenBank numbers of submitted sequences	Specimen stored
* <i>Neoechinorhynchus</i> ( <i>Neoechinorhynchus</i> ) <i>longinucleatus</i> Amin, Nguyen & Ha, 2011a, 2011b, 2011c	<i>Aurigequula fasciata</i>	intestine	4/5	2.3 (1-3)	n.s.	IEBR
	<i>Crenimugil heterocheilos</i>	intestine	1/10	3		
	<i>Ellochelon vaigiensis</i>	intestine	1/3	9		
	<i>Liza longimanus</i>	intestine	1/3	1		
	<i>Strongylura strongylura</i>	intestine	3/5	1.7 (1-3)		HWML Collection no. 49216-49217; IEBR
* <i>Neoechinorhynchus</i> ( <i>Neoechinorhynchus</i> ) <i>manubriensis</i> Amin, Nguyen & Ha, 2011a, 2011b, 2011c	<i>Nibea albiflora</i>	intestine	3/8	18 (3-29)	n.s.	HWML no. 49211; IEBR
*** <i>Neoechinorhynchus indicus</i> Gudivada, Chikkam & Vankara, 2010	<i>Leptomelanosoma indicum</i>	intestine	1/2	4	n.s.	IEBR
<b>CESTODA</b>						
<b>BOTHRIOCEPHALIDEA KUCHTA, SCHOLZ, BRABEC &amp; BRAY, 2008</b>						
<b>Bothriocephalidae Blanchard, 1849</b>						
<b><i>Bothriocephalus</i> Rudolphi, 1808</b>						
† <i>Bothriocephalus</i> sp.	<i>Trichiurus lepturus</i>	intestine	3/20	10 (8-12)	n.s.	IEBR
<b><i>Taphrobothrium</i> Lühe, 1899</b>						
<i>Taphrobothrium japonense</i> Lühe, 1899	<i>Muraenesox cinereus</i>	intestine	2/38	3.5 (2-5)	n.s.	IEBR
<b>TETRAPHYLLIDEA CARUS, 1863</b>						
†Tetraphyllidea fam. gen. sp.	<i>Argyrosomus japonicus</i>	intestine	2/7	3.5 (2-5)	n.s.	IEBR
	<i>Johnius carouna</i>	intestine	1/5	5		
	<i>Lagocephalus lunaris</i>	intestine	1/5	1		
	<i>Nemipterus japonicus</i>	intestine	1/15	5		
	<i>Nibea albiflora</i>	intestine	1/8	1		
<b>TRYPANORHYNCHA DIESING, 1863</b>						
<b>Lacistorhynchidae Guiart, 1937</b>						
<b><i>Pseudogrillotia</i> Dollfus, 1969</b>						
<i>Pseudogrillotia perelica</i> (Shuler, 1938) Palm, 2004	<i>Osteomugil cunnesius</i>	intestine	1/18	1	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Otobothriidae Dollfus, 1942</b>						
<b><i>Poecilancistrum</i> Dollfus, 1929</b>						
† <i>Poecilancistrum</i> sp.	<i>Ariomma indica</i>	intestine	5/10	2.8 (1-10)	n.s.	IEBR
<b><i>Proemotobothrium</i> Beveridge &amp; Campbell, 2001</b>						
<i>Proemotobothrium linstowi</i> (Southwell, 1912) Beveridge & Campbell, 2001	<i>Platycephalus indicus</i>	intestine	1/23	1	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Tentaculariidae Poche, 1926</b>						
<b><i>Tentacularia</i> Bosc, 1797</b>						
<i>Tentacularia coryphaena</i> Bosc, 1802	<i>Scomberoides comersonianus</i>	intestine	1/9	1	n.s.	IEBR

**Table 2** (continued)

Parasite species	Fish host	Infection site	No. infected/No. examined	Intensity of infection: mean (range)	GenBank numbers of submitted sequences	Specimen stored	
<b>TREMATODA</b>							
PLAGIORCHIDA LA RUE, 1957							
<b>Acanthocolpidae Lühe, 1906</b>							
<b>Pleorchis Railliet, 1896</b>							
<i>Pleorchis sciaenae</i> Yamaguti, 1938	<i>Acanthopagrus latus</i>	intestine	3/3	4.3 (3-4)	n.s.	IEBR	
<b>Stephanostomum Looss, 1899</b>							
<i>Stephanostomum bicoronatum</i> (Stossich, 1883) Fuhrmann, 1928	<i>Argyrosomus japonicus</i>	intestine	3/12	1.3 (1-2)	n.s.	IEBR	
	<i>Johnius carouna</i>	intestine	3/5	2.3 (1-3)			
<i>Stephanostomum ditrematis</i> (Yamaguti, 1939) Manter, 1947	<i>Scomberoides comersonianus</i>	intestine	1/9	50	n.s.	IEBR	
<b>Bivesiculidae Yamaguti, 1934</b>							
<b>Paucivitellosus Coil, Reid &amp; Kuntz, 1965</b>							
* <i>Paucivitellosus vietnamensis</i> Atopkin, Besprozvanykh, Ngo, Van Ha, Van Tang, Ermolenko & Beloded, 2016	<i>Crenimugil seheli</i>	intestine	1/41	14	LN865005- LN865006;	Zoological Museum, Federal Scientific Center of the East Asia Terrestrial Biodiversity, Far Eastern Branch of Russian Academy of Sciences (FSCEAT): nos. 61-64-Tr; IEBR	
	<i>Osteomugil engeli</i>	intestine	6/95	4.2 (2-9)	LN864998- LN865000; LN865003- LN865004		
	<i>Planiliza melinoptera</i>	intestine	6/83	11.3 (3-20)	n.s.		IEBR
	<i>Planiliza planiceps</i>	intestine	2/3	69 (1-137)	n.s.		IEBR
	<i>Planiliza subviridis</i>	intestine	11/79	3.2 (1-7)	LN865001-LN865002	FSCEAT no. 60-Tr; IEBR	
<b>Treptodemoides Shen, 1995</b>							
<i>Treptodemoides fukensis</i> (Liu, 1995) Cribb, 2002	<i>Rhynchorhamphus georgii</i>	intestine	2/61	1.5 (1-2)	n.s.	IEBR	
<b>Bucephalidae Poche, 1907</b>							
<b>Bucephalus von Baer, 1827</b>							
<i>Bucephalus fragilis</i> Velasquez, 1959	<i>Scomberoides comersonianus</i>	intestine	2/9	6 (4-8)	n.s.	IEBR	
<i>Bucephalus margaritae</i> Ozaki & Ishibashi, 1934	<i>Atropus atropos</i>	intestine	1/5	5	n.s.	IEBR	
	<i>Atule mate</i>	intestine	2/10	2.5 (2-3)			
	<i>Selar crumenophthalmus</i>	intestine	1/5	18			
<i>Bucephalus</i> sp.1	<i>Sphyraena obtusata</i>	intestine	1/10	2	n.s.	IEBR	
<i>Bucephalus</i> sp.2	<i>Anodontostoma chacunda</i>	intestine	2/3	5 (2-8)	n.s.	IEBR	
<b>Prosorhynchus Odhner, 1905</b>							
<i>Prosorhynchus epinepheli</i> Yamaguti, 1939	<i>Epinephelus sexfasciatus</i>	intestine	1/5	2	n.s.	IEBR	
<b>Cryptogonimidae Ward, 1917</b>							
<b>Adlardia Miller, Bray, Goiran, Justine &amp; Cribb, 2009</b>							
<i>Adlardia elongata</i> (Gu & Shen, 1979) Miller, Bray, Goiran, Justine & Cribb, 2009	<i>Nemipterus japonicus</i>	intestine	1/15	1	n.s.	IEBR	

**Table 2** (continued)

Parasite species	Fish host	Infection site	No. infected/No. examined	Intensity of infection: mean (range)	GenBank numbers of submitted sequences	Specimen stored
<b>Fellodistomidae Nicoll, 1909</b>						
<b><i>Gymnotergestia</i> Nahhas &amp; Cable, 1964</b>						
* <i>Gymnotergestia strongyluri</i> Atopkin, Besprozvannykh, Ha, Nguyen & Nguyen, 2022	<i>Strongylura strongylura</i>	Intestine	1/8	2	OK636408- OK636409	FSCEAT nos. 199-203-Tr; IEBR
<b><i>Lintonium</i> Stunkard &amp; Nigrelli, 1930</b>						
<i>Lintonium vibex</i> (Linton, 1900) Stunkard & Nigrelli, 1930	<i>Aluterus monoceros</i>	Intestine	1/1	1	n.s.	IEBR
<b><i>Monascus</i> Looss, 1907</b>						
<i>Monascus filiformis</i> (Rudophi, 1819) Looss, 1907	<i>Ariomma indicum</i>	Intestine	4/10	3 (1-8)	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Gyliauchenidae Fukui, 1929</b>						
<b><i>Gyliauchen</i> Nicoll, 1915</b>						
<i>Gyliauchen oligoglandulosus</i> Gu & Shen, 1979	<i>Siganus fuscescens</i>	Intestine	11/64	4.7 (1-9)	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Haploporidae Nicoll, 1914</b>						
<b><i>Parahaploporus</i> Atopkin, Besprozvannykh, Ha, Nguyen &amp; Nguyen, 2019</b>						
* <i>Parahaploporus elegantus</i> Atopkin, Besprozvannykh, Ha, Nguyen & Nguyen, 2019	<i>Osteomugil cunnesius</i>	Intestine	2/18	24 (6-42)	MN639712- MN639721	FSCEAT nos. 143-147-Tr; IEBR
<b><i>Parasaccocoelium</i> Zhukov, 1971</b>						
<i>Parasaccocoelium mugili</i> Zhukov, 1971	<i>Mugil cephalus</i>	Intestine	5/35	17.4 (2-35)	n.s.	IEBR
<b><i>Paraunisaccooides</i> Martin, 1973</b>						
* <i>Paraunisaccooides elegans</i> Atopkin, Besprozvannykh, Beloded, Ha, Nguyen & Nguyen, 2022	<i>Planiliza subviridis</i>	Intestine	3/31	6.2 (1-12)	KY501639- KY501644	FSCEAT nos. 182-187-Tr; IEBR
<b><i>Pseudohaploporus</i> Atopkin, Besprozvannykh, Ha, Nguyen, Nguyen &amp; Chalenko, 2018</b>						
* <i>Pseudohaploporus planilizum</i> Atopkin, Besprozvannykh, Ha, Nguyen, Nguyen & Chalenko, 2018	<i>Planiliza subviridis</i>	intestine	3/31	16.7 (7-29)	MF774417–MF774419; MF774433–MF774435	FSCEAT nos. 128-137-Tr; IEBR
* <i>Pseudohaploporus pusitensis</i> Atopkin, Besprozvannykh, Ha, Nguyen & Nguyen, 2019	<i>Crenimugil seheli</i>	intestine	1/41	5	MH986037; MH986038; MF774430; MF774432	FSCEAT nos. 138-142-Tr; IEBR
* <i>Pseudohaploporus vietnamensis</i> Atopkin, Besprozvannykh, Ha, Nguyen, Nguyen & Chalenko, 2018	<i>Crenimugil seheli</i>	intestine	2/41	15 (14-16)	MF774422; MF774431	FSCEAT nos. 118-127-Tr; IEBR
	<i>Osteomugil engeli</i>	intestine	7/95	12.6 (5-24)	MF774420-MF774421; MF774423-MF774426; MF774427-MF774429; MF774436-MF774440	
	<i>Osteomugil speigleri</i>	intestine	1/36	1	n.s.	

**Table 2** (continued)

Parasite species	Fish host	Infection site	No. infected/No. examined	Intensity of infection: mean (range)	GenBank numbers of submitted sequences	Specimen stored
<b><i>Skrjabinoecithum</i> Belous, 1954</b>						
<i>Skrjabinoecithum spasskii</i> Belous, 1954	<i>Mugil cephalus</i>	intestine	6/35	10.7 (1-28)	HG530203- HG530209; HG530224- HG530230	FSCEAT no. 62-Tr; IEBR
	<i>Planiliza haematocheilus</i>	intestine	3/3	3.7 (1-7)	n.s.	IEBR
<b><i>Unisaccus</i> Martin, 1973</b>						
* <i>Unisaccus halongi</i> Atopkin, Besprozvannykh, Beloded, Ha, Nguyen & Nguyen, 2022	<i>Crenimugil seheli</i>	intestine	5/41	5.4 (1-17)	OK644190-OK644198	FSCEAT nos. 188-193-Tr; IEBR
* <i>Unisaccus tonkini</i> Besprozvannykh, Atopkin, Ngo, Ha, Tang & Beloded, 2017	<i>Crenimugil seheli</i>	intestine	7/41	15 (7-28)	MF176835-MF176844	FSCEAT nos. 94-103-Tr; IEBR
	<i>Osteomugil cunnesius</i>	intestine	3/18	5.7 (1-12)	n.s.	
<b>Haplospilachnidae Poche, 1926</b>						
<b><i>Haplospilachnus</i> Looss, 1902</b>						
<i>Haplospilachnus pachysoma</i> (Eysenhardt, 1829) Looss, 1902	<i>Osteomugil engeli</i>	intestine	5/95	10 (8-18)	LK932143–LK932146; LK932149– LK932152	FSCEAT; IEBR
<b><i>Provitellotrema</i> Pan, 1984</b>						
<i>Provitellotrema crenimugilis</i> Pan, 1984	<i>Crenimugil heterocheilos</i>	intestine	3/10	1	LK932147–LK932148; LK932153– LK932154	FSCEAT; IEBR
<b><i>Pseudohaplospilachnus</i> Atopkin, Besprozvannykh, Ha, Nguyen &amp; Nguyen, 2020</b>						
* <i>Pseudohaplospilachnus catbaensis</i> Atopkin, Besprozvannykh, Ha, Nguyen & Nguyen, 2020	<i>Crenimugil seheli</i>	intestine	6/41	43 (2-181)	MT298954-MT298957; MT298959- MT298962	FSCEAT nos. 157-161-Tr; IEBR
<b>Hemiuridae Looss, 1899</b>						
<b><i>Aphanurus</i> Looss, 1907</b>						
<i>Aphanurus mugilus</i> Tang, 1981	<i>Osteomugil engeli</i>	intestine	9/95	12.2 (1-41)	LT607804–LT607809	FSCEAT; IEBR
<b><i>Dinurus</i> Looss, 1907</b>						
<i>Dinurus selari</i> Parukhin, 1966	<i>Atule mate</i>	intestine	5/10	8 (4-15)	n.s.	IEBR
<b><i>Ectenurus</i> Looss, 1907</b>						
<i>Ectenurus theraponae</i> Oshmarin, 1965	<i>Therapon therapos</i>	intestine	1/2	3	n.s.	IEBR
<i>Ectenurus trachuri</i> (Yamaguti, 1934) Yamaguti, 1970	<i>Selar crumenophthalmus</i>	intestine	1/5	4	n.s.	IEBR
<b><i>Hemiurus</i> Rudolphi, 1809</b>						
<i>Hemiurus arelisci</i> Yamaguti, 1938	<i>Scomberoides comersonianus</i>	intestine	2/9	7 (3-11)	n.s.	IEBR
	<i>Scomberomorus comerson</i>	intestine	1/12	1		
<b><i>Lecithochirium</i> Lühe, 1901</b>						
<i>Lecithochirium alectis</i> Yamaguti, 1970	<i>Johnius belengerii</i>	intestine	1/15	1	n.s.	IEBR
	<i>Nibea albiflora</i>	intestine	5/8	5.2 (1-18)		

**Table 2** (continued)

Parasite species	Fish host	Infection site	No. infected/No. examined	Intensity of infection: mean (range)	GenBank numbers of submitted sequences	Specimen stored
<i>Lecithochirium holocentri</i> Yamaguti, 1970	<i>Sargocentron rubrum</i>	intestine	4/20	1	n.s.	IEBR
<i>Lecithochirium polynemi</i> Chauhan, 1945	<i>Leptomelanosoma indicum</i>	intestine	1/2	35	n.s.	IEBR
<b><i>Lecithocladium</i> Lühe, 1901</b>						
<i>Lecithocladium excisiforme</i> Cohn, 1902	<i>Alepes djedaba</i>	intestine	10/15	13.4 (2-20)	n.s.	IEBR
	<i>Selaroides leptolepis</i>	intestine	1/3	1		
<i>Lecithocladium harpodontis</i> Srivastava, 1937	<i>Ilisha elongata</i>	intestine	1/2	25	n.s.	IEBR
<b><i>Merlucciotrema</i> Yamaguti, 1971</b>						
<i>Merlucciotrema praeclarum</i> (Manter, 1934) Yamaguti, 1971	<i>Platycephalus indicus</i>	intestine; stomach	5/23	4.8 (1-18)	n.s.	IEBR
<b><i>Stomachicola</i> Yamaguti, 1934</b>						
<i>Stomachicola muraenesocis</i> Yamaguti, 1934	<i>Muraenesox cinereus</i>	intestine, stomach	9/38	5 (1-26)	n.s.	IEBR
<b><i>Tubulovesicula</i> Yamaguti, 1934</b>						
<i>Tubulovesicula lindbergi</i> (Layman, 1930) Yamaguti, 1934	<i>Saurida tumbil</i>	intestine	1/10	3	n.s.	IEBR
<i>Tubulovesicula trichiuri</i> (Gu & Shen, 1978) Wang, 1989	<i>Trichiurus lepturus</i>	intestine	2/20	1.5 (1-2)	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Lecithasteridae Odhner, 1905</b>						
<b><i>Aponurus</i> Looss, 1907</b>						
<i>Aponurus carangis</i> Yamaguti, 1952	<i>Selar crumenophthalmus</i>	intestine	1/5	2	n.s.	IEBR
<b><i>Hysteroleclithoides</i> Yamaguti, 1934</b>						
<i>Hysteroleclithoides epinepheli</i> Yamaguti, 1934	<i>Siganus fuscescens</i>	intestine	7/64	10 (1-45)	n.s.	IEBR
<b><i>Lecithaster</i> Lühe, 1901</b>						
<i>Lecithaster confusus</i> Odhner, 1905	<i>Strongylura strongylura</i>	intestine	2/8	8.5 (4-13)	MH625968-MH625972; MH625982-MH625986; MH625996-MH626000	FSCEAT; IEBR
<i>Lecithaster mugilis</i> Yamaguti, 1970	<i>Crenimugil seheli</i>	intestine	4/41	8.3 (2-20)	LN865007-LN865012; LN865016-LN865021	FSCEAT nos. 60-67-Tr; IEBR
	<i>Ellochelon vaigiensis</i>	intestine	1/3	52	n.s.	IEBR
	<i>Osteomugil engeli</i>	intestine	22/95	15.2 (1-50)		
	<i>Planiliza subviridis</i>	intestine	8/31	11.4 (3-22)		
<i>Lecithaster sayori</i> Yamaguti, 1938	<i>Hemiramphus marginatus</i>	intestine	1/15	2	MH625977; MH625991; MH626004	FSCEAT; IEBR
<i>Lecithaster</i> sp.	<i>Siganus fuscescens</i>	intestine	1/64	11	n.s.	IEBR

**Table 2** (continued)

Parasite species	Fish host	Infection site	No. infected/No. examined	Intensity of infection: mean (range)	GenBank numbers of submitted sequences	Specimen stored
<b>Lepocreadiidae Odhner, 1905</b>						
<b><i>Bianium</i> Stunkard, 1930</b>						
* <i>Bianium tonkinensis</i> Nguyen et al., 2014	<i>Lagocephalus lunaris</i>	intestine	2/5	30 (10-50)	n.s.	Vietnam National Museum of Nature (VNMN) nos. 2013-2020
<b><i>Lepotrema</i> Ozaki, 1932</b>						
<i>Lepotrema cylindricum</i> (Wang, 1989) Bray, Cutmore & Cribb, 2018	<i>Monacanthus chinensis</i>	intestine	1/4	1	n.s.	IEBR
<b><i>Opechona</i> Looss, 1907</b>						
<i>Opechona formiae</i> Oshmarin, 1965	<i>Parastromateus niger</i>	intestine	3/5	2 (1-3)	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Monorchiiidae Odhner, 1911</b>						
<b><i>Sinistroporomonorchis</i> Wee, Cutmore, Pérez-del-Olmo &amp; Cribb, 2020</b>						
<i>Sinistroporomonorchis lizae</i> (Liu, 2002) Wee, Cutmore, Pérez-del-Olmo & Cribb, 2020	<i>Liza longimanus</i>	intestine	2/3	26.5 (3-50)	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Opecoelidae Ozaki, 1925</b>						
<b><i>Opecoelus</i> Ozaki, 1925</b>						
* <i>Opecoelus haduyngoi</i> Nguyen, 2012	<i>Acanthopagrus latus</i>	intestine	3/3	6 (5-7)	n.s.	IEBR
<b><i>Opegaster</i> Ozaki, 1928</b>						
<i>Opegaster brevifistula</i> Ozaki, 1928	<i>Sillago sihama</i>	intestine	8/14	6.6 (1-15)	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Zoogonidae Odhner, 1902</b>						
<b><i>Lecithostaphylus</i> Odhner, 1911</b>						
* <i>Lecithostaphylus halongi</i> Atopkin, Besprozvannykh, Ha, Nguyen & Nguyen, 2022	<i>Hemiramphus far</i>	intestine	4/5	2.3 (1-5)	OK636406- OK636407	Scientific Center of the East Asia Terrestrial Biodiversity Far Eastern Branch of Russian Academy of Sciences) No. 194-198-Tr
	<i>Hemiramphus marginatus</i>	intestine	1/15	1	n.s.	IEBR
<b>MONOGENEA</b>						
<b>DACTYLOGYRIDEA BYCHOWSKY, 1937</b>						
<b>Ancyrocephalidae Bychowsky, 1937</b>						
<b><i>Hemirhamphiculus</i> Bychowsky &amp; Nagibina, 1969</b>						
<i>Hemirhamphiculus armatus</i> Bychowsky & Nagibina, 1969	<i>Hemiramphus far</i>	gill	5/5	7 (3-11)	n.s.	IEBR
*** <i>Hemirhamphiculus pinguis</i> (Bychowsky & Nagibina, 1969) Kritsky, 2017	<i>Hyporhamphus quoyi</i>	gill	7/28	6.9 (1-23)	n.s.	IEBR
*** <i>Hemirhamphiculus similis</i> Bychowsky & Nagibina, 1969	<i>Hemiramphus marginatus</i>	gill	10/15	5.1 (1-12)	n.s.	IEBR



**Table 2** (continued)

Parasite species	Fish host	Infection site	No. infected/No. examined	Intensity of infection: mean (range)	GenBank numbers of submitted sequences	Specimen stored
<b>Ligophorus Euzet &amp; Suriano, 1977</b>						
<i>Ligophorus fenestrum</i> Soo & Lim, 2012	<i>Planiliza melinoptera</i>	gill	17/83	2.2 (1-5)	n.s.	A.O. Kovalevsky Institute of Marine Biological Research, Russian Academy of Sciences (IMBR); IEBR
	<i>Planiliza subviridis</i>	gill	10/31	6 (1-14)		
<i>Ligophorus hamulosus</i> Pan et Zhang, 1999	<i>Osteomugil cunnesius</i>	gill	1/18	50	n.s.	IMBR; IEBR
	<i>Crenimugil seheli</i>	gill	1/41	4		
*** <i>Ligophorus leporinus</i> (Zhang & Ji, 1981) Gussev, 1985	<i>Crenimugil heterocheilos</i>	gill	4/157	39.3 (1-80)	n.s.	IMBR; IEBR
	<i>Ellochelon vaigiensis</i>	gill	2/3	19 (15-23)		
	<i>Mugil cephalus</i>	gill	10/35	37 (1-240)		
	<i>Osteomugil engeli</i>	gill	9/95	8.9 (1-27)		
	<i>Planiliza affinis</i>	gill	1/1	1		
	<i>Planiliza planiceps</i>	gill	1/3	1		
<b>Paradiplectanotrema Gerasev, Gayevskaya &amp; Kovaleva, 1987</b>						
<i>Paradiplectanum blairense</i> (Gupta & Khanna, 1974) Domingues & Boeger, 2008	<i>Sillago sihama</i>	gill	13/14	31.6 (1-100)	n.s.	IEBR
<i>Paradiplectanotrema trachuri</i> (Kovaljova, 1970) Gerasev, Gayevskaya & Kovaleva, 1987	<i>Argyrosomus japonicus</i>	gill	11/12	4.7 (1-14)	n.s.	IEBR
	<i>Johnius carouna</i>	gill	3/5	1.3 (1-2)		
<b>Tetrancistrum Goto &amp; Kikuchi, 1917</b>						
** <i>Tetrancistrum sigani</i> Goto & Kikuchi, 1917	<i>Siganus fuscescens</i>	gill	54/64	9.9 (1-61)	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Dactylogyridae Bychowsky, 1933</b>						
**Dactylogyridae gen. sp.	<i>Xenentodon cancila</i>	gill	¼	5	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Haliotrema Johnston &amp; Tiegs, 1922</b>						
<i>Haliotrema epinepheli</i> Young, 1968	<i>Epinephelus sexfasciatus</i>	gill	5/5	11.8 (3-26)	n.s.	IEBR
<i>Haliotrema holocentri</i> Young, 1968	<i>Sargocentron rubrum</i>	gill	13/20	10.2 (2-35)	n.s.	IEBR
<i>Haliotrema ohsntoni</i> Bychowsky & Nagibina, 1970	<i>Upeneus tragula</i>	gill	5/10	19 (1-50)	n.s.	IEBR
<i>Haliotrema platycephali</i> Yin & Sproston, 1948	<i>Platycephalus indicus</i>	gill	4/23	20.5 (4-36)	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Diplectanidae Monticelli, 1903</b>						
<b><i>Calydiscoides</i> Young, 1969</b>						
<i>Calydiscoides flexuosus</i> (Yamaguti, 1953) Young, 1969	<i>Nemipterus japonicus</i>	gill	9/15	44 (20-60)	n.s.	IEBR
<b><i>Murraytrema</i> Price, 1937</b>						
<i>Murraytrema pricei</i> Bychowsky & Nagibina, 1977	<i>Nibea albiflora</i>	gill	5/8	8.4 (1-17)	n.s.	IEBR

**Table 2** (continued)

Parasite species	Fish host	Infection site	No. infected/No. examined	Intensity of infection: mean (range)	GenBank numbers of submitted sequences	Specimen stored
<b>Protyrodrodactylidae Johnston &amp; Tiegs, 1922</b>						
<b><i>Protyrodrodactylus</i> Johnston &amp; Tiegs, 1922</b>						
<i>Protyrodrodactylus alienus</i> Bychowsky & Nagibina, 1974	<i>Gerres filamentosus</i>	gill	2/8	25 (15-35)	n.s.	IEBR
<i>Protyrodrodactylus gussevi</i> Bychowsky & Nagibina, 1974	<i>Terapon jarbua</i>	gill	1/16	14	n.s.	IEBR
<i>Protyrodrodactylus perforatus</i> Bychowsky & Nagibina, 1974	<i>Terapon jarbua</i>	gill	1/16	12	n.s.	IEBR
*** <i>Protyrodrodactylus solidus</i> Bychowsky & Nagibina, 1974	<i>Terapon theraps</i>	gill	½	1	n.s.	IEBR
<b>MAZOCRAEIDEA BYCHOWSKY, 1937</b>						
<b>Allodiscocotylidae Tripathi, 1959</b>						
<b><i>Allodiscocotyla</i> Yamaguti, 1953</b>						
<i>Allodiscocotyla chorinemi</i> Yamaguti, 1953	<i>Scomberoides comersonianus</i>	gill	4/9	5.8 (1-18)	n.s.	IEBR
<b><i>Metacamopia</i> Lebedev, 1972</b>						
<i>Metacamopia chorinemi</i> (Yamaguti, 1953) Lebedev, 1984	<i>Selar crumenophthalmus</i>	gill	2/5	1	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Axinidae Monticelli, 1903</b>						
<b><i>Axine</i> Abildgaard, 1794</b>						
<i>Axine hemirhamphae</i> Tripathi, 1959 (syn. <i>Axine tripathii</i> Price, 1962)	<i>Rhynchorhamphus georgii</i>	gill	11/61	2 (1-3)	n.s.	IEBR
<b><i>Neoaxine</i> Price, 1946</b>						
** <i>Neoaxine constricta</i> (Yamaguti, 1938) Price, 1946	<i>Strongylura leiura</i>	gill	1/1	2	n.s.	IEBR
	<i>Strongylura strongylura</i>	gill	7/8	9.3 (1-30)	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Diclidophoridae Cerfontaine, 1895</b>						
<b><i>Helciferus</i> Mamaev, 1972</b>						
<i>Helciferus tenuis</i> Mamaev, 1972	<i>Coilia rebentischii</i>	gill	4/10	1.3 (1-2)	n.s.	IEBR
<b><i>Heterobothrium</i> Cerfontaine, 1895</b>						
*** <i>Heterobothrium tonkinense</i> Bychowsky & Nagibina, 1976	<i>Lagocephalus lunaris</i>	gill	1/5	1	n.s.	IEBR
<b><i>Papillochoricotyle</i> Mamaev, 1975</b>						
*** <i>Papillochoricotyle ilishae</i> Mamaev, 1975	<i>Ilisha megaloptera</i>	gill	4/5	10.3 (3-17)	n.s.	IEBR

**Table 2** (continued)

Parasite species	Fish host	Infection site	No. infected/No. examined	Intensity of infection: mean (range)	GenBank numbers of submitted sequences	Specimen stored
<b>Gastrocotyliidae Price, 1943</b>						
<b><i>Pseudaxine</i> Parona &amp; Perugia, 1890</b>						
<i>Pseudaxine bychowskyi</i> (Lebedev, 1977) Bouguerche, Tazerouti, Gey & Justine, 2020	<i>Alepes djedaba</i>	gill	6/15	11.5 (2-20)	n.s.	IEBR
<i>Pseudaxine trachuri</i> Parona & Perugia, 1889	<i>Decapterus russelli</i>	gill	2/10	1	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Gotocotyliidae Yamaguti, 1963</b>						
<b><i>Cathucotyle</i> Lebedev, 1968</b>						
<i>Cathucotyle cathuau</i> Lebedev, 1968	<i>Scomberomorus comerson</i>	gill	5/12	4.2 (3-7)	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Mazocraeidae Price, 1936</b>						
<b><i>Mazocraeoides</i> Price, 1936</b>						
<i>Mazocraeoides</i> sp.	<i>Tenulosa thibaudeaui</i>	gill	3/10	12.7 (1-29)	n.s.	IEBR
<b><i>Heteromazocraes</i> Mamaev, 1981</b>						
*** <i>Heteromazocraes vicinus</i> (Mamaev, 1975) Mamaev, 1981	<i>Thryssa dussumieri</i>	gill	5/17	2.6 (1-5)	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Plectanocotyliidae Monticelli, 1903</b>						
<b><i>Octoplectanocotyla</i> Yamaguti, 1937</b>						
** <i>Octoplectanocotyla</i> sp.	<i>Trichiurus lepturus</i>	gill	8/20	1.4 (1-4)	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Protomicrocotyliidae Johnston &amp; Tieg, 1922</b>						
<b><i>Vallisiopsis</i> Subhadrappa, 1951</b>						
*** <i>Vallisiopsis sphyraenae</i> Yamaguti, 1968	<i>Sphyraena obtusata</i>	gill	2/10	1	n.s.	IEBR
<b><i>Bilaterocotyloides</i> Ramalingam, 1961</b>						
<i>Bilaterocotyloides carangis</i> Ramalingam, 1961	<i>Megalaspis cordyla</i>	gill	5/5	13 (6-25)	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Thoracocotyliidae Price, 1936</b>						
<b><i>Pricea</i> Chauhan, 1945</b>						
<i>Pricea multae</i> Chauhan, 1945	<i>Scomberomorus comerson</i>	gill	6/12	11.7 (5-23)	n.s.	IEBR
<b>NEMATODA</b>						
<b>RHABDITIDA CHITWOOD, 1933</b>						
<b>Anisakidae Railliet &amp; Henry, 1912</b>						
<b><i>Contracaecum</i> Railliet &amp; Henry, 1912</b>						
<i>Contracaecum osculatum</i> (Rudolphi, 1802) Baylis, 1920	<i>Trichiurus lepturus</i>	intestine	6/20	3.5 (1-10)	n.s.	IEBR
	<i>Scomberoides comersonianus</i>	intestine	1/9	1		
† <i>Contracaecum</i> sp.	<i>Aurigequula fasciata</i>	intestine	1/5	1	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Camallanidae Railliet &amp; Henry, 1915</b>						
<b><i>Camallanus</i> Railliet &amp; Henry, 1915</b>						
† <i>Camallanus</i> sp.	<i>Johnius carouna</i>	intestine	2/5	1.5 (1-2)	n.s.	IEBR

**Table 2** (continued)

Parasite species	Fish host	Infection site	No. infected/No. examined	Intensity of infection: mean (range)	GenBank numbers of submitted sequences	Specimen stored
<b>Cucullanidae Cobbold, 1864</b>						
<b><i>Cucullanus</i> Müller, 1777</b>						
<i>Cucullanus truttae</i> Fabricius, 1794	<i>Nibea albiflora</i>	intestine	1/8	7	n.s.	IEBR
† <i>Cucullanus</i> sp.	<i>Johnius carouna</i>	intestine	3/5	1.7 (1-2)	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Cystidicolidae Skrjabin, 1946</b>						
<b><i>Ascarophis</i> van Beneden, 1871</b>						
† <i>Ascarophis</i> sp.	<i>Nibea albiflora</i>	intestine	1/8	1	n.s.	IEBR
	<i>Platycephalus indicus</i>	intestine	1/23	2		
<b>Physalopteridae Railliet, 1893</b>						
<b><i>Heliconema</i> Travassos, 1919</b>						
<i>Heliconema longisimium</i> (Ortlepp, 1923)	<i>Muraenesox cinereus</i>	intestine	9/38	18.1 (2-54)	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Raphidascarididae Hartwich, 1954</b>						
<b><i>Hysterothylacium</i> Ward &amp; Magath, 1917</b>						
<i>Hysterothylacium longilabrum</i> Li, Liu & Zhang, 2012	<i>Siganus fuscescens</i>	intestine	11/64	5.3 (1-22)	n.s.	IEBR
<b><i>Raphidascaris</i> (<i>Raphidascaris</i>) Railliet &amp; Henry, 1915</b>						
<i>Raphidascaris</i> ( <i>Raphidascaris</i> ) <i>ariomma</i> (Bloch, 1779) Railliet & Henry, 1915	<i>Ariomma indica</i>	intestine	1/10	1	n.s.	IEBR
	<i>Argyrosomus japonicus</i>	intestine	4/12	6 (1-20)		
	<i>Nemipterus japonicus</i>	intestine	2/15	2 (2)		
	<i>Sillago sihama</i>	intestine	1/14	1		
† <i>Raphidascaris</i> sp.	<i>Ilisha elongata</i>	intestine	1/2	1	n.s.	IEBR
	<i>Osteomugil cunnesius</i>	intestine	1/18	1		
	<i>Plotosus lineatus</i>	intestine	1/10	1		
	<i>Selaroides leptolepis</i>	intestine	2/3	3 (3)		
<b>HIRUDINEA</b>						
<b>RHYNCHOBDELLIDA BLANCHARD, 1894</b>						
<b>Piscicolidae Johnston, 1865</b>						
<b><i>Oceanobdella</i> Caballero, 1956</b>						
*** <i>Oceanobdella sexoculata</i> (Malm, 1863)	<i>Mugil cephalus</i>	gill	5/35	2.6 (1-5)	n.s.	IEBR
<b><i>Piscicola</i> Blainville, 1818</b>						
*** <i>Piscicola geometra</i> (Linnaeus, 1761)	<i>Planiliza melinoptera</i>	gill	1/83	2	n.s.	IEBR
<b>COPEPODA</b>						
<b>CYCLOPOIDA BURMEISTER, 1834</b>						
<b>Bomolochidae Claus, 1875</b>						
<b><i>Bomolochidae</i> Claus, 1875</b>						
<i>Bomolochus</i> sp.	<i>Decapterus maruadsi</i>	gill	1/5	1	n.s.	IEBR
<b><i>Nothobomolochus</i> Vervoort, 1962</b>						
*** <i>Nothobomolochus denticulatus</i> (Bassett-Smith, 1898)	<i>Sphyaena obtusata</i>		2/10	2.5 (2-3)	n.s.	IEBR
<i>Nothobomolochus</i> sp.	<i>Mugil cephalus</i>	gill	7/35	1.4 (1-2)		IEBR

**Table 2** (continued)

Parasite species	Fish host	Infection site	No. infected/No. examined	Intensity of infection: mean (range)	GenBank numbers of submitted sequences	Specimen stored
<b>Philichthyidae Vogt, 1877</b>						
<b>Colobomatus Hesse, 1873</b>						
<i>Colobomatus</i> sp.	<i>Platycephalus indicus</i>	gill	1/23	4	n.s.	IEBR
ORDER SIPHONOSTOMATOIDA THORELL, 1859						
<b>Caligidae Burmeister, 1835</b>						
<b>Caligus Müller, 1785</b>						
<i>Caligus arii</i> Bassett-Smith, 1898	<i>Trichiurus lepturus</i>	gill	2/20	1	n.s.	IEBR
*** <i>Caligus eleutheronemi</i> Shen, 1957	<i>Leptomelanosoma indicum</i>	gill	1/2	3	n.s.	IEBR
*** <i>Caligus epidemiacus</i> Hewitt, 1971	<i>Diploprion bifasciatum</i>	gill	4/12	2 (1-4)	n.s.	IEBR
*** <i>Caligus epinepheli</i> Yamaguti, 1936	<i>Acanthopagrus latus</i>	gill	1/3	3	n.s.	IEBR
<i>Caligus lagocephali</i> Pillai, 1961	<i>Lagocephalus lunaris</i>	gill	1/5	1	n.s.	IEBR
<i>Caligus laticaudus</i> Shiino, 1960	<i>Siganus fuscescens</i>	gill	1/64	1	n.s.	IEBR
<i>Caligus</i> sp.	<i>Scatophagus argus</i>	gill	1/7	2	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Hatschekiidae Kabata, 1979</b>						
<b>Hatschekia Poche, 1902</b>						
*** <i>Hatschekia</i> sp.	<i>Diploprion bifasciatum</i>	gill	2/12	2 (1-3)	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Pseudocongericola Yü, 1933</b>						
*** <i>Pseudocongericola chefoonensis</i> Yü, 1933	<i>Muraenesox cinereus</i>	gill	12/82	6.8 (1-23)	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Lernaeopodidae Milne Edwards, 1840</b>						
<b>Brachiella Cuvier, 1830</b>						
<i>Brachiella trichiuri indica</i> Ho & Do, 1984	<i>Trichiurus lepturus</i>	gill	2/20	1	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Clavellisa Wilson, 1915</b>						
*** <i>Clavellisa obcordatus</i> Rangnekar, 1957	<i>Thryssa dussumieri</i>	gill	5/17	3 (1-6)	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Parabrachiella Wilson, 1915</b>						
*** <i>Parabrachiella brevicapita</i> (Ho & Do, 1984)	<i>Nibea albiflora</i>	gill	1/8	1		IEBR
	<i>Osteomugil cunnesius</i>	gill	1/18	4	n.s.	
	<i>Osteomugil engeli</i>	gill	1/95	1		
<b>Lernanthropidae Kabata, 1979</b>						
<b>Lernanthropinus Ho &amp; Do, 1985</b>						
<i>Lernanthropinus decapteri</i> (Pillai, 1964)	<i>Decapterus russelli</i>	gill	1/10	5	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Lernanthropodes Bere, 1936</b>						
<i>Lernanthropodes chorinemi</i> Pillai, 1962	<i>Scomberoides comersomianus</i>	gill	2/9	1	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Lernanthropus de Blainville, 1822</b>						
*** <i>Lernanthropus indicus</i> Pillai, 1967	<i>Upeneus tragula</i>	gill	5/10	2.6 (1-4)	n.s.	IEBR

**Table 2** (continued)

Parasite species	Fish host	Infection site	No. infected/No. examined	Intensity of infection: mean (range)	GenBank numbers of submitted sequences	Specimen stored
*** <i>Lernanthropus otolithi</i> Pillai, 1963	<i>Argyrosomus japonicus</i>	gill	4/12	3.3 (1-8)	n.s.	IEBR
	<i>Johnius belangerii</i>	gill	4/15	1.3 (1-2)		
	<i>Otolithes ruber</i>	gill	1/5	2		
<i>Lernanthropus polynemi</i> Richiardi, 1881	<i>Plotosus lineatus</i>	gill	1/10	2	n.s.	IEBR
<i>Lernanthropus tylosuri</i> Richiardi, in Goggio, 1906	<i>Strongylura strongylura</i>	gill	3/8	3 (2-5)	n.s.	IEBR
<i>Lernanthropus viliersi</i> Delamare Debutteville & Nunes-Ruivo, 1954	<i>Gerres filamentosus</i>	gill	1/8	2	n.s.	IEBR
<i>Lernanthropus</i> sp.	<i>Equulites rivulatus</i>	gill	1/3	1	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Taeniacanthidae Wilson, 1911</b>						
<b><i>Taeniacanthus</i> Sumpf, 1871</b>						
*** <i>Taeniacanthus lagocephali</i> Pearse, 1952	<i>Monacanthus chinensis</i>	gill	4/14	3.5 (2-7)	n.s.	IEBR
<b>MALACOSTRACA</b>						
<b>ISOPODA LATREILLE, 1817</b>						
<b>Cymothoidae Leach, 1814</b>						
<b><i>Smenispa</i> Özdikmen, 2009</b>						
<i>Smenispa irregularis</i> (Bleeker, 1857)	<i>Terapon jarbua</i>	gill	1/16	3	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Gnathiidae Leach, 1814</b>						
<b><i>Gnathia</i> Leach, 1814</b>						
<i>Gnathia</i> sp.	<i>Cynoglossus bilineatus</i>	gill	1/9	1	n.s.	IEBR
<b>MYXOZOA</b>						
<b>BIVALVULIDA SHULMAN, 1959</b>						
<b>Ceratomyxidae Doflein, 1899</b>						
<b><i>Ceratomyxa</i> Thélohan, 1892</b>						
** <i>Ceratomyxa</i> sp.	<i>Nemipterus japonicus</i>	gall-bladder	6/15	uncounted	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Coccomyxidae Léger &amp; Hesse, 1907</b>						
<b><i>Auerbachia</i> Meglitsch, 1960</b>						
** <i>Auerbachia</i> sp.	<i>Nemipterus japonicus</i>	gall-bladder	2/15	uncounted	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Myxobolidae Thélohan, 1892</b>						
<b><i>Myxobolus</i> Bütschli, 1882</b>						
** <i>Myxobolus</i> sp.	<i>Planiliza subviridis</i>	muscle	2/31	uncounted	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Myxidiidae Thélohan, 1892</b>						
<b><i>Myxidium</i> Buetschli, 1882</b>						
** <i>Myxidium</i> sp.1	<i>Hemiramphus far</i>	gall-bladder	1/5	uncounted	n.s.	IEBR
<b><i>Zschokkella</i> Auerbach, 1909</b>						
** <i>Zschokkella</i> sp.	<i>Nemipterus japonicus</i>	gall-bladder	1/15	uncounted	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Sphaeromyxidae Lom &amp; Noble, 1984</b>						
<b><i>Sphaeromyxa</i> Thélohan, 1892</b>						
** <i>Sphaeromyxa</i> sp. 1	<i>Hemiramphus marginatus</i>	gall-bladder	3/15	uncounted	n.s.	IEBR

**Table 2** (continued)

Parasite species	Fish host	Infection site	No. infected/No. examined	Intensity of infection: mean (range)	GenBank numbers of submitted sequences	Specimen stored
** <i>Sphaeromyxa</i> sp. 2	<i>Megalaspis cordyla</i>	gall-bladder	2/5	uncounted	n.s.	IEBR
<b>Trilosporidae Shulman, 1959</b>						
<b><i>Unicapsula</i> Davis, 1924</b>						
<i>Unicapsula pyramidata</i> (Naidenova & Zaika, 1970)	<i>Nemipterus japonicus</i>	muscle	4/15	uncounted	AB971675-AB971676	IEBR
MULTIVALVULIDA SHULMAN, 1959						
<b>Kudoidae Meglitsch, 1960</b>						
<b><i>Kudoa</i> Meglitsch, 1947</b>						
** <i>Kudoa monodactyli</i> Gunter, Cribb, Whipps & Adlard, 2006	<i>Osteomugil cunnesius</i>	Muscle	5/95	uncounted	OL339428, OP070006	IEBR
** <i>Kudoa whippsi</i> Burger & Adlard, 2010	<i>Osteomugil cunnesius</i>	Muscle	5/18	uncounted	OL339425, OP070005	IEBR
** <i>Kudoa</i> sp. 1	<i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>	Muscle	4/12	uncounted	n.s.	IEBR
** <i>Kudoa</i> sp. 2	<i>Planiliza subviridis</i>	Muscle	7/31	uncounted	n.s.	IEBR
** <i>Kudoa</i> sp. 3	<i>Planiliza subviridis</i>	Muscle	4/31	uncounted	n.s.	IEBR
** <i>Kudoa</i> sp. 4	<i>Osteomugil cunnesius</i>	Muscle	12/95	uncounted	n.s.	IEBR
** <i>Kudoa</i> sp. 5	<i>Osteomugil cunnesius</i>	Muscle	10/95	uncounted	n.s.	IEBR

Note: \*new species described from collected specimens in this survey; \*\*new parasite locality records; \*\*\*new host records; †larvae stage; n.s. not sequence

(Valenciennes), were the dominant examined fishes, constituting 33% of all sampled fishes.

A total of 994 (95.39%) specimens, representing 68 fish species (85%), were infected by one or more parasite taxa (Table 1). On average, each fish species was infected by 3 parasitic groups (range 1–7 groups per host). Trematodes, monogeneans, and crustaceans were the most common parasites, and have been collected from 47, 43, and 29 fish species, respectively. Less than 20 fish species were infected with the other parasite groups, particularly Hirudinea, which was only discovered in 2 fish species. Infection intensity was the highest with monogeneans, with about 11.4 worms per infected fish, followed by trematodes (10.37), and acanthocephalans (10.21). Infection intensity was not measured for myxozoans. The prevalence of infection also did not differ significantly by season ( $p=0.975$ ), although the prevalence in dry seasons was slightly greater than in rainy seasons (1.01 times).

## Diversity of parasites and their classification

Parasites collected from marine fishes in the Cat Ba Archipelago were divided into 8 groups, e.g. acanthocephala, cestode, trematode, monogenea, nematode, hirudinea, crustacean (copepod and isopod), and myxozoa. A total of 162 parasitic species within 107 genera from 60 families, and 15 orders of 9 higher taxa were defined (Table 2). Trematodes were the most diverse group, with 54 identified species, followed by monogeneans (37 species), and copepods (25 species). Hirudinea and isopods only had two species each. Most parasites (138 species) were found in only one fish host, while others were found in 2–6 hosts. The largest host range was found for *Ligophorus leporinus* (monogenean), which was found from 6 fish species, followed by *Paucivitellosus vietnemensis* (trematode), and *Neoechinorhynchus* (*Neoechinorhynchus*) *longinucleatus* (acanthocephalan), which were each found from 5 fish host species. During the survey, twenty new species were described, including 7 acanthocephalans and 13 trematodes; twenty

species were recorded for the first time from the Cat Ba Archipelago, and twenty-two species had new host records reported. Among the 162 parasitic species recorded, 35 were only identified to the genus or higher taxonomic level, including three larval taxa of cestodes, two trematodes, five nematodes, three female crustaceans, two undescribed new species of monogeneans, and 12 unidentified species of myxozoans.

Eighty-one parasite species were found from the intestine and/or stomach, including all species of acanthocephala, cestoda, trematoda, and nematoda. Monogeneans, hirudinea, and crustaceans were collected from the host gills, while myxozoans found in the muscle or gall-bladder.

The prevalence and intensity of each parasite species differed among fish hosts (Table 2). Prevalence ranged from 1.1% to 100%. Parasite abundance, except for myxozoans, ranged from 1 to 69 samples per infected fish.

## Discussion

A remarkable 85% of the examined fish species (68 of 80) were infected by 162 distinct parasitic species. Extrapolating from these figures, the projected number of fish parasites among the 361 reported marine fish species in the Cat Ba Archipelago approximates to 730. The number of parasitic species in the current study now accounts for one-third of all parasitic species within and on marine fishes in Vietnam, when compared to the 498 species discovered from 225 fish species by Truong et al. (2022). Additionally, it is worth noting that the mean number of parasitic species per infected fish within the Cat Ba Archipelago surpasses the corresponding figure for Vietnam's entire offshore regions (2.38 versus 2.21), as well as other prominent Pacific Ocean island regions, such as Hawaii (2.2), New Caledonia (1.9), and the Indo West Pacific (1.7) (Rohde, 2005; Justine, 2010; Palm & Bray, 2014).

Despite the diversity of fishes in the Cat Ba Archipelago, only 80 fish species were studied between 2010 and 2023 due to constraints related to procuring fish specimens from the local fishery. Each fisherman had their distinct familiar fishing grounds which resulted in a relatively stable composition of fish species over the course of the nine sampling

periods. Among the 80 species surveyed, the occurrence of individual fish varied significantly. While certain species were encountered only once, represented by a solitary specimen, others exhibited a higher frequency, with counts reaching as high as 95 individuals. For example, the mugilids were the most sampled, with 13 species and 362 examined specimens. Although only 80 fish species were investigated, 42 species were identified as new hosts of parasites (including 20 new parasitic species and 22 new host records). These findings underscore the endemic nature of the host-parasite interactions observed within the fish population of the Cat Ba Archipelago.

Within the current list of marine fish parasites of Vietnam (Truong et al., 2022), trematodes encompass 214 of the total 498 parasitic species (42.97%). Despite being a major group of parasites in the present study, with 54 species, trematodes only accounted for 33.33% of the total number of parasite species, lower than the average rate throughout coastal Vietnam. Therefore, given the lower identified trematode diversity, and the fact that we described 12 new species and have identified another 4 undescribed new species, it is likely that there is still a significant number of undiscovered trematode taxa.

Truong et al. (2022) documented 117 monogenean species (23.49% of the total) found in Vietnam's marine fishes. However, it's worth noting that the authors didn't incorporate data from various publications by Russian scientists, resulting in the omission of numerous species from their list. This oversight is particularly significant given that Nguyen et al. (2020c) had previously conducted a comprehensive review, listing 220 monogenean species from 152 marine fish species. In the present study, although no new species were described from fish in Cat Ba Archipelago, new species were described from fish in coastal regions nearby. For example, Kritsky et al. (2016) described two new species of *Metahaliotrema* from the spotted scat, *Scatophagus argus*, from off Mong Cai, Quang Ninh province; Nguyen et al. (2016, 2020a) described a new species *Unnithanaxine naresii* from the Pharaoh flyingfish, *Cypselurus naresii*, and two new species of *Karavolicotyla* from sciaenid fishes from the Gulf of Tonkin; and Nguyen et al. (2020b) described two new species of *Polylabroides*, and one species of *Metacamopia* from the Pacific seabream, *Acanthopagrus pacificus*, from the coast of Mong Cai, off Tien Yen, Quang Ninh



province. Considering the remarkable diversity of fishes and ecosystems within the Cat Ba Archipelago, the exploration of the monogenean fauna, the intricate dynamics of host-parasite relationships, and the evolutionary interactions of hosts and parasites in this region possess immense value for researchers.

According to Truong et al. (2022), there are 17 species of tapeworm reported in marine fishes from Vietnam. Seven cestode species were found in the current study; only three of these seven had been previously found in Vietnam, while the remaining species represent new records for Vietnam. Three species were only identified to a generic level due to the unmaturing/larval stage of specimens, including *Bothriocephalus* sp. from the Largehead hairtail, *Trichiurus lepturus*. Yera et al. (2013) found the Asian fish tapeworm *Bothriocephalus acheilognathi* in human stools. Therefore, there is a potential for humans to become infected with *Bothriocephalus* from eating undercooked *T. lepturus*.

A total of 39 acanthocephalan species have been described so far from marine fishes in Vietnam (Nguyen et al., 2021), including 10 species from the Cat Ba Archipelago. Among them, seven species were new, and two species were found from a new host. Only *Neoechinorhynchus* (*Neoechinorhynchus*) *johnii* had been previously reported from the coastal regions of Vietnam (Nguyen et al., 2021). Half of the discovered acanthocephalan species diversity in the Cat Ba Archipelago belongs to the *Neoechinorhynchus*. Although this genus is quite large (~124 described species), only 9 species have been found in Vietnam (Nguyen et al., 2021). According to Nabi et al. (2015) acanthocephalans are a major threat to the health of fishes globally. Nguyen et al. (2021) provided SEM microphotographs showing the serious damage to the intestinal wall caused by the spiny hooks on the proboscis of acanthocephalans, which has a potential to result in host death (Farias et al., 2021).

Marine fish nematodes of the Cat Ba Archipelago are less diverse, with only 10 species detected (6.17%). Five species were identified at the generic level due to them only being found in their larval stage. *Anisakis* nematodes, which can cause human anisakiasis, were not found in the study, although *A. typical* larvae have been reported in South Central and South Coastal Vietnam from various fish species (Hien et al., 2021), which were also examined in the present study. However, we found two other anisakid

species (*Contracaecum* spp.), and one raphidascarid species (*Hysterothylacium* sp.); some species within these genera have been reported to infect humans.

In the present study, two species of leech were collected from mugilid fishes, *Oceanobdella sexoculata* and *Piscicola geometra*. Only two other species of leech have been reported in previous studies, *Zeylanicobdella arugamensis* and *Piscicola* sp. from groupers and snappers Truong et al. (2022). Therefore, 4 species of hirudinea in Vietnam marine fishes are known so far.

Crustaceans were the third most diverse group of parasites in this study, comprising 25 copepods and two isopods. Species of two genera, *Caligus* and *Lernanthropus*, were dominant, with seven and six species, respectively. Although there are many reports of anchor worms on the skin of marine fishes, such as *Lepeophtheirus* spp. (Ha et al., 2020), all copepods discovered in the present study were found on the gills of their fish hosts. Truong et al. (2022) provided an inaccurate and underestimated list of crustacean species, with 53 copepod and 5 isopod species, while Ha et al. (2020) provided a more detailed and representative list of 73 species of copepod parasitizing marine fishes.

Chinh et al. (2023) provided an updated list of 51 myxozoa species from fishes in Vietnam, including 38 marine species. Only three of 15 myxozoa species found in the present study were identified to the species-level, the remaining taxa, which may include novel diversity, were only identified to the generic-level. While other genera only have one or two species for the region, *Kudoa* is represented by seven species in the region. Myxozoans are one of the most common and diverse groups of parasites in marine fishes (Mackenzie & Kalavati, 2014), therefore the diversity of myxozoans in the Cat Ba Archipelago may be higher than the current finding and should be a target for further investigation.

Before 2020, there were about 450 fish culture facilities within the inshore water of the Cat Ba Archipelago (Hai Phong Fisheries Sub-Department, 2021). However, due to aquaculture's potential negative environmental and public health impacts (Madsen et al., 2022), the Hai Phong Municipal People's Committee proposed a policy to move the current facilities to areas designated for aquaculture. At present, 95% of aquaculture facilities have been moved to culture designated areas. The

present survey only included wild fish and we did not survey cultured fish. Therefore, future efforts should be made to survey cultured fish, as parasite and pathogen data from cultured fishes could help identify potential risks to food safety and human health. One limitation of our study is that we used visual inspection to detect parasites in the examined fish. Visual inspections, alone, are often insufficient for detecting nematode larvae (Levsen et al., 2005; Llorens-Reino et al., 2012), especially parasites infecting the fish musculature. Therefore, other methods, e.g. artificial digestion, compressor method with illuminated table and UV transillumination, could be applied for future investigations (Celano et al., 2013; Shamsi & Suthar, 2016). Additionally, metacercariae from marine fish were not investigated, and given their potential to harm their fish hosts, should be targets of future studies (Kim et al., 2022).

In conclusion, the present study provides the most current list of parasitic fauna from marine fishes from the Cat Ba Archipelago, a biosphere reserve of the world, in Vietnam. We identified 162 parasitic species from 80 wild marine fish species. The data concerning parasitic fauna presented in this paper enhances our understanding of the broader biodiversity within the Cat Ba Archipelago, which are critical for building baselines for measuring future change.

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#### Declarations

**Conflict of interest** The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

**Ethical approval** All applicable institutional, national and international guidelines for the care and use of animals were followed.

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