

## **Infection by larval cestodies of the genus *Paradilepis* in cultured *Oreochromis niloticus* (L.)**

**G. N. O. EZERI**

### **Abstract**

Helminth infection of cultured *Oreochromis niloticus* was observed in two farms in Abeokuta, Ogun State and Jos, Plateau State. The parasite was identified as the larva of a cestode of the genus *Paradilepis*. Eggs and larvae were found under the scales and strongly and deeply embedded in fish body. Larvae measured between 5-6 mm in length and 2.5 – 3.0 mm in diameter while eggs measured 2.5 – 30 mm in diameter. Adults had the highest percentage infection (80%) in both Ogun and Plateau States, while sub-adults and juveniles had 60.5% infection respectively. The percentage infection in both farms was 55.6%. The parasite burden in Plateau State was higher (64%) than in Ogun State (35.9%).

### **Key words:**

Infection, Cestodes, *Oreochromis niloticus*