

INTRODUCTION

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The cestode parasites are found in plenty, in the vertebrates like fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. So far very little work has been done on the cestode parasites of vertebrates in India, as compared to wealth of information available in the various parts of the world. In India woodland, Baylis, Southwell, Moghe, Singh, Gupta and Johri are the pioneers, who gave more emphasis on systematics and morphology of cestodes. Among recent workers, working on taxonomy, histopathology, neurosecretion, histochemistry, histomorphology and biochemistry of the cestode parasites of vertebrates are Hanumantrao, Bhalerao, Siddiqui, Khambata, Subhapradha, Fotedar, Chisti, Nama, Shinde, Tondon and Jadhav.

The cestode parasites when present in these vertebrate hosts cause serious diseases to the hosts. As these vertebrates like fishes, birds and mammals are an important source of food for human beings and also have economic importance. The parasites cause many diseases when the flesh of the hosts is improperly cooked and consumed by human beings. The parasites when present, increase the rate of mortality of hosts and reduces their food values.

Keeping in mind the economic importance and food value of fishes, the work on systematics and morphology of the cestode parasites of fishes has been undertaken.

The two main water resources of Kolhapur are Panchaganga river and lakes, which are having abundant fish fauna. The fishes captured at different localities in Panchaganga river are brought in the fish market of Kolhapur.

LOCATION MAP OF STUDY AREA OF KOLHAPUR DISTRICT

