

PREVALENCE AND SEASONAL ABUNDANCE OF PROTOZOAN PARASITES IN PENAEID SHRIMP *PENAEUS MONODON* IN HIGH SALINE BHERIES OF WEST BENGAL

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ABSTRACT– Prevalence and seasonal abundance of protozoan parasites in penaeid shrimp (*Penaeus monodon*) of high saline bheries of West Bengal was carried out for a period of 20 months from February 2000 to November 2001 covering two successive cropping seasons. The water quality parameters like temperature, hardness and salinity influenced the prevalence and distribution of parasites. These variables have definite impact individually or as a whole on the prevalence of parasites of shrimp. The protozoan ectoparasites identified commonly were *Zoothamnium* sp, *Vorticella* sp, *Epistylis* sp and *Acineta* sp. The only endoparasite found was microsporidians (*Nosema* sp) with low Parasitic Frequency Index (PFI). Monsoon was found to be the most favorable season for almost all the parasites (*Zoothamnium* sp, *Vorticella* sp, *Epistylis* sp, *Nosema* sp) except *Acineta* sp, which showed it's proliferation in summer season.

Key words: Bheries, Protozoan parasites, *Penaeus monodon*.