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New County Record of Black-Spot Disease in Arkansas

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Running Title: New County Record of Black-Spot Disease in Arkansas

Black-spot disease is an infection in fishes caused by metacercariae of neascus-type (*Uvulifer ambloplitis*, *Crassiphiala bulboglossa*, and others) and non-neascus type (*Apophallus brevis*, *Cryptocotyle lingua*, and others) digenetic trematodes (Hoffman 1999, McAllister et al. 2013, Roberts et al. 2013). Much of what is known about black-spot disease in Arkansas is from game species (Cloutman 1974, Becker and Cloutman 1975 and Hlass et al. 1998), although McAllister et al. (2013) provided several accounts of infection from new host species, both game and nongame, and new counties (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Counties where black-spot disease has been documented. Accounts by McAllister et al. (2013) (•) and reports herein (x).

As this report is intended to expand the knowledge of the distribution of black-spot disease in Arkansas, we did not assess prevalence of infection, infection abundance or intensity. Fish were collected from an upstream and downstream location from Jane's Creek in Randolph County on 17 January 2015. Fish were fixed in the field in a 10% neutral buffered formalin solution and placed on ice. The fish were then stored in 70% ethanol and held in the teaching collection.

Species was determined using Fishes of Arkansas (Robison and Buchanan 1988), and specimens were examined. Several species were infected with black-spot disease, including Central Stonerollers, *Camptostoma anomalum*, Bigeye Shiners, *Notropis boops*, a Telescope Shiner, *N. telescopus*, Greenside Darters, *Etheostoma blennioides*, Rainbow Darters, *E. caeruleum*, Orangethroat Darters, *E. spectabile*, and Banded Darters, *E. zonale*. Although these species are known to be hosts of the black-spot causing trematodes, the only account of infection in Randolph County was from a mention in a paper on the diversity of fishes in Jane's Creek (Fowler and Harp 1974) where some cyprinids were infected, though no host species were identified and no percids were infected. Figures 2 and 3 contain images of several individuals infected with black-spot disease.

Figure 2. Encased cysts in caudal fin (A) and body (B) of a Central Stoneroller. Cyst on gular region of a Bigeye Shiner (C). Each notch on ruler is 100 μ m. Scale bar = 2 mm

Figure 3. Telescope Shiner (A), Bigeye Shiner (B), Central Stoneroller (C), Rainbow Darter (D), and Greenside Darter (E) infected with black-spot disease. Scale bar = 2 mm.

Acknowledgments

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