MONOGENEA ON EXOTIC INDIAN FRESHWATER FISH. 6. CO-INTRODUCTION OF *CICHLIDOGYRUS SCLEROSUS* (PLATYHELMINTHES: MONOGENEA) WITH AN INVASIVE NILE TILAPIA *OREOCHROMIS NILOTICUS* (TELEOSTEI: CICHLIDAE)

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Nile tilapia *Oreochromis niloticus* (Cichliformes: Cichlidae) is one of the most widespread invasive fish species and is host to a plethora of pathogens and parasites. However, no information is available about the health status or infectious diseases of either cultured or wild *O. niloticus* in India. This article provides the first report of *Cichlidogyrus sclerosus*, an exotic monogenean (platyhelminth) parasite, from wild *O. niloticus* in north India. Partial sequence data from the 28S rRNA gene fragments and the 18S-ITS1 region corroborated the initial determination based on morphological characteristics. The potential impact of parasite assemblage of invasive *O. niloticus*, including *C. sclerosus*, are discussed.

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