

New Japanese Record of *Henneguya postexilis*
(Cnidaria: Myxobolidae) from Gills of Alien
Channel Catfish *Ictalurus punctatus* (Siluriformes:
Ictaluridae) in Japan

メタデータ	言語: en 出版者: 公開日: 2024-04-18 キーワード (Ja): キーワード (En): 作成者: 新田, 理人, 石川, 孝典 メールアドレス: 所属: 水産研究・教育機構, 日本大学
URL	https://fra.repo.nii.ac.jp/records/2002154

See discussions, stats, and author profiles for this publication at: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/377300962>

New Japanese Record of *Henneguya postexilis* (Cnidaria: Myxobolidae) from Gills of Alien Channel Catfish *Ictalurus punctatus* (Siluriformes: Ictaluridae) in Japan

Article in *Species Diversity* · January 2024

DOI: 10.12782/specdiv.29.23

CITATIONS

0

READS

44

2 authors:



Masato Nitta

Setouchi Parasite Biodiversity Laboratory

79 PUBLICATIONS 268 CITATIONS

SEE PROFILE



Takanori Ishikawa

Iwate University

9 PUBLICATIONS 31 CITATIONS

SEE PROFILE

New Japanese Record of *Henneguya postexilis* (Cnidaria: Myxobolidae) from Gills of Alien Channel Catfish *Ictalurus punctatus* (Siluriformes: Ictaluridae) in Japan

Masato Nitta^{1,3} and Takanori Ishikawa²

¹ Pathology Division, Nansei Field Station, Fisheries Technology Institute, Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency,
422-1 Nakatsuhamaura, Minami-Ise, Mie 516-0193, Japan
E-mail: nitta_masato08@fra.go.jp

² College of Bioresource Sciences, Nihon University, 1866, Kameino, Fujisawa, Kanagawa 252-0880, Japan

³ Corresponding author

(Received 21 August 2023; Accepted 28 November 2023)

Henneguya postexilis Minchew, 1977 (Cnidaria: Myxobolidae) is described as a novel record for Japan. It was found in the gills of non-native *Ictalurus punctatus* (Rafinesque, 1818) (Siluriformes: Ictaluridae), which were collected from the Omoi River, a tributary of the Tone River system in Tochigi Prefecture, central Honshu. This myxozoan species is native to North America and its discovery from Japan in this study is the second case reported from a non-native region. Until now, *H. postexilis* has only been observed in *I. punctatus*, suggesting that it is an introduced alien species in Japan, likely accompanying its host.

Key Words: Myxozoa, alien species, new country record, molecular identification.

Introduction

Alien fish species can inadvertently facilitate the co-invasion or establishment of parasites associated with them (Bauer and Hoffman 1976; Bauer 1991; Lymbery et al. 2014). A case in point is the channel catfish *Ictalurus punctatus* (Rafinesque, 1818) (Siluriformes: Ictaluridae), native to North America, which was deliberately introduced into various habitats for aquaculture purposes. This introduction resulted in the co-invasion of accompanying parasites such as monogeneans, ciliates, and myxozoans (see Nitta and Nagasawa 2015; Feng et al. 2023; Zhang et al. 2023). Specifically, in Japan, the alien monogenean *Ligicaluridus pricei* (Mueller, 1936) (Dactylogyridae) was reported to co-establish with *I. punctatus* in Lake Kasumigaura in the lower reaches of the Tone River system in central Honshu (Nitta and Nagasawa 2015). During a parasitological examination of alien fish species within the Tone River system, not only *L. pricei* but also gill-infesting myxozoans were discovered in *I. punctatus*. Moreover, through morphological and molecular examination, these myxozoans were identified as *Henneguya postexilis* Minchew, 1977 (Myxobolidae), which had not been previously reported in Japan. Hence, this finding represents a novel record of *H. postexilis* infection in Japan.

Species of *Henneguya* Thélohan, 1892 are fish parasitic myxospores, of which more than 250 species have been described (Rangel et al. 2023). This genus is distinguished from the other member of Myxobolidae by the morphology of its symmetrical spores along with the presence of paired

polar capsules and two caudal projections (Lom and Dyková 1992). Although the presence of two caudal projections is one of the important characters of this genus, the previous molecular phylogenetic analyses indicated that *Henneguya* is polyphyletic and the character has independently arisen several times in the Myxobolidae (Kent et al. 2001; Liu et al. 2019). In addition to the phylogenetic analysis results, Liu et al. (2019) posited that the taxonomic status of the genus should be maintained until comprehensive molecular data becomes available for the type species of all genera encompassed within the Myxobolidae. In Japan, a total of 14 nominal *Henneguya* species have been reported from 10 fish species (Table 1).

Materials and Methods

Two specimens of *I. punctatus* with standard lengths of 82.6 mm and 65.2 mm, respectively, were captured by angling in the Omoi River (36°17'18.1"N, 139°46'18.7"E), a tributary of the Tone River system located in Oyama City, Tochigi Prefecture, Japan, on 23 August 2015. The captured fish were stored in a freezer until parasitological examination. Using forceps under a dissecting microscope, each plasmodium of the myxosporean was carefully extracted from the gills and placed on a glass slide, and approximately half of the spores were fixed in 99% ethanol in a 1.5 mL tube. The remaining fresh spores were wet-mounted, and microphotographs were taken using a CANON EOS Kiss X7i digital camera (Canon, Tokyo, Japan) attached to an Olympus BX51 light microscope (Olympus, Tokyo, Japan).

Table 1. Records of nominal species of *Henneguya* from Japanese fishes.

Species	Host	Host family	Locality		Reference
			Prefecture	Site	
<i>H. carassii</i> Fujita, 1924*	<i>Carassius</i> sp. (as <i>C. vulgaris</i> von Nordmann, 1840)	Cyprinidae	Okayama	—	Fujita (1924)
<i>H. cartilaginis</i> Yokoyama, Urawa, Grabner, and Shirakashi, 2012	<i>Oncorhynchus masou</i> (Brevoort, 1856)	Salmonidae	Hokkaido	—	Yokoyama et al. (2012)
<i>H. lateolabracis</i> Yokoyama, Kawakami, Yasuda, and Tanaka, 2003	<i>Lateolabrax maculatus</i> (McClelland, 1844) (as Chinese sea bass <i>Lateolabrax</i> sp.)	Lateolabracidae	Mie	—	Yokoyama et al. (2003)
<i>H. mogurndae</i> Fujita, 1936**	<i>Odontobutis obscura</i> (Temminck and Schlegel, 1845) (as <i>Mogruna obscura</i>)	Odontobutidae	Kyoto	Ogura Pond	Fujita (1936)
<i>H. miyairii</i> Kudo, 1920	<i>Carassius</i> sp. [as <i>Carassius auratus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)]	Cyprinidae	Fukuoka	—	Kudo (1920)
<i>H. miyazakii</i> Hoshina, 1952	<i>Chaenogobius annularis</i> Gill, 1859	Gobiidae	Kanagawa	Kanazawa Bay	Hoshina (1952)
<i>H. ogawai</i> Li, Sato, Kamata, Ohnishi, and Sugita-Konishi, 2012	<i>Acanthopagrus schlegelii</i> (Bleeker, 1854)	Sparidae	Yamaguchi	Seto Inland Sea off Hofu City	Li et al. (2012)
<i>H. pagri</i> Yokoyama, Itoh, and Tanaka, 2005	<i>Pagrus major</i> (Temminck and Schlegel, 1843)	Sparidae	Mie	—	Yokoyama et al. (2005)
<i>H. postexilis</i> Minchew, 1977	<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i> (Rafinesque, 1818)	Ictaluridae	Tochigi	Omoi River	This study
<i>H. spatulata</i> Fujita, 1924*	<i>Carassius</i> sp. (as <i>C. vulgaris</i>)	Cyprinidae	Fukuoka, Shimane	—	Fujita (1924)
<i>H. preintestinalis</i> Ozaki and Isizaki, 1941	<i>Tridentiger obscurus</i> (Temminck and Schlegel, 1845)	Gobiidae	Hiroshima; Yamaguchi	Ota River; Iwakuni River	Ozaki and Isizaki (1941)
<i>H. pseudorhinogobii</i> Kageyama, Yanagida, Ohara, and Yokoyama, 2009	<i>Rhinogobius</i> sp.	Gobiidae	Gifu	Nagara River	Kageyama et al. (2009)
<i>H. rhinogobii</i> Lee and Nie in Chen, 1973	<i>Rhinogobius</i> sp.	Gobiidae	Gifu	Nagara River	Kageyama et al. (2009)
<i>H. tridentigeri</i> Ozaki and Isizaki, 1941	<i>Tridentiger obscurus</i>	Gobiidae	Hiroshima; Yamaguchi	Ota River; Iwakuni River	Ozaki and Isizaki (1941)
	<i>Acanthogobius flavimanus</i> (Temminck and Schlegel, 1845)	Gobiidae	Kanagawa	Kanazawa Bay	Hoshina (1952)
<i>H. yokoyamai</i> Li, Sato, Kamata, Ohnishi, and Sugita-Konishi, 2012	<i>Acanthopagrus schlegelii</i>	Sparidae	Yamaguchi	Seto inland Sea off Hofu City	Li et al. (2012)

* These species were pointed out as not conforming to the morphological traits defined by Lom and Dyková (1992) and were excluded from the synopsis of *Henneguya* (see Eiras 2002).

** This species is not listed in synopses or checklists of *Henneguya* (Eiras 2002; Eiras and Adriano 2012; Rangel et al. 2023).

Subsequently, the spores were fixed in 70% ethanol, air-dried, stained with Giemsa, and mounted in Canada balsam. Meanwhile, some plasmodia were fixed in 5% formalin with the gill tissues and preserved in 70% ethanol in a vial. The specimens were deposited at the Meguro Parasitological Museum (MPM) in Tokyo, Japan. Measurements were acquired from these images using the ImageJ software (version 1.53t; <https://imagej.net/ij/index.html>), as described by Lom and Dyková (1992). Plasmodia were measured on the broad surface of the gill filament, with the vertical axis of the gill filament representing length and the horizontal axis representing width. Measurements, all in micrometers, were expressed as the range followed by the mean \pm SD and number (n) of structures measured in parentheses.

DNA was extracted from the spores fixed in 99% ethanol using a DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) and subsequently eluted in 50 μ L of AE buffer (Qiagen). To amplify the partial sequence of 18S rDNA, two sets of primers were used: ERIB1 (5'-ACC TGG TTG ATC CTG CCA G-3'; Barta et al. 1997) or MyxospecF (5'-TTC TGC CCT ATC AAC TTG TTG-3'; Fiala 2006) in conjunction with ACT1r (5'-AAT TTC ACC TCT CGC TGC CA-3'; Hallett and Diamant 2001), and Myxgen4F (5'-GTG CCT TGA ATA AAT CAG AG-3'; Diamant et al. 2004) paired

with 18gM (5'-CTT CCG CTG GTT CAC CTA CG-3'; Freeman et al. 2008). The PCR reaction was conducted in a 15.0 μ L volume, comprising 7.5 μ L of KOD One PCR Master Mix (Toyobo, Osaka, Japan), 0.45 μ L of each 10 μ M primer, 1.0 μ L of extracted DNA, and 5.6 μ L of distilled water. The PCR cycling protocol involved an initial denaturation step at 98°C for 10 s, followed by 35 cycles of denaturation at 98°C for 10 s, annealing at 54°C for 5 s, extension at 68°C for 10 s, and a final extension step at 68°C for 60 s. Subsequently, the PCR products obtained were purified using ExoSAP-IT (USB Corporation, Cleveland, USA), and commercial sequencing services were employed (Azenta Life Sciences, Tokyo, Japan) using the aforementioned PCR primers. The obtained sequences and electropherograms were manually reviewed and edited utilizing MEGA11 (Tamura et al. 2021). The resulting sequences were submitted to the DNA Data Bank of Japan and compared with existing sequences in the International Nucleotide Sequence Databases (INSD) through a BLASTn search (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>) performed on 15 October 2023.

The phylogenetic tree was reconstructed with the following method. The analyzed dataset was comprised of the newly obtained sequence of 18S rDNA, and 17 sequences that retrieved high similarity to the new sequence by the

Table 2. List of taxa included in the phylogenetic analysis with INSD accession numbers for 18S rDNA sequence.

Species	Host	Locality	Accession No.	Reference
<i>Henneguya adiposa</i> Minchew, 1977	<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i> (Rafinesque, 1818)	USA	EU492929	Griffin et al. (2009)
	<i>I. punctatus</i>	USA	MK253077	Stilwell et al. (2019)
	<i>I. punctatus</i>	USA	MZ905348	Woodyard et al. (2022)
<i>Henneguya exilis</i> Kudo, 1929	<i>I. punctatus</i>	USA	AF021881	Lin et al. (1999)
	<i>I. punctatus</i>	USA	MZ905345	Woodyard et al. (2022)
<i>Henneguya gurleyi</i> Kudo, 1920*	<i>Ameiurus nebulosus</i> (Lesueur, 1819)	USA	DQ673465	Iwanowicz et al. (2008)
<i>Henneguya ictalurid</i> Pote, Hanson, and Shivji, 2000	<i>Dero digitata</i> (Müller, 1774) and/or <i>I. punctatus</i>	USA	AF195510	Pote et al. (2000)
<i>Henneguya laseae</i> Leis, Rosser, Baumgartner, and Griffin, 2017	<i>Pylodictis olivaris</i> (Rafinesque, 1818)	USA	KX354352	Leis et al. (2017)
<i>Henneguya mississippiensis</i> Rosser, Griffin, Quiniou, Khoo, Greenway, Wise, and Pote, 2015	<i>D. digitata</i>	USA	AF021878**	Hanson et al. (2001)
	<i>I. punctatus</i>	USA	KP404438	Rosser et al. (2015)
<i>Henneguya postexilis</i> Minchew, 1977	<i>I. punctatus</i>	Japan	LC781947	This study
	<i>I. punctatus</i>	USA	MZ905344	Woodyard et al. (2022)
	<i>I. punctatus</i>	China	MK811030	Zhang et al. (2023)
<i>Henneguya sutherlandi</i> Griffin, Pote, Wise, Greenway, Mael, and Camus, 2008	<i>I. punctatus</i>	USA	EF191200	Griffin et al. (2008)
	<i>I. punctatus</i>	USA	MZ905346	Woodyard et al. (2022)
<i>Henneguya</i> sp.	<i>Lates calcarifer</i> (Bloch, 1790)	India	MT437047	Unpublished
<i>Helioactinomyxon</i> sp.	<i>D. digitata</i>	USA	KF263537**	Rosser et al. (2014)
<i>Raabeia</i> sp.	<i>D. digitata</i>	USA	KF263539**	Rosser et al. (2014)
<i>Myxobolus lepomis</i> Rosser, Baumgartner, Barger, and Griffin, 2017	<i>Lepomis marginatus</i> (Holbrook, 1855)	USA	KY203391	Rosser et al. (2017)

* This species was recorded as *Henneguya gurlei* [sic] (Iwanowicz et al. 2008).

** Sequences were obtained from actinospores (Hanson et al. 2001; Rosser et al. 2014).

BLAST search. In addition, an 18S sequence of *Myxobolus lepomis* Rosser, Baumgartner, Barger, and Griffin, 2017 was included in the dataset as an outgroup taxon following Woodyard et al. (2022) from INSD (Table 2). The dataset was aligned using MAFFT version 7 (Katoh et al. 2019) using the Q-INS-i strategy. Ambiguous sites in the aligned dataset were removed with Gblocks version 0.91b (Castresana 2000) using the “Allow gap positions within the final blocks” option. The best-fit models were determined based on the Bayesian information criterion using IQ-TREE version 2.2.0. (Kalyanamoorthy et al. 2017; Minh et al. 2020). The maximum likelihood trees were constructed under the TN + F + I + G4 model using IQ-TREE version 2.2.0 with 1000 bootstrap repeats.

Henneguya postexilis Minchew, 1977

[New Japanese name: Amerika-namazu-uchiwa-mushi]
(Figs 1, 2)

Henneguya postexilis Minchew, 1977: 219, figs 49–64, 73, 74; Lom and Dyková 1992: 298; Hoffman 1999: 65; Eiras 2002: 46; Wagner 2016: 76; Woodyard et al. 2022: 47–48, figs 1–4, 7–10; Zhang et al. 2023: 5–6, fig. 5.

Specimens. MPM Coll.-No. 25259.

Description. Plasmodium oblong, 82.8–115.7 (94.3 ± 13.8, n = 5) long, 121.8–200.5 (169.1 ± 29.3, n = 5) wide. Total length of myxospore including caudal processes 45.7–69.9 (56.2 ± 6.3, n = 51). Spore body lanceolate, 12.9–17.9 (14.9 ± 1.1, n = 137)

long, 3.2–4.4 (3.8 ± 0.3, n = 83) wide, length : width ratio 1:0.20–0.34 (0.26 ± 0.03, n = 83), thickness 2.8–3.8 (3.4 ± 0.2, n = 55). Pair of caudal process, equal in length, 29.4–54.4 (41.3 ± 6.4, n = 51). Pair of polar capsules pyriform, occupying anterior half of spore body, mostly unequal in length, with 6–9 (7.2 ± 0.8, n = 67) polar tubule turns. Longer polar capsule 5.3–7.5 (6.4 ± 0.4, n = 80) long, 0.9–1.6 (1.2 ± 0.2, n = 80) wide; shorter polar capsule 4.9–6.8 (5.9 ± 0.5, n = 80) long, 0.8–1.7 (1.2 ± 0.2, n = 80) wide; length ratio of longer and shorter polar capsule 1:0.75–0.99 (0.93 ± 0.05, n = 80).

Locality. Omoi River (36°17′18.1″N, 139°46′18.7″E), Tone River system, in Oyama City, Tochigi Prefecture, Japan.

Host. *Ictalurus punctatus* (Rafinesque, 1818) (Siluriformes: Ictaluridae).

Site of infection. Gill filaments.

Japanese name. The new Japanese name, “amerika-namazu” refers to the host, *Ictalurus* Rafinesque, 1820, in Japanese, and “uchiwa-mushi” means the genus *Henneguya*.

Molecular data comparison. A BLASTn analysis of the newly obtained 18S rDNA fragment (1894 bp; LC781947) returned a 100% match of *H. postexilis* [MZ905344, Woodyard et al. (2022) from USA; MK811030, Zhang et al. (2023) from China] with 100% and 99% coverage, respectively.

Phylogenetic analysis. The newly obtained sequence was placed in a clade with the other *H. postexilis* sequences (MZ905344, MK811030). This species formed a sister clade with a clade of *H. ictalurid* Pote, Hanson, and Shivji, 2000, *H. mississippiensis* Rosser, Griffin, Quiniou, Khoo, Green-

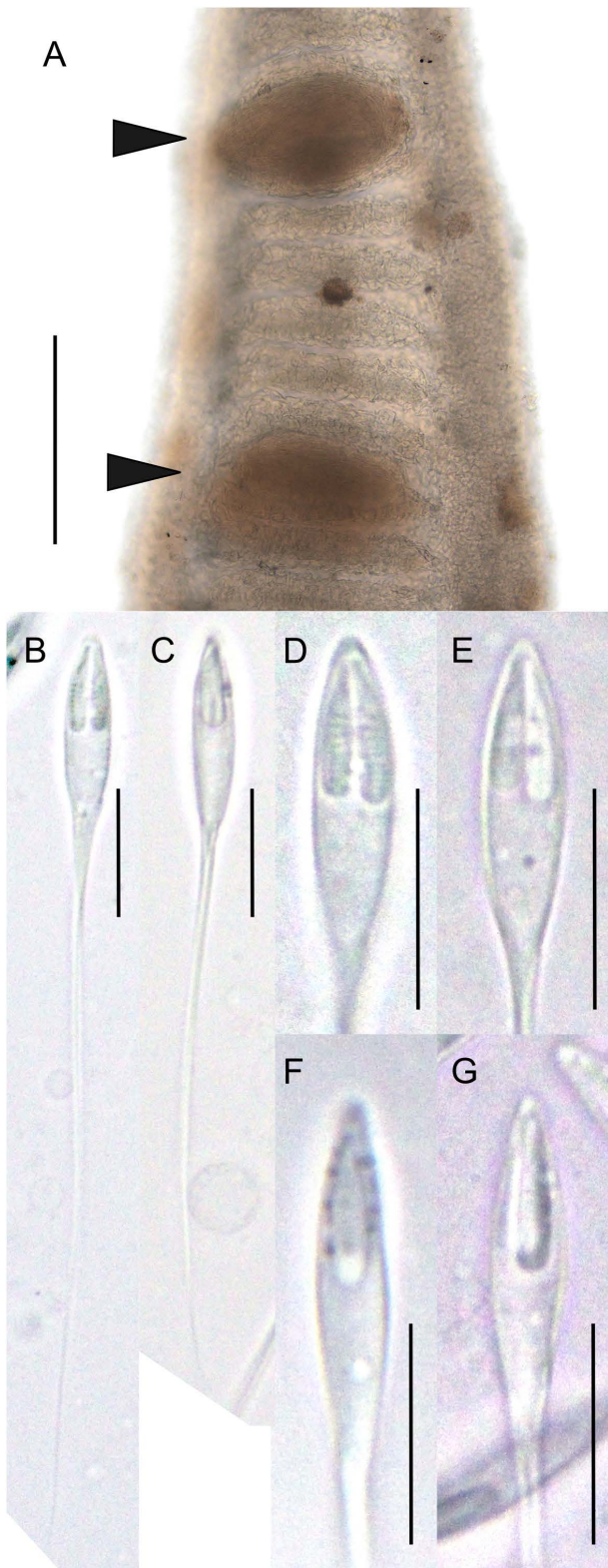


Fig. 1. Light photomicrograph of two fixed plasmodia with a gill filament of *Ictalurus punctatus* (A) and fresh myxospores (B–G) of *Henneguya postexilis*. Arrowheads indicate each plasmodium. B, D, E, Valvular view; C, F, G, sutural view. Scale bars: A, 200 μm ; B–G, 10 μm .

way, Wise, and Pote, 2015, and *Helioactinomyxon* sp.

Remarks. *Henneguya postexilis* was originally described based on the observation of specimens retrieved from the



Fig. 2. Line drawings (composite) of fresh myxospores of *Henneguya postexilis*. A, Valvular view; B, sutural view. Scale bars: 10 μm .

gill filaments of *I. punctatus* reared in a fish farm in Missouri, USA (Minchew 1977). However, the species was not identified until Woodyard et al. (2022) provided a new and more complete molecular description based on specimens obtained from the same host in Mississippi, USA. Notably, morphology and molecular data for *H. postexilis* have been reported in China (Zhang et al. 2023).

The morphology and measurements of the spores examined in this study (Table 3) align with those reported by Minchew (1977), Woodyard et al. (2022), and Zhang et al. (2023) for *H. postexilis*. While the size of the plasmodia observed in this study surpasses prior records (see Table 3), this is probably due to the degree of maturation of the plasmodia. The plasmodia of our specimens contained many mature spores, whereas previously observed diminutive plasmodia were without mature spores (Minchew 1977). Considering that our specimens were collected from small

Table 3. Measurements and counts of *Henneguya postexilis*.

Locality Reference		Japan: Tochigi This study	USA: Missouri Minchew (1977)	USA: Mississippi Woodyard et al. (2022)	China: Jiangsu Zhang et al. (2023)
Plasmodium	length	82.8–115.7	12–80	63.1–68.8	—
	width	121.8–200.5	12–75	56.1–57.0	—
Total myxospore	length	45.7–69.9 (56.2)	42.0–62.0 (52.0)	42.7–49.1 (45.9)	49.4–74.2 (57.9)
Spore body	length	12.9–17.9 (14.9)	13.5–17.0 (15.0)	12.1–17.2 (15.5)	13.6–18.9 (15.6)
	width	3.1–4.4 (3.8)	3.5–4.0 (3.4)	3.6–4.8 (4.1)	3.4–4.6 (4)
	thickness	2.8–3.8 (3.4)	3.5–4.0 (3.0)	2.9–3.8 (3.5)	3.1–4.4 (3.7)
Longer polar capsule	length	5.3–7.5 (6.4)	6.0–8.0 (7.0)	4.4–6.7 (5.9)	6.1–8 (7)
	width	0.9–1.6 (1.2)	1.2–2.0 (1.5)	1.1–1.6 (1.4)	1.2–1.8 (1.5)
Shorter polar capsule	length	4.9–6.8 (5.9)	5.9–7.2 (6.6)	4.4–6.4 (5.6)	5.4–7.5 (6.5)
	width	0.8–1.7 (1.2)	1.2–2.0 (1.5)	1.1–1.6 (1.4)	1.1–1.7 (1.4)
Caudal process	length	29.4–54.4 (41.4)	28.0–49.0 (37.0)	25.7–38.1 (31.2)	32.6–58 (42.7)
Number of polar tubule coil		6–9 (7.2)	6–8	6–8 (7.3)	8–10

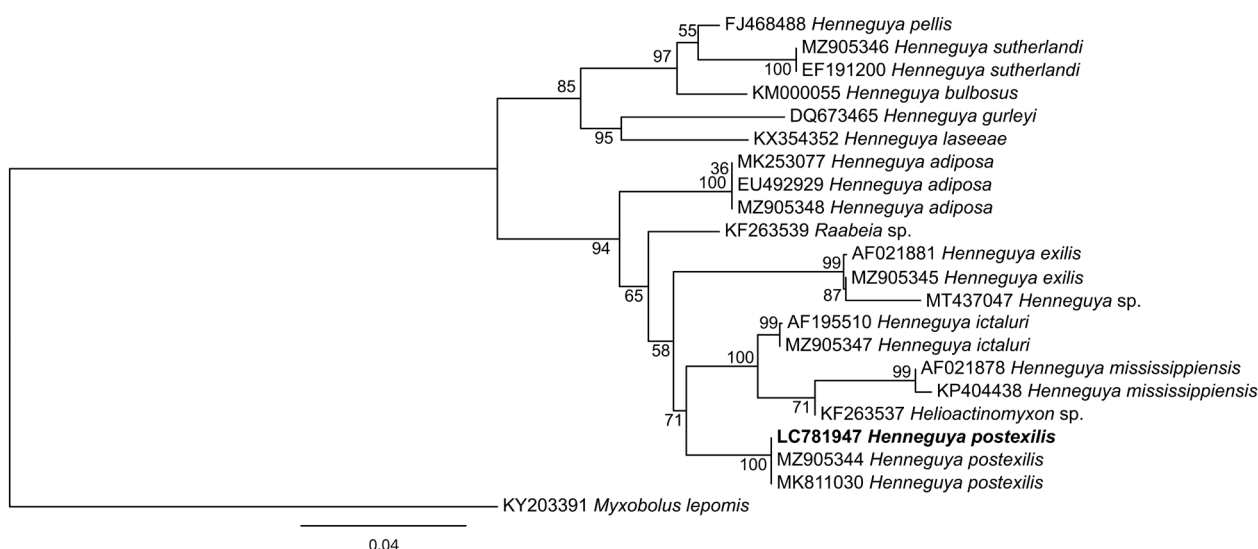


Fig. 3. Maximum likelihood phylogenetic tree based on 18S rDNA data (1513 bp including gaps) from *Henneguya postexilis* and other related myxozoans using *Myxobolus lepomis* as an outgroup. The accession number and scientific name of the newly sequenced species in this study are indicated in bold. The corresponding ISND accession numbers are shown. Arabic numerals at nodes indicate bootstrap values.

hosts during the summer, it is also possible that the variation in the plasmodium size is related to host development and/or seasonal factors. However, further comparison is unavailable since the previous reports lacked information concerning the collection date and host size (Minchew 1977; Woodyard et al. 2022).

Additionally, the 18S rDNA sequence is consistent with previous findings (Woodyard et al. 2022; Zhang et al. 2023), and consequently forms a clade with the other sequences of *H. postexilis* from USA and China in the phylogenetic tree (Fig. 3). Both morphological and molecular analysis results indicated that all the newly collected specimens were *H. postexilis*, representing a novel country record for the species.

Discussion

Henneguya postexilis has been reported in North America, China, and Japan, and all the observed host specimens were *I. punctatus*, suggesting that *H. postexilis* likely exhibits

host specificity for this species (Minchew 1977; Woodyard et al. 2022; Zhang et al. 2023; this study). While our understanding of the *Henneguya* fauna parasitizing freshwater fish in Japan remains limited (see Table 1), it is a plausible conjecture that *H. postexilis* was an introduced species that coexisted and became established alongside *I. punctatus*. This hypothesis is supported by the absence of *H. postexilis* in parasite surveys conducted on other freshwater fish in the region and neighboring water systems (M. Nitta and T. Ishikawa, unpublished data).

The protozoan parasite checklist by Lom and Dyková (1992) included the silver carp *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix* (Valenciennes, 1844) (Cypriniformes: Xenocyprididae) as a host for *H. postexilis*. However, the *Henneguya* species listed under silver carp were consistent with those found in *I. punctatus* in the adjacent column, except for *H. petrotschenkoi* Achmerov, 1960 (now *H. cutanea* Dogiel and Petruschewsky, 1933). Moreover, due to the absence of original data on infections by *Henneguya* species in silver carp, the *Henneguya* record associated with silver carp in Lom and

Dyková (1992) is likely a typographical error.

Myxozoans, including *Henneguya* species, rely on invertebrates and vertebrates as definitive and intermediate hosts, respectively, to complete their lifecycle (see El-Matbouli and Hoffman 1998; El-Matbouli et al. 1998; Eszterbauer et al. 2015; Okamura et al. 2015). Although the definitive host of *H. postexilis* remains unidentified, five *Henneguya* species infecting *Dero digitata* (Müller, 1773) (Clitellata: Naididae) have been documented through surveys conducted in ictalurid aquaculture ponds (Lin et al. 1999; Pote et al. 2000; Rosser et al. 2015). Furthermore, actinospores of an unidentified species have been found in *Amphichaeta* sp. (as *Amphicheta* [sic] sp.) (Naididae) (see Rosser et al. 2014), suggesting a potential association between *H. postexilis* and these clitellate oligochaetes (Woodyard et al. 2022). Both *D. digitata* and unidentified *Amphichaeta* species have been observed in the lower reaches of the Tone River system in Lake Kasumigaura (Ohtaka 2018), indicating that *H. postexilis* may have established itself in Japan by utilizing these clitellate oligochaetes as hosts.

This record highlights the potential establishment of myxozoans in Japan through the introduction of non-native fish. Importantly, certain myxozoans that parasitize freshwater fish can induce diseases in fish. For example, *Myxobolus cerebralis* (Hofer, 1903) causes whirling disease in farmed salmon, trout, and wild fish populations (see Halliday 1976). In turn, *Sphaerospora dykova* Gunter and Adlard, 2010 (better known under its synonym “*S. renicola* Dyková and Lom 1982”) (Sphaerosporidae) is a highly pathogenic and important parasite of *Cyprinus carpio* Linnaeus, 1758 (Cypriniformes: Cyprinidae) (Dyková and Lom 1982; Gunter and Adlard 2010). Furthermore, *M. cerebralis* is globally distributed as a non-native parasite and is a major cause of diseases in salmonids (see Halliday 1976; Hoffman 1990), and a fish disease caused by *S. dykova*, which was previously known in Central Europe, has recently broken out in Taiwan (Chang et al. 2016). These myxozoan species infect *Tubifex tubifex* (Müller, 1774) (Naididae) as one of the definitive hosts, which is also present in Japan (El-Matbouli and Hoffman 1998; Molnár et al. 1999; Ohtaka 2018). Thus, if these myxozoans are introduced, they are likely to establish themselves in Japan, similar to *H. postexilis*. Moreover, because both hosts are widely distributed in natural waters in Japan, it will not be easy to prevent the spread of the disease if native individuals become infected. Another potential pathway for the invasion of these parasites is through imported live ‘tubifex’ oligochaetes for ornamental fish feed, as several species of myxozoans have been detected in such imports (Yoshikawa 1999; Hallett et al. 2006). It is likely to pose a significant risk to fisheries and ecosystems in Japan and making the management of the risk associated with imported invertebrates crucial to the prevention of new parasitic diseases in aquatic species.

Acknowledgments

We thank Takashi Kimura, Shimotsuga Fisheries Coop-

erative, for their assistance with fish sampling. We would like to thank Kazuya Nagasawa, Hiroshima University, for allowing us to use their laboratory facilities. We are grateful to Editage (www.editage.com) for English language editing. We would also like to thank Hiroshi Yamasaki (Kyushu University) and two anonymous reviewers for their valuable comments to improve the manuscript.

Authors Contributions

Masato Nitta: Conceptualization; Resources; Investigation; Visualization; Writing – original draft; Writing – review & editing; Project administration; Funding acquisition. Takanori Ishikawa: Resources.

Funding

This study was partially supported by a JSPS KAKENHI grant (No. 15J05777 to MN) and by the Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency.

Declarations

Competing interests. The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

References

- Barta, J. R., Martin, D. S., Liberator, P. A., Dashkevich, M., Anderson, J. W., Feighner, S. D., Elbrecht, A., Perkins-Barrow, A., Jenkins, M. C., Danforth, H. D., Ruff, M. D., and Profous-Juchelka, H. 1997. Phylogenetic relationships among eight *Eimeria* species infecting domestic fowl inferred using complete small subunit ribosomal DNA sequences. *Journal of Parasitology* 83: 262–271. doi:10.2307/3284453
- Bauer, O. N. 1991. Spread of parasites and diseases of aquatic organisms by acclimatization: a short review. *Journal of Fish Biology* 39: 679–686. doi:10.1111/j.1095-8649.1991.tb04398.x
- Bauer, O. N. and Hoffman, G. L. 1976. Helminth range extension by translocation of fish. Pp. 163–172. In: Page, L. A. (Ed.) *Wildlife Diseases*. Springer Science + Business Media, New York. doi:10.1007/978-1-4757-1656-6_21
- Castresana, J. 2000. Selection of conserved blocks from multiple alignments for their use in phylogenetic analysis. *Molecular Biology and Evolution* 17: 540–552. doi:10.1093/oxfordjournals.molbev.a026334
- Chang, H.-K., Chen, Y.-A., Tsai, Y.-L., Wu, Y.-C., Shien, J.-H., Chang, W.-F., Hsuan S.-L., and Lin, C.-C. 2016. Outbreak of swim bladder inflammation caused by *Sphaerospora dykova* in Koi (*Cyprinus carpio koi*) in Taiwan. *Pakistan Veterinary Journal* 36: 499–502.
- Diamant, A., Whipps, C. M., and Kent, M. L. 2004. A new species of *Sphaeromyxa* (Myxosporea: Sphaeromyxina: Sphaeromyxidae) in devil firefish, *Pterois miles* (Scorpaenidae), from the northern Red Sea: morphology, ultrastructure, and phylogeny. *Journal of Parasitology* 90: 1434–1442. doi:10.1645/GE-336R
- Dyková, I. and Lom, J. 1982. *Sphaerospora renicola* n. sp., a myxosporean from carp kidney, and its pathogenicity. *Zeitschrift für*

- Parasitenkunde 68: 259–268. doi:10.1007/BF00927404
- Eiras, J. C. 2002. Synopsis of the species of the genus *Henneguya* Thélohan, 1892 (Myxozoa: Myxosporia: Myxobolidae). Systematic Parasitology 52: 43–54. doi:10.1023/A:1015016312195
- Eiras, J. and Adriano, E. 2012. A checklist of new species of *Henneguya* Thélohan, 1892 (Myxozoa: Myxosporia, Myxobolidae) described between 2002 and 2012. Systematic Parasitology 83: 95–104. doi:10.1007/s11230-012-9374-7
- El-Matbouli, M. and Hoffman, R. W. 1998. Light and electron microscopic studies on the chronological development of *Myxobolus cerebralis* to the actinosporean stage in *Tubifex tubifex*. International Journal for Parasitology 28: 195–217. doi:10.1016/s0020-7519(97)00176-8
- El-Matbouli, M., Holstein, T. W., and Hoffmann, R. W. 1998. Determination of nuclear DNA concentration in cells of *Myxobolus cerebralis* and triactinomyxon spores, the causative agent of whirling disease. Parasitology Research 84: 694–699. doi:10.1007/s004360050472
- Eszterbauer, E., Atkinson, S., Diamant, A., Morris, D., El-Matbouli, M., and Hartikainen, H. 2015. Myxozoan life cycles: practical approaches and insights. Pp. 175–198. In: Okamura, B., Gruhl, A., and Bartholomew, J. L. (Eds) *Myxozoan Evolution, Ecology and Development*. Springer, Cham. doi:10.1007/978-3-319-14753-6_10
- Feng, X., Yang, H., Tu, X., Wang, Z., and Gu, Z. 2023. First report of *Ambiphrya* species (Ciliophora, Peritrichia) infestation in farmed *Micropterus salmoides* and *Ictalurus punctatus* in China. Aquaculture 563: 738968. doi:10.1016/j.aquaculture.2022.738968
- Fiala, I. 2006. The phylogeny of Myxosporia (Myxozoa) based on small subunit ribosomal RNA gene analysis. International Journal for Parasitology 36: 1521–1534. doi:10.1016/j.ijpara.2006.06.016
- Freeman, M., Yokoyama, H., and Ogawa, K. 2008. Description and phylogeny of *Ceratomyxa anko* sp. n. and *Zschokkella lophii* sp. n. from the Japanese anglerfish, *Lophius litulon* (Jordan). Journal of Fish Diseases 31: 921–930. doi:10.1111/j.1365-2761.2008.00965.x
- Fujita, T. 1924. Studies on myxosporidian infection of the crucian carp. Japanese Journal of Zoology 1: 45–57.
- Fujita, T. 1936. Notes on some Myxosporidia in fresh-water fishes. Zoological Magazine 48: 595–601, 1 pl. [In Japanese with English abstract] doi:10.34435/zm002464
- Griffin, M. J., Pote, L. M., Wise, D. J., Greenway, T. E., Mauel, M. J., and Camus, A. C. 2008. A novel *Henneguya* species from channel catfish described by morphological, histological, and molecular characterization. Journal of Aquatic Animal Health 20: 127–135. doi:10.1577/H07-001.1
- Griffin, M. J., Wise, D. J., and Pote, L. M. 2009. Morphology and small-subunit ribosomal DNA sequence of *Henneguya adiposa* (Myxosporia) from *Ictalurus punctatus* (Siluriformes). Journal of Parasitology 95: 1076–1085. doi:10.1645/GE-2012.1
- Gunter, N. and Adlard, R. 2010. The demise of *Leptotheca* Thélohan, 1895 (Myxozoa: Myxosporia: Ceratomyxidae) and assignment of its species to *Ceratomyxa* Thélohan, 1892 (Myxosporia: Ceratomyxidae), *Ellipsomyxa* Koie, 2003 (Myxosporia: Ceratomyxidae), *Myxobolus* Bütschli, 1882 and *Sphaerospora* Thélohan, 1892 (Myxosporia: Sphaerosporidae). Systematic Parasitology 75: 81–104. doi:10.1007/s11230-009-9227-1
- Hallett, S. L. and Diamant, A. 2001. Ultrastructure and small-subunit ribosomal DNA sequence of *Henneguya lesteri* n. sp. (Myxosporia), a parasite of sand whiting *Sillago analis* (Sillaginidae) from the coast of Queensland, Australia. Diseases of Aquatic Organisms 46: 197–212. doi:10.3354/dao046197
- Hallett, S. L., Atkinson, S. D., Erséus, C., and El-Matbouli, M. 2006. Myxozoan parasites disseminated via oligochaete worms as live food for aquarium fishes: descriptions of aurantiactinomyxon and raabeia actinospore types. Diseases of Aquatic Organisms 69: 213–225. doi:10.3354/dao069213
- Halliday, M. M. 1976. The biology of *Myxosoma cerebralis*: the causative organism of whirling disease of salmonids. Journal of Fish Biology 9: 339–357. doi:10.1111/j.1095-8649.1976.tb04683.x
- Hanson, L. A., Lin, D., Pote, L. M. W., and Shivaji, R. 2001. Small subunit rRNA gene comparisons of four actinosporean species to establish a polymerase chain reaction test for the causative agent of proliferative gill disease in channel catfish. Journal of Aquatic Animal Health 13: 117–123. doi:10.1577/1548-8667(2001)013<0117:SSRGCO>2.0.CO;2
- Hoffman, G. L. 1990. *Myxobolus cerebralis*, a worldwide cause of salmonid whirling disease. Journal of Aquatic Animal Health 2: 30–37. doi:10.1577/1548-8667(1990)002<0030:MCAWCO>2.3.CO;2
- Hoffman, G. L. 1999. *Parasites of North American Freshwater Fishes. Second Edition*. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, 539 pp. doi:10.7591/9781501735059
- Hoshina, T. 1952. Notes on some myxosporidian parasites on fishes of Japan. Journal of the Tokyo University of Fisheries 39: 69–89.
- Iwanowicz, L. R., Iwanowicz, D. D., Pote, L. M., Blazer, V. S., and Schill, W. B. 2008. Morphology and 18s rDNA of *Henneguya gurlei* [sic] (Myxosporia) from *Ameiurus nebulosus* (Siluriformes) in North Carolina. Journal of Parasitology 94: 46–57. doi:10.1645/GE-1092.1
- Kageyama, T., Yanagida, T., Ohara, K., and Yokoyama, H. 2009. *Henneguya pseudorhinogobii* n. sp. (Myxozoa: Myxosporia) parasitizing the gills of the freshwater goby *Rhinogobius* sp. OR from the Nagara River and redescription of *Henneguya rhinogobii*. Fisheries Science 75: 657–663. doi:10.1007/s12562-009-0096-y
- Kalyaanamoorthy, S., Minh, B. Q., Wong, T. K., Haeseler, A. V., and Jermiin, L. S. 2017. ModelFinder: fast model selection for accurate phylogenetic estimates. Nature Methods 14: 587–589. doi:10.1038/nmeth.4285
- Katoh, K., Rozewicki, J., and Yamada, K. D. 2019. MAFFT online service: multiple sequence alignment, interactive sequence choice and visualization. Briefings in Bioinformatics 20: 1160–1166. doi:10.1093/bib/bbx108
- Kent, M. L., Andree, K. B., Bartholomew, J. L., El-Matbouli, M., Desser, S. S., Devlin, R. H., Feist, S. W., Hedrick, R. P., Hoffmann, R. W., Khattra, J., Hallett, S. L., Lester, R. J. G., Longshaw, M., Palenzuela, O., Siddall, M. E., and Xiao, C. 2001. Recent advances in our knowledge of the Myxozoa. Journal of Eukaryotic Microbiology 48: 395–413. doi:10.1111/j.1550-7408.2001.tb00173.x
- Kudo, R. 1920. Studies on Myxosporidia. A synopsis of genera and species of Myxosporidia. Illinois Biological Monographs 5: 1–265. doi:10.5962/bhl.title.16800
- Leis, E. M., Rosser, T. G., Baumgartner, W. A., and Griffin, M. J. 2017. *Henneguya laseae* n. sp. from flathead catfish (*Pylodictis olivaris*) in the upper Mississippi River. Parasitology Research 116: 81–89. doi:10.1007/s00436-016-5264-2
- Li, Y.-C., Sato, H., Kamata, Y., Ohnishi, T., and Sugita-Konishi, Y. 2012. Three novel myxobolid species of genera *Henneguya* and *Myxobolus* (Myxosporia: Bivalvulida) from marine fish in Japan. Parasitology Research 111: 819–826. doi:10.1007/s00436-012-2904-z
- Lin, D., Hanson, L. A., and Pote, L. M. 1999. Small subunit ribosomal RNA sequence of *Henneguya exilis* (Class Myxosporia) identifies the actinosporean stage from an oligochaete host. Journal of Eukaryotic Microbiology 46: 66–68. doi:10.1111/j.1550-7408.1999.tb04585.x
- Liu, Y., Lövy, A., Gu, Z., and Fiala, I. 2019. Phylogeny of Myxobolidae (Myxozoa) and the evolution of myxospore appendages in the *Myxobolus* clade. International Journal for Parasitology 49: 523–530. doi:10.1016/j.ijpara.2019.02.009
- Lom, J. and Dyková, I. 1992. *Protozoan Parasites of Fishes*. Elsevier, Amsterdam, xi + 315 pp.

- Lymbery, A. J., Morine, M., Kanani, H. G., Beatty, S. J., and Morgan, D. L. 2014. Co-invaders: The effects of alien parasites on native hosts. *International Journal for Parasitology: Parasites and Wildlife* 3: 171–177. doi:10.1016/j.ijppaw.2014.04.002
- Minchew, C. D. 1977. Five new species of *Henneguya* (Protozoa: Myxosporida) from ictalurid fishes. *Journal of Protozoology* 24: 213–220. doi:10.1111/j.1550-7408.1977.tb00968.x
- Minh, B. Q., Schmidt, H. A., Chernomor, O., Schrempf, D., Woodhams, M. D., von Haeseler, A., and Lanfear, R. 2020. IQ-TREE 2: New models and efficient methods for phylogenetic inference in the genomic era. *Molecular Biology and Evolution* 37: 1530–1534. doi:10.1093/molbev/msaa015
- Molnár, K., El-Mansy, A., Székely, Cs., and Baska, F. 1999. Experimental identification of the actinosporean stage of *Sphaerospora renicola* Dykova & Lom 1982 (Myxosporida: Sphaerosporidae) in oligochaete alternate hosts. *Journal of Fish Diseases* 22: 143–153. doi:10.1046/j.1365-2761.1999.00150.x
- Nitta, M. and Nagasawa, K. 2015. An alien monogenean, *Ligictaluridus pricei* (Platyhelminthes: Ancyrocephalidae), parasitic on the channel catfish *Ictalurus punctatus* (Actinopterygii: Siluriformes: Ictaluridae) in Japan. *Species Diversity* 20: 95–102. doi:10.12782/sd.20.1.095
- Ohtaka, A. 2018. Faunal and ecological aspects of aquatic oligochaetes (Annelida, Clitellata) in Japanese lakes. *Japanese Journal of Benthology* 73: 12–34. [In Japanese with English abstract] doi:10.5179/benthos.73.12
- Okamura, B., Gruhl, A., and Bartholomew, J. L. 2015. An introduction to myxozoan evolution, ecology and development. Pp. 1–20. In: Okamura, B., Gruhl, A., and Bartholomew, J. L. (Eds) *Myxozoan Evolution, Ecology and Development*. Springer, Cham. doi:10.1007/978-3-319-14753-6_1
- Ozaki, Y. and Isizaki, H. 1941. Myxosporidian parasites of *Tridentiger obscurus* (Temminck et Schlegel). *Journal of Science of the Hiroshima University, Series B, Division 1 (Zoology)* 9: 181–191, 5 pls.
- Pote, L. M., Hanson, L. A., and Shivaji, R. 2000. Small subunit ribosomal RNA sequences link the cause of proliferative gill disease in channel catfish to *Henneguya* n. sp. (Myxozoa: Myxosporida). *Journal of Aquatic Animal Health* 12: 230–240. doi:10.1577/1548-8667(2000)012<0230:SSRRSL>2.0.CO;2
- Rangel, L. F., Santos, M. J., and Rocha, S. 2023. Synopsis of the species of *Henneguya* Thélohan, 1892 (Cnidaria: Myxosporida: Myxobolidae) described since 2012. *Systematic Parasitology* 100: 291–305. doi:10.1007/s11230-023-10088-2
- Rosser, T. G., Griffin, M. N., Quiniou, S. M. A., Greenway, T. E., Khoo, L. H., Wise, D. J., and Pote, L. M. 2014. Molecular and morphological characterization of myxozoan actinospore types from a commercial catfish pond in the Mississippi Delta. *Journal of Parasitology* 100: 828–839. doi:10.1645/13-446.1
- Rosser, T. G., Griffin, M. J., Quiniou, S. M. A., Khoo, L. H., Greenway, T. E., Wise, D. J., and Pote, L. M. 2015. Small subunit ribosomal RNA sequence links the Myxospore stage of *Henneguya mississippiensis* n. sp. from channel catfish *Ictalurus punctatus* to an actinospore released by the benthic oligochaete *Dero digitata*. *Parasitology Research* 114: 1595–1602. doi:10.1007/s00436-015-4345-y
- Rosser, T. G., Baumgartner, W. A., Barger, M. A., and Griffin, M. N. 2017. *Myxobolus lepomis* n. sp. (Cnidaria: Myxobolidae), a gill myxozoan infecting *Lepomis marginatus* Holbrook and *Lepomis miniatus* Jordan (Perciformes: Centrarchidae), in the Big Thicket National Preserve, Texas, USA. *Systematic Parasitology* 94: 535–545. doi:10.1007/s11230-017-9719-3
- Stilwell, J. M., Camus, A. C., Leary, J. H., Mohammed, H. H., and Griffin, M. J. 2019. Molecular confirmation of *Henneguya adiposa* (Cnidaria: Myxozoa) and associated histologic changes in adipose fins of channel catfish, *Ictalurus punctatus* (Teleost). *Parasitology Research* 118: 1639–1645. doi:10.1007/s00436-019-06295-w
- Tamura, K., Stecher, G., and Kumar, S. 2021. MEGA11: Molecular Evolutionary Genetics Analysis Version 11. *Molecular Biology and Evolution* 38: 3022–3027. doi:10.1093/molbev/msab120
- Wagner, E. J. 2016. *A Guide to the Identification of Tailed Myxobolidae of the World: Dicauda, Hennegoides, Henneguya, Laterocaudata, Neohenneguya, Phlogospora, Tetrauromena, Trigonosporus and Unicauda*. Open Educational Resources, Utah State University, Utah, 166 pp.
- Woodyard, E. T., Rosser, T. G., Stilwell, J. M., Camus, A. C., Khoo, L. H., Waldbieser, G., Lorenz, W. W., and Griffin, M. J. 2022. New data on *Henneguya postexilis* Minchew, 1977, a parasite of channel catfish *Ictalurus punctatus*, with notes on resolution of molecular markers for myxozoan phylogeny. *Systematic Parasitology* 99: 41–62. doi:10.1007/s11230-021-10015-3
- Yokoyama, H., Kawakami, H., Yasuda, H., and Tanaka, S. 2003. *Henneguya lateolabracis* sp. n. (Myxozoa: Myxosporida), the causative agent of cardiac henneguyosis in Chinese sea bass *Lateolabrax* sp. *Fisheries Science* 69: 1116–1120. doi:10.1111/j.0919-9268.2003.00736.x
- Yokoyama, H., Itoh, N., and Tanaka, S. 2005. *Henneguya pagri* n. sp. (Myxozoa: Myxosporida) causing cardiac henneguyosis in red sea bream, *Pagrus major* (Temminck & Schlegel). *Journal of Fish Diseases* 28: 479–487. doi:10.1111/j.1365-2761.2005.00655.x
- Yokoyama, H., Urawa, S., Grabner, D., and Shirakashi, S. 2012. *Henneguya cartilaginis* n. sp. (Myxozoa: Myxosporida) in the head cartilage of masu salmon *Oncorhynchus masou masou*. *Parasitology International* 61: 594–598. doi:10.1016/j.parint.2012.05.013
- Yoshikawa, Y. 1999. [Anthropozoonoses and quarantine]. *Clinical Microbiology* 26: 279–286. [In Japanese]
- Zhang, B., Tu, X., and Gu, Z. 2023. Henneguyosis: a novel threat to the exotic channel catfish *Ictalurus punctatus* cultivated in China. *Aquaculture* 576: 739831. doi:10.1016/j.aquaculture.2023.739831