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A RECORD OF THE ELLOBIOPSID *THALASSOMYCES FAGEI* (BOSCHMA, 1948) PARASITIC ON THE EUPHAUSIID *MEGANYCTIPHANES NORVEGICA* (M. SARS, 1856)

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SUMMARY

The first record of *Meganyctiphanes norvegica* as a host for *Thalassomyces fagei* in recent years is provided. The present infested sample was taken during an oblique tow (36-0 m) at 53° 08' N 09° 35' W.

An examination of a small sample of late larvae of *Meganyctiphanes norvegica* (M. Sars, 1856) from Galway Bay, off the west coast of Ireland, yielded a specimen parasitised by a young stage of the ellobiopsid *Thalassomyces fagei* (Boschma, 1948). This is the first record of *Meganyctiphanes* as a host for *Thalassomyces* in recent years, Macdonald (1927), working in the Clyde Sea area, having recorded a single specimen of *Meganyctiphanes* carrying the parasite.

The euphausiids were taken in a ring net (diameter of mouth 1 m, mesh diameter 1.5 mm) which

was lowered to 36 m and towed obliquely to the surface, on the 13th June 1972, at a position in the North Sound, off the Aran Islands (53° 08' N 09° 35' W). There were 27 late furciliae in the sample, ranging in size from about 6.0 to 8.5 mm (total length). Identification was based on the descriptions of Lebour (1925) and Mauchline (1971). One specimen (1.63 mm carapace length) had a small protuberance (0.16 mm long) on the median dorsal surface of the cephalothorax. This was photographed, dissected out, and a whole mount prepared using polyvinyl lactophenol. A microscopic examination showed it to be similar in size and shape to the developing ellobiopsid *Thalassomyces fagei* as described by Mauchline (1966, fig. IB).

Thalassomyces fagei has been recorded on thirteen species of euphausiids (Mauchline, 1966),

the hosts in the north-eastern Atlantic being *Thysanoessa raschii* (M. Sars) (Einarsson, 1945; Glover, 1952; Mauchline, 1966) and *Thysanoessa inermis* (Krøyer) (Einarsson, 1945; Bergan, 1953; Boschma, 1959). The parasite was formerly known as *Amallocystis fagei* Boschma, 1948. Most of the records are of the mature parasite, with its obvious segmented trophomeres. The development of the parasite on *Thysanoessa raschii* has been studied by Mauchline (1966) and Hoffman & Yancey (1966). Macdonald (1927), in the Clyde Sea area, described a specimen of *Meganycitiphanes* infected by a parasite which he identified as *Staphlocystis racemosus* (Coutiere). According to Boschma (1959) this was probably *Thalassomyces fagei* the only ellobiopsid thought to parasitise euphausiids.

I wish to thank Dr. J. Mauchline of the Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory, for confirming the identification of *Meganycitiphanes furciliae*, and to Mr. P. Cooke of the Botany Department, University College Galway, for photographing the parasite.

A sample of *Thalassomyces fagei*, mounted on a

slide, has been deposited in the Zoölogisch Museum, Amsterdam.

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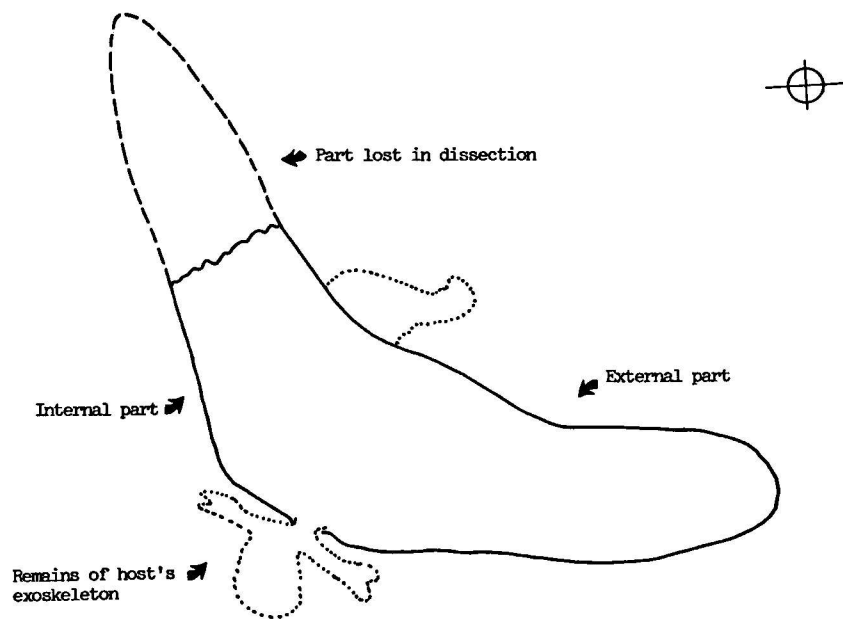


Fig. 1. *Thalassomyces fagei* (Boschma, 1948) found parasitic on a specimen of *Meganyctiphanes norvegica* (M. Sars, 1856), c.l. 1.63 mm.