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Oncomiracidium of monogenean skin parasite *Entobdella hippoglossi* on the Atlantic halibut *Hippoglossus hippoglossus*

Gilha Yoon, Andrew Shinn*, Christina Sommerville* and Jae-Yoon Jo**

Chongpyong Inland Fisheries Institute, NFRDI
* Institute of Aquaculture, University of Stirling, UK
** Department of Aquaculture, Pukyong National University

The monogenean skin parasite, *Entobdella hippoglossi* has commonly be found broodstock of the Atantic halibut. Heavy infestation of the parasite appears to be serious problem to the halibut farming industry. However, because the behavior of host, research on this parasite is not yet be carried out. The present study, therefore, was investigated the oncomiracidium of *Entobdella hippoglossi* to the basic step for solving this problem.

Larvae began to hatch after 27 - 30 days incubation at 12℃ when exposed to an illumination pattern of 12L : 12D. The eye spots of the oncomiracidium were clearly seen around 7 days before hatching. The eggs became transparent, then the larva inside the egg could be seen clearly. The larva in the egg began to move 2 or 3 days prior to hatching and the movement became stronger and the ciliary movement became faster and more active.

The swimming larvae, completely emerged from the egg, measured 200 - 300 ㎛ in length. The oncomiracidium had 3 ciliary zones, the anterior, the middle and the posterior regions of the body.

The epidermal ciliary plates of the oncomiracidium of *E. hippoglossi* wer found on 3 main regions of the body surface, the anterior, the middle and the posterior zone. The total number of epidermal cell plates on the anterior region was 27 (both ventral and dorsal surfaces). Amongst these, 15 cell plates were located dorsally and the rest of the cell plates (12 cells) were on the ventral surface of the oncomiracidium. The dorsally situated epidermal ciliary plates were almost rectangular in shape and larger than those on the ventral surface.