



CHANGES IN SOME SELECTED HAEMATO-CYTO-MORPHOLOGICAL PARAMETERS OF CARP FISH *CYPRINUS CARPIO* INFECTED WITH THE COPEPOD PARASITE *LERNAEA* SP.

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The present study investigated the effects of natural infection of copepod ectoparasites *Lernaea* (anchor worms) on some blood parameters (white blood cell counts, red blood cell counts, hemoglobin concentration and packed cell volume) of carp fishes *Cyprinus carpio*. Twenty carp fishes infected with the parasite *Lernaea* were collected from aquariums of Marine Science Centre in Basrah University. Variation in haematological values between infected and control fishes were determined. The study showed increase in number of monocytes and granular leukocytes in blood of infected fishes when compared with control fishes. Statistically there are no significant differences ($P > 0.05$) between both infected and control groups. Also body weight and length were observed. No correlation was found between the number of parasites and blood variables or between the number of parasites and any of the body variables (weight or length).