

Supplementary material

Recommended Citation of this material:

Goedknegt MA, Havermans J, Waser AM, Luttkhuizen PC, Velilla E, Camphuysen K, van der Meer J, Thielges DW (2017) Cross-species comparison of parasite richness, prevalence, and intensity in a native compared to two invasive brachyuran crabs. *Aquatic Invasions* 12: 201–212, <https://doi.org/10.3391/ai.2017.12.2.08>

Appendix 1. Dissection protocol of herring gull *Larus argentatus* chicks for *Acanthocephala* parasites.

Two dead *L. argentatus* chicks belonging to marked nests were collected during the late breeding season (June-July) of 2011 from two different areas within their breeding colony (53°01'N, 04°43'E, Kelderhuispolder, Texel western Wadden Sea, The Netherlands, Figure 1). The chicks had been ringed for identification purposes as part of a large monitoring project (e.g. Camphuysen 2013) and their last recorded age was 10 and 25 days old, respectively. Sex of the chicks could not be determined at this stage. Both animals were frozen at -80 °C until later processing. Prior dissections the two chicks were left to thaw overnight at room temperature (~20°C). Using a surgical scalpel an incision in the abdomen running from above the keel to the height of the cloaca was made exposing the breast muscles. Cutting transversally through each side of the ribs with scissors, the ribcage was lifted to expose the internal organs. The intestines were clipped with scissors at the highest point possible, removed from the animal and immediately dropped in 90% ethanol until further processing. To check for parasites, the intestines were taken out of the ethanol containers and cut into smaller segments to fit in a petri dish under the microscope. Using a surgical scalpel, the segments of the intestine were cut open exposing their content and their lining. Each segment and their content was examined through the microscope and all particles that resembled a parasite were removed with tweezers. Particles determined as parasites were deposited in a glass vial with 90% ethanol after a preliminary morphological identification.

Reference

Camphuysen CJ (2013) A historical ecology of two closely related gull species (Laridae): multiple adaptations to a man-made environment. PhD thesis, University of Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands, 421 pp