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### Larval migration of the zoonotic parasite *Anisakis pegreffii* (Nematoda: Anisakidae) in European anchovy, *Engraulis encrasicolus*: implications to seafood safety

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# The risk associated to not proper stored anchovies fished in a heavily infected area of the Mediterranean Sea



Anisakis pegreffii in Encraulis encrasicolus





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# UV-compression method (Karl & Leinemann, 1993)

#### Preparation of fillets from fresh fish



Pressed fillets are frozen in



The pressed sample (in the plastic bag) is examined for nematodes under UV-light at 366 nm in a viewing box.

All nematodes show a brilliant white-bluish fluorescence and can be counted easily.





#### Larvae identification: multilocus approach



#### Maximum Parsimony (MP) bootstrap consensus tree inferred by PAUP\*4.0 sequenced at mtDNA *cox2*





Area with higher infection rates recorded in anchovies sampled during 2013 – 2014 Off Central Adriatic coasts – (42° 58' N – 14° 12' E)

Prevalence (%) = **92.3** 

Abundance = 7.02 ± 7.06 (0 – 45)













In fish frozen immediately after capture, larvae were all coiled.

With an increase in temperature (from 2° to 7°) larvae were "vital" and increased their motility

Larvae were coming out from the fish!! (I personally observed this phenomenon also in a italian fishmarket!!!)

# *Post-mortem* motility of *A. pegreffii* in *E. encrasicolus*





In a NOT-PROPERLY stored fish, the <u>zoonotic risk</u> associated to consumption of raw fish flesh more than **DOUBLED** in 24-48h!!! Maintaining this Anisakis/inactivating temperature during fish storage is the key to preserve a better quality of the seafood product.

#### Badly stored fish (>2°C):

- Increased zoonotic risk
- Low aesthetical appeal





Also the seafood aesthetic aspect may be lowered!

Late evisceration of fish, and a not-proper storage of the fish batches, may cause the movement of MORE larvae in the edible elaborated product.



Maintaining this Anisakis/inactivating temperature during fish storage is the key to preserve a better quality of the seafood product.



## **Adriatic Sea**

Distinctiveness of populations inhabiting this semiclosed sea suggests that the **Adriatic Sea** <u>might represent a **region of further phylogeographical discontinuity** (Patarnello et al., 2007)</u>



### Anthropic shortcut in *Anisakis* life-cycle?

