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Mele S, Pennino MG, Piras MC, Macías D, Gómez-Vives MJ, **Alemany F**, Montero FE, Garippa G, Merella P, 2016.
Ecology of the Atlantic black skipjack *Euthynnus alletteratus* (Osteichthyes: Scombridae) in the western Mediterranean Sea inferred by parasitological analysis
. Parasitology, available on CJO2016. doi:10.1017/S0031182016000792.

Abstract: Between 2008 and 2011, the head of 150 *Euthynnus alletteratus* (Osteichthyes: Scombridae) caught inshore off the southeastern Iberian coast (western Mediterranean Sea) were examined for parasites. Two monogeneans, four didymozoid trematodes and four copepods were found. Parasite abundance showed a positive relationship with the annual sea surface temperature, except for *Pseudocycnus appendiculatus*, but negative with the sea depth (*Capsala manteri*, *Neonematobothrium cf. kawakawa* and *Caligus bonito*). Prevalences and mean abundances differed significantly among sampling areas, except for *C. manteri, Oesophagocystis sp. 2 and Ceratocolax euthynni*, and sampling years (*Melanocystis cf. kawakawa, N.cf. kawakawa, P. appendiculatus* and *Unicolax collateralis*). Results indicate that the parasite abundances of *E. alletteratus* in the western Mediterranean Sea depend mainly on regional environmental variables, which can show interannual variations. The presence of pelagic parasites, i.e. didymozoids and *P. appendiculatus*, could indicate that *E. alletteratus* migrates between inshore and offshore pelagic domains. The different parasite faunas reported in

E. alletteratus
populations from the western Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea appear to point out the geographical host isolation. These results suggest that
E. alletteratus
inhabiting the western Mediterranean Sea performs inshore-offshore small-scale migrations, and not transoceanic migrations between the western Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea.

Keywords: Didymozoidae, Monogenea, Scombridae, migration, parasite Copepoda