{rokbox title=| :: Gráfico: Salvatore Mele (Università di Sassari, Italia)| thumb=|images/stories/ieo/imagenespublicaciones/graph_mele2012_640_thumb.jpg|}images/stories/ieo/imagenespublicaciones/graph_mele2012_640.jpg{/rokbox}

Salvatore Mele, David Macías, María J. Gómez-Vives, Giovanni Garippa, **Francisco Alemany**, Paolo Merella, (2012).
Metazoan parasites on the gills of the skipjack tuna Katsuwonus pelamis (Osteichthyes: Scombridae) from the Alboran Sea (western Mediterranean Sea)
. Dis Aquat Org 97:219-225.

Abstract: The gills of 31 skipjack tuna *Katsuwonus pelamis* (L.) caught in the Alboran Sea (western Mediterranean Sea) were examined for metazoan parasites, and the gills of 4 specimens from the Balearic Sea (also western Mediterranean Sea) were analysed for comparative purposes. Nine -species of parasites were found, including 8 didymozoid trematodes (*Atalostrophion cf. bio-varium, Didymocylindrus filiformis, Didymocylindrus simplex, Didymocystis reniformis, Didymoproblema fusiforme, Didymozoon longicolle, Koellikeria sp. and Lobatozoum multisacculatum*) and 1 caligid copepod (*Caligus bonito*). *Koellikeria sp.* and *L. multisacculatum* were not recorded in the Balearic Sea. Most of the parasites (79.2% of all specimens) were didymozoids. Didymozoon longicolle was the dominant species; *A. cf. biovarium, D. simplex, D. fusiforme* and *L. multisacculatum* are reported from the Mediterranean Sea for the first time. No correlation was found between the intensity of infection of any parasite species and host size or sex. Most of the parasites, particularly didymozoids, showed a high site-specificity. Significant differences were found between the parasite assemblages of *K. pelamis* from the Alboran Sea and from the Atlantic Ocean. *D. fusiforme, D. longicolle* and *L. multisacculatum* are suggested as potential tags to follow skipjack tuna migrations between the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea.

Keywords: *Katsuwonus pelamis*, Didymozoidae, Caligidae, Gill parasites, Biological tags, Site specificity, Mediterranean Sea.