{rokbox title=|Auxis rochei :: Image: Salvatore Mele| thumb=|images/stories/ieo/imagenespublicaciones/centro-oceanografico-baleares-metazoan-parasites-auxis-rochei-mediterranean-mele-et-al-2014-thumb.jpg|}images/stories/ieo/imagenespublicaciones/centro-oceanografico-baleares-metazoan-parasites-auxis-rochei-mediterranean-mele-et-al-2014.jpg{/rokbox}

S. Mele, S. Saber, M.J. Gómez-Vives, G. Garippa, **F. Alemany**, D. Macías and P. Merella, 2014. **Metazoan parasites in the head region of the bullet tuna Auxis rochei (Osteichthyes: Scombridae) from the western Mediterranean Sea**. J Helminthol. 2014. Sep 12:1-6.

Abstract: The head region of 72 bullet tuna *Auxis rochei* from the western Mediterranean Sea (south-east Spain and the Strait of Gibraltar) was examined for parasites. Seven metazoan species were found in the fish from south-east Spain: three monogeneans, two trematodes and two copepods, whereas only three species were isolated in the fish from the Strait of Gibraltar. A comparison of the levels of infection of the parasites according to fish size in south-east Spain showed that the prevalence of *Didymoz oon auxis* and the mean abundance of *Allopseudaxine macrova* were higher in the larger hosts (range of fork length = 38-44 cm) than in the smaller ones (33-37 cm). A comparison of the parasite infections according to geographical region showed that the mean abundances of *Nematobothriinae* gen. sp. and *Caligus bonito* were higher in fish from south-east Spain than in those from the Strait of Gibraltar. A comparison of the parasite fauna of *A. rochei* from the Mediterranean Sea with the published data on *Auxis spp*. from the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans revealed the closest similarity between the Mediterranean *A. rochei* and the Atlantic *A. thazard*.

Keywords: