Parasitology

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An understanding of predation effect on dynamics of disease is essential in light of the role which ecological groups can play in parasite-host interaction. There are only some studies that have characterized the direct parasites predation. In this study, authors have used the experimental approach to deliver an empirical demonstration of how predation can cause changes in disease risk by adopting the relative significance of species traits on resource consumer interaction. In this study, authors have investigated the influence of predator size and identity on their parasite consumption and influence of parasite size and identity on predation vulnerability. In this study, authors have used 4 species of trematodes (Echinostoma trivolvis, Magnacauda, Cephalogonimus americanus and Ribeiroia ondatrae). These species of parasites are chosen specifically to provide ranges of transmission strategies, sizes, and behavior. Laboratory bioassays were carried out to examine how predator, parasites and environment traits predispose predator’s ability to consume free-living cercariae. The results of this study shows that both invertebrate and vertebrate predators were extremely efficient at consuming trematode in the laboratory and this connection was highly dependent on the predator and parasite trait, and the environment. This study is related to the microbiology career as this study comes under the discipline of environmental parasitology and it deals with the interaction between parasites and environmental pollutants (Orlofske, Jadin, & Johnson, 2015).

I like this study because it is related to my field of interest. I want to pursue my career in parasitology with a specific focus on environmental parasitology. I am always interested in scientific research because I love to learn new stuff. This study can be helpful for biologists and microbiologists to understand the relationship of parasites' response to environmental pollution. I found this article very useful because it has characterized the direct predation of a parasite. This study provides information regarding parasite effect on environmental health. This study also provides a useful bridge for linking disease ecology and the predator. One thing which I dislike about this article is that it does not examine the role of parasite-predator interactions in the aquatic system stability. Yes, I am interested in this research and I would like to conduct research on parasite response to environmental pollution.

References

Orlofske, S. A., Jadin, R. C., & Johnson, P. T. (2015). It’sa predator–eat–parasite world: how characteristics of predator, parasite and environment affect consumption. *Oecologia, 178*(2), 537-547.