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UDN is definitely a winter disease and disappears completely in Switzerland between June and September. It is very rarely found among immature young fish in open waters. Experimentally it was possible to infect yearling river trout, the exposition period in some cases lasting several months.

The disease passes through three stages:

Stage 1: after an incubation period usually lasting only one or two days the whole body, particularly the head, gill-covers and fin bases, shows large, sharply outlined, pale, yellow to brownish patches.

Stage 2: The patches become covered with *Saprolegnia* and are frequently infected with *Aeromonas hydrophila* or *salmonicida*. The superficial epidermal necrosis develops into ulcers penetrating into the hypodermis and musculature.

Stage 3: (relatively rare). The fungus-infected parts of the skin and fins fall off and the wounds cicatrise, but often re-open, especially after transport.

In the contact experiment, morbidity was almost 100% among mature river trout. Mortality – at its maximum in stage 2 – can be very high (in open waters 10 – 80% of all mature fish).

Attention is drawn to the important part in the spread of the disease played by infected fishing tackle and by diseased fish in spawning receptacles. The germ causing the disease is not known, and may be a virus. As there are no specific methods of proving the presence of the disease, diagnosis depends on clinical symptoms, the course of the disease and the pathological-anatomical and the histological changes of the skin. No typical changes are to be found in the inner organs.

It is no longer possible to combat UDN in Switzerland by official preventive measures, as it is already too widespread. Perhaps after a few years a balance will be achieved between the germ causing the disease and the receptive fish, but this balance could easily be upset if large numbers of mature fish were to be set out without having first gone through the disease.

Literatur

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BUCHBESPRECHUNG

Berichtigung: In der Besprechung des Merck Veterinary Manual (in Band 115; 1973, Heft 12, Seite 596 dieses Archivs) wurde irrtümlicherweise als Bezugsquelle die Merck-Vertretung in der Schweiz angegeben. Das Werk ist aber ausschließlich durch medizinische oder wissenschaftliche Buchhandlungen zu beziehen.