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FIRST DETECTION OF DANGEROUS FISH PATHOGEN CYPRINID HERPESVIRUS 2 (CyHV-2) IN RUSSIA

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Since the beginning of the 21th century, the multiple cases of mass mortalities in populations of fish of *Carassius auratus* complex (Cyprinidae) have been noted from different regions of European part of Russia; however, the causes of those mortalities remained unexplained. We focused on mortality in a population of *C. auratus* complex in Kiovo Lake in the upper part of the Volga River basin. The presence of the emergent fish pathogen cyprinid herpesvirus 2 (CyHV-2) was confirmed by PCR in gill filament and muscle tissues of dead *C. auratus* complex individuals, but not in living conspecifics without clinical signs of diseases. This is the first detection of CyHV-2 in Russia. We encourage urgent investigations of possible links between the detected pathogen and mortality events in populations of *C. auratus* complex within Russia. Perspectives of using of CyHV-2 as a tool for biocontrol of *C. auratus* complex, one of the Top-100 invasive species in Russia, are discussed.

Keywords: Amur sleeper, fish diseases, *Carassius auratus*, *Carassius gibelio*, Kiovo Lake, mass mortality, *Perccottus glenii*

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