

Recovering Turkish narrow clawed crayfish (



Crayfish stocks collapsed in Turkey in mid 1980's due to crayfish plague epidemics, with up to 25% survival in some cases. The collapsed stocks have then recovered slowly and commercial crayfish fishery was reinitiated gradually within a decade. We examined the prevalence of *Aphanomyces astaci* DNA in the narrow clawed crayfish (*Astacus leptodactylus*) collected from two Turkish lakes, Lake İznik and Hirfanlı Dam (N = 40 from both sites). The qPCR results, verified by conventional PCR and sequencing, indicated that nearly all sampled crayfish were *A. astaci* carriers with some of them showing gross symptoms of infection, such as tissue erosion and melanisation, while some did not show any visible symptoms. The prevalence of *A. astaci* DNA was high in both stocks, being on the average 95% in both Lake İznik and Hirfanlı Dam. Our results show that these stocks are carriers of *A. astaci*, but capable of forming productive stocks which indicates past and contemporary partial resistance adaptation in the host or virulence evolution in the *A. astaci*.

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