

Knakalen, cold case

Niels Brevé | 29 november 2019



Sportvisserij
Nederland





Outline

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1. Introduction

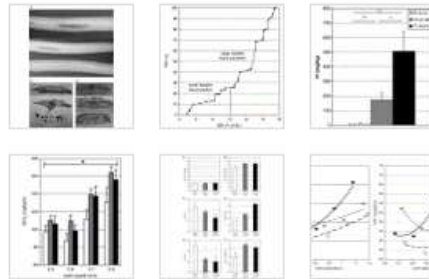
2. Materials and methods

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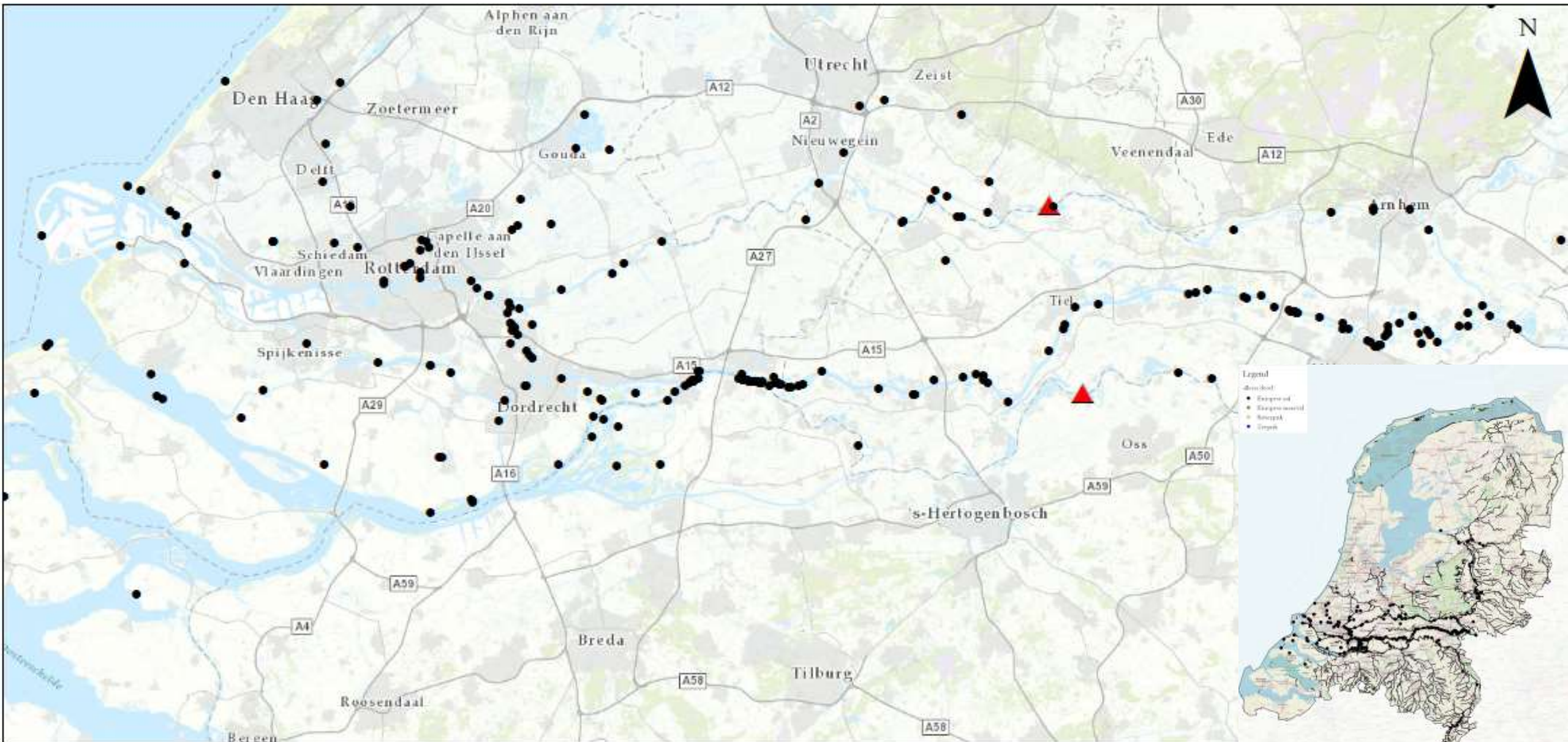
Swimming performance of silver eels is severely impaired by the swim-bladder parasite *Anguillicola crassus*

A.P. Palstra ^a , D.F.M. Heppener ^a, V.J.T. van Ginneken ^a, C. Székely ^b, G.E.E.J.M. van den Thillart ^a[Show more](#)<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jembe.2007.08.003>[Get rights and content](#)

Abstract

Infection with the swim-bladder parasite *Anguillicola crassus* is suggested as one of the principal causes of the collapse of the European eel population. This nematode has been introduced in Europe from Asia in the 80s and parasitized in a short time *Anguilla* eel species in different geographical regions across the globe. The parasites drain energy due to their sanguivorous feeding and they cause mechanical damage on the swim-bladder wall. These two effects are hypothesized to impair the spawning migration of the European eel. In this study, we have investigated both effects on swimming performance. We hypothesized that parasitic sanguivorous activities – related to parasite weight – reduce swimming endurance, while mechanical damage of the swim-bladder impairs buoyancy control. Eighty eels suffering various degrees of infection were introduced in swim-tunnels and subjected to a swimming fitness test. The relation between *A. crassus* infection and swimming fitness was investigated by means of a swimming performance test. This study shows that the swimming performance of silver eels is severely impaired by the swim-bladder parasite *Anguillicola crassus*. The swimming endurance of infected eels was significantly lower than that of uninfected eels. The swimming performance of infected eels was also significantly lower than that of uninfected eels. The swimming performance of infected eels was also significantly lower than that of uninfected eels.

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10 juni 2015 strand Waal



15 juni 2015 strand Waal



MURDER SUSPECT



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