

## ***Daphnia* and ciliates: who is the prey?**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*The fortuitous observation of a *Daphnia* infested by *Gymnostomatida* led us to hypothesize that egg predation by ciliates could be an important mechanism regulating cladoceran population dynamics. In light of this hypothesis we reanalysed data on the dynamics of *Daphnia* eggs and of one *Gymnostomatida* species from Lago Maggiore (1996). This communication is mainly a plea to examine data where both cladocerans and *Gymnostomatida* were collected, to verify if the occurrence of this yet undescribed eggvoracity is widespread. Further research is needed to investigate the ecological significance of this phenomenon.*

*Key words:* *Daphnia*, ciliates, eggvoracity

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