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Spreading Mechanisms of the Swimbladder Parasite *Anguillicola crassus* in the European Eel, and its Distribution in Belgium and Europe

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This paper is reviewing the different infection ways of the swimbladder parasite *Anguillicola crassus* in European eel. Initial infection of the parasite in Europe has been the consequence of trade activities by man. In some cases restocking activities without sanitary control enhanced the spreading of the disease. The distribution is now expanding rapidly as the parasite is using natural spreading mechanisms, including the possibility of small fish to act as intermediate hosts, although in some cases infection might be delayed by natural barriers. Data on infected elvers in ponds gave evidence to warn for possible infected glass eel batches in future. The distribution of the parasite *Anguillioola* in Western Europe is overviewed.