

Parasites of southern garfish (*Hyporhamphus melanochir*)



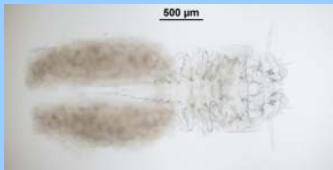
Name: *Mothocya halei*, an isopod, sometimes called a 'doctor' or 'garfish louse'

Microhabitat: Live beneath the gill covers

Appearance: White, oval shaped isopods; male and females often observed on one fish

Pathology: Have been associated with loss of ovary condition in host

Curiosity: The parasite is distorted due to the cramped position in the gill cavity of the host. Females are usually much larger than males.



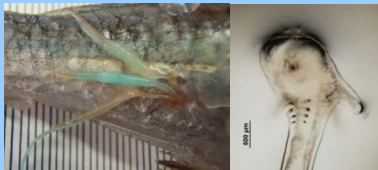
Name: *Bomolochus bellones*, a parasitic copepod, or 'sea-louse'

Microhabitat: Live on the gills, appear as white dots

Appearance: Small, white, circular-shaped parasites; females with a pair of egg strings

Pathology: Unknown

Curiosity: This is a generalist species known from several oceans world wide



Name: *Lernaenicus hemiramphi*, a pennelid copepod, commonly called 'skin louse'

Microhabitat: Head embedded in the flesh; penetrating the eye, body and behind fins

Appearance: Long, thin copepods, often with blue coloured bodies or egg strings

Pathology: Damage at site of penetration and internally around parasite head (photos)

Curiosity: This parasite deeply penetrates the flesh of the host



Name: *Axine* sp., a monogenean fluke, commonly called 'gill fluke'

Microhabitat: Live on the gills and feed on blood

Appearance: Long, thin worms ~5mm long

Pathology: Unknown. Gill flukes have been associated with anaemia in other fish hosts

Curiosity: Parasites have microscopic clamps to help them attach to the gills



Name: *Philometra* sp., a nematode commonly called a round worms

Microhabitat: Live in the body cavity

Appearance: Worms are long and thin - up to 45cm! - dark red in colour

Pathology: Unknown

Curiosity: Have live bearing young and may be longer than their host!



Name: *Micracanthorhynchina hemirhamphi*, an acanthocephalan or spiny headed worm

Microhabitat: Live in the intestine

Appearance: Worms are long and white with a spiny proboscis

Pathology: Unknown

Curiosity: Acanthocephalans have separate sexes

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A research initiative supported by:

Australian Biological Resources Study
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation
The University of Adelaide
James Cook University

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Prepared by Kate S. Hutson 2008
Updated June 2010