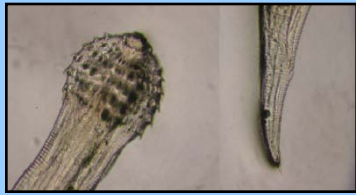
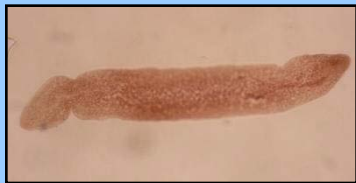


# Parasites of King George whiting (*Sillaginodes punctatus*)



**Name:** *Echinocephalus* sp. (larval stage), a nematode  
**Microhabitat:** Lives in the intestinal tract  
**Appearance:** Rows of spines around the head and a single hook on the tail  
**Pathology:** Unknown  
**Curiosity:** As *Echinocephalus* species mature they grow more rows of spines



**Name:** *Cardicola* sp., digenean flukes commonly called 'blood fluke'  
**Microhabitat:** Lives in the circulatory system  
**Appearance:** Adult worms are ~2mm long  
**Pathology:** Unknown  
**Curiosity:** This is the first record of these worms from King George whiting and only 2 adults have been found in over 1000 specimens examined



**Name:** A juvenile isopod from the family Gnathiidae  
**Microhabitat:** Attaches to the gills of hosts while feeding  
**Appearance:** Small, transparent body that becomes red when feeding on blood  
**Pathology:** Unknown  
**Curiosity:** Only the larval and juvenile stages are parasitic



**Name:** *Anaclavella sillaginoides*, a parasitic copepod, or 'sea-louse'  
**Microhabitat:** Attach to the gill arch  
**Appearance:** Small, white, circular-shaped body with long trunk-like attachment; females have a pair of egg strings  
**Pathology:** Unknown



**Name:** A juvenile acanthocephalan from the family Polymorphidae, commonly called spiny headed worms  
**Microhabitat:** Lives in the intestinal track  
**Appearance:** Small, neck and head covered in a number of spines (can be retracted inside the body)  
**Pathology:** Unknown  
**Curiosity:** The shape of the head (proboscis) and the number of spines does not change during development



**Name:** *Polylabris sillaginae*, flatworm parasites commonly called 'gill fluke'  
**Microhabitat:** Lives on the gills and feed on blood  
**Appearance:** Small, brown coloured worm that has two rows of microscopic clamps  
**Pathology:** Unknown. Gill flukes have been associated with anaemia in other fish hosts

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Prepared by Emma L. Brock 2010  
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