

# Parasites of kingfish (*Seriola lalandi*)

Parasite species with potential to cause fish pathology



**Name:** *Benedenia seriolae*, flatworm parasites commonly called 'skin fluke'  
**Microhabitat:** Live on the surface of the fish and feed on skin cells  
**Appearance:** Transparent when alive, but turn white when they die  
**Pathology:** Heavy infections cause irritability, anorexia and mortality in *Seriola* aquaculture  
**Cool stuff:** Their circular attachment organ acts like a suction cap so they stick on the fish!



**Name:** *Zeuxapta seriolae*, flatworm parasites commonly called 'gill fluke'  
**Microhabitat:** Live on the gills and feed on blood  
**Appearance:** Brown, thin worms that look like blobs on gills when not immersed in water  
**Pathology:** Infections in *Seriola* farms can cause emaciation, lethargy and lethal anaemia  
**Cool stuff:** You find out how old they are by counting the clamps on the attachment organ!



**Name:** *Caligus* spp., copepod crustaceans commonly called 'sea-lice' or 'skin crawlers'  
**Microhabitat:** Live on the surface of the fish including the skin and gills  
**Appearance:** Often with elongate paired eggs strings, scuttling around on the fish skin  
**Pathology:** Can cause irritation and anaemia in heavy infections  
**Cool stuff:** These guys can hang on, despite the speed and distance their host travels!



**Name:** *Paradeontacylix* spp., digenean flukes commonly called 'blood fluke'  
**Microhabitat:** Live in the circulatory system, including the heart and gills  
**Appearance:** Adult worms are 3mm long, eggs can cause white lesions in the gills  
**Pathology:** Eggs in the gills can impede blood flow, mass mortality in *Seriola* farms  
**Cool stuff:** These worms were recently discovered in WA, on board Shikari Charters!

**Name:** *Kudoa* sp. are myxosporeans, which can cause 'milky flesh' or 'soft flesh'  
**Microhabitat:** Live in the muscle tissue  
**Appearance:** Microscopic parasites that can only be observed under high power scopes  
**Pathology:** In heavy infections they can cause musculature liquefaction post-harvest  
**Cool stuff:** Put fish for eating immediately on ice and this parasite can't do its dirty work!

## Further contact:

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