

# Common Freshwater Fish Parasites Pictorial Guide: Monogeneans<sup>1</sup>

Deborah B. Pouder, Eric W. Curtis, and Roy P.E. Yanong<sup>2</sup>

## Introduction

This publication is one in a series of pictorial guides that is designed to assist in the identification of common freshwater fish parasites. The publications included in this series are:

- Common Freshwater Fish Parasites Pictorial Guide: Sessile Ciliates
- Common Freshwater Fish Parasites Pictorial Guide: Motile Ciliates
- Common Freshwater Fish Parasites Pictorial Guide: Dinoflagellates, Coccidia, Microsporidians, & Myxozoans
- Common Freshwater Fish Parasites Pictorial Guide: Monogeneans
- Common Freshwater Fish Parasites Pictorial Guide: Digenean Trematodes
- Common Freshwater Fish Parasites Pictorial Guide: Nematodes
- Common Freshwater Fish Parasites Pictorial Guide: Acanthocephalans, Cestodes, Leeches, & Pentastomes
- Common Freshwater Fish Parasites Pictorial Guide: Crustaceans

The information provided in this guide is not intended to be a complete, detailed description of each parasite or

parasite group and its characteristics but rather is intended to assist in the visual identification of some of the most common species or groups of parasites seen in freshwater fish. For further information on each parasite, refer to publications in the “Recommended Reading” and “Reference” sections below.

## Guide Information

- **Target Tissue:** provides the location on/in the fish where the parasite is most commonly found.
- **Characteristic:** provides a brief description about the appearance of the parasite.
- **Size:** provides the size or size range of the parasite. (1  $\mu\text{m}$  = 0.001 mm = 0.0001 cm) ( $\mu\text{m}$  = micron or micrometer; mm = millimeter; cm = centimeter)
- **Movement:** provides the type of movement, if any, of the parasite.
- **Note:** provides a brief comment of interest about the parasite.

## Recommended Reading

UF/IFAS Circular 91 Nematode (Roundworm) Infections in Fish. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FA091>

1. This document is FA-111, one of a series of the School of Forest Resources and Conservation, Program in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, UF/IFAS Extension. Original publication date July 2005. Reviewed March 2020. Visit the EDIS website at <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu> for the currently supported version of this publication.
2. Deborah B. Pouder, coordinator of research programs and services; Eric W. Curtis, former biological scientist; and Roy P.E. Yanong, professor; Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory, School of Forest Resources and Conservation Program in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL 32611.

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations. For more information on obtaining other UF/IFAS Extension publications, contact your county's UF/IFAS Extension office. U.S. Department of Agriculture, UF/IFAS Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A & M University Cooperative Extension Program, and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating. Nick T. Place, dean for UF/IFAS Extension.

UF/IFAS Circular 120 Fish Health Management Considerations in Recirculating Aquaculture Systems - Part 1: Introduction and General Principles. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FA099>

UF/IFAS Circular 121 Fish Health Management Considerations in Recirculating Aquaculture Systems - Part 2: Pathogens. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FA100>

UF/IFAS Circular 122 Fish Health Management Considerations in Recirculating Aquaculture Systems - Part 3: General Recommendations and Problem Solving Approaches. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FA101>

UF/IFAS Circular 920 *Ichthyophthirius multi liis* (White Spot) Infections in Fish. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FA006>

UF/IFAS Circular 921 Introduction to Fish Health Management. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FA004>

UF/IFAS Fact Sheet FA-13 Use of Copper in Freshwater Aquaculture and Farm Ponds. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FA008>

UF/IFAS Fact Sheet FA-90 Pentastomid Infections in Fish. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FA090>

UF/IFAS Fact Sheet FA-107 Common Freshwater Fish Parasites Pictorial Guide: Sessile Ciliates. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FA107>

UF/IFAS Fact Sheet FA-108 Common Freshwater Fish Parasites Pictorial Guide: Motile Ciliates. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FA108>

UF/IFAS Fact Sheet FA-109 Common Freshwater Fish Parasites Pictorial Guide: Flagellates. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FA109>

UF/IFAS Fact Sheet FA-110 Common Freshwater Fish Parasites Pictorial Guide: Dinoflagellates, Coccidia, Microsporidians, and Myxozoans. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FA110>

UF/IFAS Fact Sheet FA-112 Common Freshwater Fish Parasites Pictorial Guide: Digenean Trematodes. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FA112>

UF/IFAS Fact Sheet FA-113 Common Freshwater Fish Parasites Pictorial Guide: Nematodes. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FA113>

UF/IFAS Fact Sheet FA-114 Common Freshwater Fish Parasites Pictorial Guide: Acanthocephalans, Cestodes, Leeches, and Pentastomes. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FA114>

UF/IFAS Fact Sheet FA-115 Common Freshwater Fish Parasites Pictorial Guide: Crustaceans. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FA115>

UF/IFAS Fact Sheet VM-104 *Cryptobia iubilans* in Cichlids. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/VM077>

## References

Hoffman, G.L. 1999. Parasites of North American freshwater fishes. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY.

Longshaw, M. and S.W. Feist. 2001. Parasitic diseases. Pages 167-183 in W.H. Wildgoose, editor. BSAVA manual of ornamental fish, second edition. British Small Animal Veterinary Association, Gloucester, England.

Noga, E.J. 1996. Fish disease: diagnosis and treatment. Mosby-Yearbook, Inc., St. Louis, MO.

Stoskopf, M.K. 1993. Fish medicine. W.B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, PA.

Woo, P.T.K., editor. 1995. Fish diseases and disorders, volume 1: protozoan and metazoan infections. CAB International, Wallingford, United Kingdom.

# Common Freshwater Fish Parasites Pictorial Guide:

## Monogeneans

Deborah B. Pouder, Eric W. Curtis, and Roy P. E. Yanong

### Dactylogyrid



**Target Tissues:** Primarily gills

**Appearance:** Two to four eye spots; one pair of large anchor hooks; scallop-shaped head

**Size:** Approx. 328–388  $\mu\text{m}$  in length

**Movement:** Free-moving, though anchor end often attached to fish tissue

**Note:** Egg-layer

### Gyrodactylid



**Target Tissues:** Primarily skin and fin

**Appearance:** Two pairs of anchor hooks; v-shaped “head”

**Size:** Approx. 0.3–1.0 mm in length

**Movement:** Free-moving, though anchor end often attached to fish tissue

**Note:** Live-bearer; may be able to see fully-developed embryo with hooks inside adult