

# Parasites of barramundi (*Lates calcarifer*)

Parasite species with potential to cause fish pathology



**Name:** *Neobenedenia*, flatworm parasites commonly called 'skin fluke'

**Microhabitat:** Live on the surface of the fish and feed on skin cells

**Appearance:** Transparent, mature around 2mm

**Pathology:** Irritability, anorexia and mortality in aquaculture

**Curiosity:** *Neobenedenia* are not host-specific (known from 14 fish families)



**Name:** *Cruoricola lates*, a digenean, commonly called blood fluke

**Microhabitat:** Circulatory system

**Appearance:** Flat, tapered worms; white when alive

**Pathology:** Blood fluke can cause asphyxiation and mass mortality

**Curiosity:** Blood fluke have a two host life cycle with free swimming infective stages



**Name:** *Lernanthropus* sp., a parasitic crustacean or copepod

**Microhabitat:** Gills

**Appearance:** Attach using hooks and hand-like appendages ~15mm

**Pathology:** Lacerated tissue, erosion, necrosis of gill lamellae

**Curiosity:** May be diagnosed by long eggs strings in the gills

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## A research initiative supported by:

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Fisheries Research and Development  
Corporation  
  
James Cook University  
  
The University of Adelaide

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Prepared by Kate S. Hutson 2010