

3.1.2 Key to Major Taxa of Adult Parasites Of Fishes*

1. Individual organism microscopic (except *Ichthyophthirius*) and single-celled,
but may be multinuclear.....Protozoa

Individual organism usually visible without a microscope and multicellular.....2
2. Body worm-like.....3

Body not worm-like.....8
3. Body dorso-ventrally flattened, not round in cross-section.....4

Body not dorso-ventrally flattened, round in cross-section.....7
4. Body with segmentation or distinct external annulations or rings.....5

Body without segmentation or distinct external annulations or rings.....6
5. Anterior attachment organ present, which may include hooks and muscular suckers,
posterior attachment organ not present; gut absent.....Cestoda

Anterior and posterior attachment organs present with well defined posterior sucker;
gut present.....Hirudinea
6. Posterior attachment organ present which usually includes hooks (hamuli)
and marginal hooks; external parasites.....Monogenea

Posterior attachment organ not present, possesses circumoral and ventral suckers
except for blood dwelling species; internal parasites.....Digenea
7. Anterior spined proboscis present.....Acanthocephala

Anterior spined proboscis not present.....Nematoda
8. Body in form of two hinged shell-valves; organism encysted on surface of gills
or fins.....Glochidia

Body not in form of two hinged shell-valves, possesses appendages for attachment
to host surface; organism not encysted.....Crustacea

*Does not apply to larval Cestoda, Digenea, or Nematoda