D-33: Light and electron microscope study of ophisthaptoral sclerites of *Dactylogyrus vastator* from the European carp

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Dactylogyrus vastator Nybelin, 1924 (Monogenea: Dactylogyridae)is a common and significantly pathogenic parasite of the common carp, *Cyprinus carpio* L. in Europe. This paper describes a morphological study of the ophisthaptoral sclerites or hooks of *D. vasitator* at light and electron microscopic level. The opisthaptoral sclerites consist of 2 hamuli and 14 marginal hooks.

A modification made by Shinn (1993) on the preparation of these hooks for examination with the electron microscope requires that they be free of any adhering tissue; hooks were thus cleaned using an ultrasonication technique.

The hamuli of adult and immature dactylogyrids are divided into internal, external root processes and a shaft which continues to end in a spike. Marginal hooks have a spike and a blade which provide surfaces for muscular attachment. The adult and immature worms can be differentiated by the development of the auxiliary sclerite. The 2 hamuli are unequal in size in adult and immature worms. Using a variate analysis, principal component analysis the effect of temperature on sclerite measurements was investigated. The hamuli basic length and internal root length were the major factors, by which the different populations of parasite reared under different regimes can be discriminated. The 19°C reared parasites were clearly separated off from the 13°C and 15°C reared parasites.