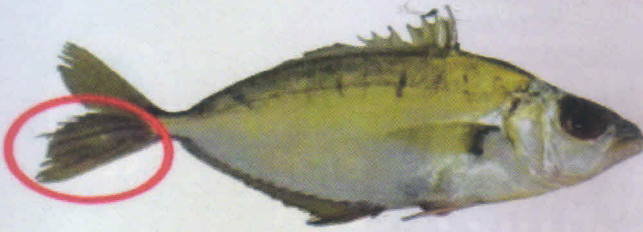


# Parasitic Isopods of Fish

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*Nerocila arres* on host *Karalla dussumieri*



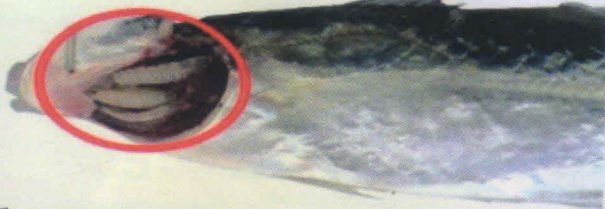
*Nerocila arres* on host *Nemipterus japonicus*



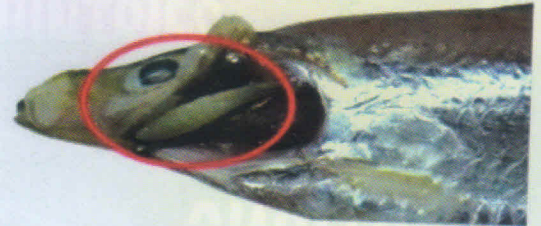
*Nerocila poruvae* on host *Thryssa mystax*



*Nerocila deppresa* on host *Megalapsis cordyla*



*Catoessa boscii* on host *Alepes djedaba*



*Joryma sawayah* on host *Ilisha melastoma*



*Cymothoa indica* on host *Datnoides polota*



*Cymothoa indica* on host *Sphyraena obtusata*

Attachment of different parasitic isopods to specific host fish

**H**AVE you ever heard of tiny organisms that live on fish and feed on their blood and tissues? These fascinating creatures are called isopods. They are crustaceans, just like crabs, prawns, and shrimp. The word "Isopoda" means "equal foot", as they have legs that all look similar. They are incredibly diverse and can be found all over the world. They live in both water and on land. However, not all isopods are parasites. Only some that live in fresh, brackish, and marine water environments are parasitic. These parasitic isopods often infect fish and other crustaceans.

Found in nearly every ocean on Earth, with the notable exception of the frigid polar waters, the Cymothoid isopod family (Cymothoidae) is a widespread group of marine parasites. While their stronghold is in saltwater environments, some adventurous members have also colonised freshwater systems in Africa, Asia, and the lush tropical regions of South America, especially the Amazon basin. This diverse family boasts around 40 different genera and over 380 identified species, with their greatest variety concentrated in the warm embrace of tropical zones. As you move towards the colder