Class Monogenoidea
Monogenoidea

- Ectoparasitic on body surface and gills of fish.
- Many species exhibit marked specificity to host and microhabitat.
- Opisthaptor present, often armed with hooks (hamuli).
- Life cycles direct: oncomiracidium larva
• *Gyrodactylus* spp., *Dactylogyrus* spp.
  - Problem in farmed fish.
• *Polystoma interrigimum*: example of hormonal coordination of parasite reproduction
Gyrodactylus

- Common parasite of farmed and aquarium fish.
- *G. salaris* a problem with *Salmo salar* in Europe.
- Reproduce rapidly on surface of host.
Paedomorphosis

• Retention in adult of juvenile characteristics.
• Gould (1977) recognizes 2 mechanisms: neoteny, progenesis
Dactylogyrus vastator

- Parasites of carp in Europe.
- Gives rise to “spring rise” in temperate systems.
- Eggs released late in season daipause, hatching in synchrony as temperatures rise in spring.
Polystoma spp.

- Parasites of urinary bladder of frogs
- Worms quiescent in winter, produce eggs in response to frogs breeding.
- 2 forms: gill form infects tadpoles; transforms and moves to bladder as frog metamorphoses.
More reading...
