

Poster Abstract

The story begins – DNA-Barcoding of *Gyrodactylus*, a genus of hyperdiverse fish ectoparasites

Lukas ZANGL, Stephan KOBLMÜLLER & Christoph HAHN

The genus *Gyrodactylus* (Monogenea, Platyhelminthes) contains an estimated number of 20,000 species worldwide, with only little over 400 formally described to date. These fish ectoparasites are characterized by high host specificity and a unique assemblage of reproductive features (hyperviviparity, progenesis). Little is known about the distribution and diversity of *Gyrodactylus* species in Austria. Since their discovery in 1832, taxonomy has been traditionally based on host species and the morphology of the hook apparatus, which they use to attach to their hosts. Synonymies, under- and/or overestimations, as well as cryptic diversity may be assumed in this taxon and is pending further (molecular) investigation, which is currently hampered by the lack of reliable specific barcoding primers for the genus. In the course of ABOL we are working towards establishing specific primers and efficient protocols to ultimately reveal and characterize the actual diversity of *Gyrodactylus* species on our native fish species.

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ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Verhandlungen der Zoologisch-Botanischen Gesellschaft in Wien. Frueher: Verh.des Zoologisch-Botanischen Vereins in Wien. seit 2014 "Acta ZooBot Austria"](#)

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Artikel/Article: [The story begins – DNA-Barcoding of Gyrodactylus, a genus of hyperdiverse fish ectoparasites 67](#)