

***Stephanostomum talakitok* n. sp. (Digenea: Acanthocolpidae) from the golden trevalley, *Gnathanodon speciosus* (Perciformes: Carangidae), from Ningaloo Reef, Western Australia**

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Abstract

A new species, *Stephanostomum talakitok* n. sp., is described from the golden trevally *Gnathanodon speciosus*, Ningaloo Reef, Western Australia. It has 36 (34–40) circum-oral spines and the vitellarium reaches to no less than 10–17% of the hindbody length from the ventral sucker. It differs from other species of *Stephanostomum* with these characteristics by combinations of the gradual diminution of the circum-oral spine size to a small mid-ventral spine, the contiguous gonads with no intervening vitelline follicles, the sucker-ratio and various other ratios, including the distance between the ventral sucker and the ovary and the distance the cirrus-sac reaches into the hindbody, both as a proportion of body length.

Key words: *Stephanostomum talakitok* n. sp., Acanthocolpidae, Digenea, *Gnathanodon speciosus*, Carangidae, Perciformes, Ningaloo Coral Reef, Western Australia

Introduction

The fish parasite fauna of the Ningaloo Coral Reef off Western Australia is poorly explored. Recently we (Bray & Cribb, 2004) described a new species of the acanthocolpid genus *Stephanostomum* Looss, namely *S. tantabiddii* Bray & Cribb, 2004 from the carangid *Carangoides fulvoguttatus* (Forsskål). In this article we describe a second new species from this locality, from another carangid fish, the golden trevally *Gnathanodon speciosus* (Forsskål). This new species is much smaller than *S. tantabiddii*, with fewer circum-oral spines, and is readily distinguishable from any of the 117 described species of the genus (Bray & Cribb, 2003, Bray & Cribb, 2004).