

R4 - Yamaguti's Systema Helminthum: 50 years on

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Yamaguti's *Systema Helminthum*, published 50 years ago, remains the first point of reference for many monogenean researchers. An extension to this was provided by Spencer-Jones & Gibson (1990) who produced a list of both valid and relegated genera described in the intervening period. Since the publication of these studies, there has been no comprehensive overview of the Monogenea. Here we take a brief look back over the last 50 years in an attempt to provide a synthesis of current understanding of monogenean diversity. As part of this study, we have populated a database of monogenean families, genera and species, providing the framework for the construction of a comprehensive centralised database. In addition to providing answers to fundamental questions such as "how many extant monogenean genera and species are there?", it is anticipated that this database will provide a one-stop shop on the web for monogenean researchers.

R5 - DBs

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Basic taxonomic and biological information concerning many of the 700+ known monogenean genera and their species are frequently difficult to access, with many descriptions published in grey literature or inaccessible journals. The progression of taxonomic studies can be further impeded by restrictions regarding loan access to type material, the deterioration or loss of key slide material, or, the absence of centres holding specimens for evaluation. When such data are available, specimens, images and descriptions are of variable quality. This study will take a brief look at two existing monogenean databases: GyroDb (www.gyrodbs.net) – a home for Gyrodactylus species on the web; and, MonoDb (www.monodb.org) – a prototype web-based resource for all monogeneans. The aim of this international collaborative project sets out to provide taxonomic details on all monogenean families, genera and species (current, retired and inquirendae), with links to other relevant databases including FishBase, NCBI and ZooBank. The specific purpose of this presentation, however, is to take a fresh look at these databases and to ask whether they meet the current scientific demands of the monogenean researching community.