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PARASITES OF PUERTO RICAN MARINE FISHES

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The taxonomy of the metazoan parasites of Puerto Rican marine fishes is being revised. Various collecting methods and standard parasite examination and preparation techniques were followed. Thus far, nine new species of isopods (Isopoda), three new roundworms (Nematoda), two new flukes (Digenea), and one new gillworm (Monogenea) have been described, and numerous new host and locality records have been reported for the above parasites, soleworms (Aspidogastrea), tapeworms (Cestoda), leeches (Hirudinella), and copepods (Copepoda), from more than 2000 fish samples representing 310 species. Work continues on these parasites with the eventual goal of producing a guide to Caribbean fish parasites. Additional CAAHP parasite projects in progress include a guide to the parasites of freshwater fishes of Puerto Rico, a comparison of freshwater fish parasites and water quality in Puerto Rican reservoirs, a checklist of the parasites of Caribbean invertebrates, and work with the parasites of marine mammals and sea turtles examined by the Caribbean Stranding Network.

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