



Figure 1. Striped Western-Atlantic Isopod

NUMBER:20190704

SPECIES: Striped Western Atlantic Isopod,^[1] *Nerocila lanceolata* Say, 1818^[2]

LOCALITY: off coast of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, USA

LATITUDE< LONGITUDE: 32.200005, -80.691549

DATE: 4 July 2019

HOST: “It was attached to my grandchild's leg and we had to pull it off. Is it unusual for these to feed on humans? It was small pea sized. We were swimming in the ocean on the coast of Hilton Head Island”(iNaturalist # 28268154). EHW Reply: “I have had juvenile *Anilocra* attach to me straight out of the brood pouch, but not free swimming in the open. Very interesting.”

ATTACKING HUMANS: We are not aware of any fish parasitic isopod (cymothoid) attaching to and feeding on humans. The only fish-associate isopod we know feeds off humans is *Rocinela signata*. They sometimes attack divers in swarms.

IMPORTANCE: First instance of free-swimming juvenile cymothoid attaching to a human.

OBSERVERS: Dr. Ernest H. Williams, Jr.,^[3,4,6,7] and Dr. Lucy Bunkley-Williams^[3,5,6,8]

REFERENCES:

<>Williams, E. H., Jr. and L. Bunkley-Williams. 2021. First fish parasitic isopod attacking a human. Comment on iNaturalist #28268154, Research Quality Report, 25 November (open access) ResearchGate [628]

FOOTNOTES: ^[1]Suggested common name; ^[2]Identification was peer-reviewed, text edited and condensed. The entire, original text is in our reprint #629. ^[3]Extraordinary Professors, Potchefstroom Campus, North-West University, South Africa; Adjunct Professors, Research Field Station, Florida Gulf Coast University, 5164 Bonita Beach Road, Bonita Springs, FL 34134; ^[4]Dept. Marine Sciences, University of Puerto Rico (retired); ^[5]Dept. Biology, UPR (retired); ^[6]920 St. Andrews Blvd, Naples, FL 34113-8943; ^[7]e-mail ernest.williams1@upr.edu; cell 239-227-3645, ORCID 0000-0003-0913-3013; ^[8]Cell 787-467-2179, e-mail lucy.williams1@upr.edu, ORCID 0000-0003-1390-911x.