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## Original Scientific Photographs

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Copepods are the most numerous among parasitic crustaceans and may be the most common group of fish parasites. They have been found parasitizing skin, gills, eyes, fins and even inside the mouth of fishes, near the palate and nostrils (Eiras 1994). Among the well known copepods in Brazil, the most observed species is the exotic *Lernaea cyprinacea* (Linnaeus, 1758), introduced during the 80's via the common carp *Cyprinus carpio* Linnaeus, 1758, at the northeast area, spreading to southeastern, mid-west and reaching the southern regions of Brazil (Fortes *et al.* 1998). The guppy *Poecilia reticulata* Peters, 1859 is an ovoviviparous freshwater fish of low waters native to northern South America and the Antilles (Rodríguez 1997). On December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 1 pm, in an artificial small tank (1 m<sup>2</sup>) at the Araçatuba city (21°12'50" S; 50°25'48" W), State of São Paulo, Brazil, two adult specimens of *Poecilia reticulata* (male and female, Fig. 1a, b) were observed being parasitized by the anchor worm *L. cyprinacea*. *Lernaea cyprinacea* is an important parasite to fish farming so much economically, due to the fish's bad appearance for commerce (after parasitized), as ecologically, since when introduced in the environment the parasite can cause mortality of other fishes due to secondary infections caused by fungi and bacteria (Querol *et al.* 2005). Pictures characteristics: Digital Machine model Sony DSC-R1, 3 Mp resolution (72 dpi), diaphragm aperture 4.8, time of exposition 1/125; Speed ISO-160.

### References

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