

The diversity of Monogenea (Metazoans, Platyhelminths) among the Algerian Sparid fish

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INTRODUCTION:

Monogenea is a Class of parasitic worms from the Phylum Platyhelminthes. These flatworms live mainly in the gills of fish.

In this work, we have identified four Polyopisthocotyleans from four Sparid fishes.

METHODS

- 4 species of fishes belonging to the family Sparidae have been captured from different localities off the Algerian coast (*Diplodus sargus sargus* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Oblada melanura* (Linnaeus 1758), *Lithognathus mormyrus* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *Spicara meana* (Linnaeus, 1758))
- Gills were removed from each fish and were placed in a petri dish and observed under a stereo microscope for the presence of monogeneans.
- All the parasites found were fixed in ethanol 70%, stained with boracic carmin, and mounted in Canada balsam.

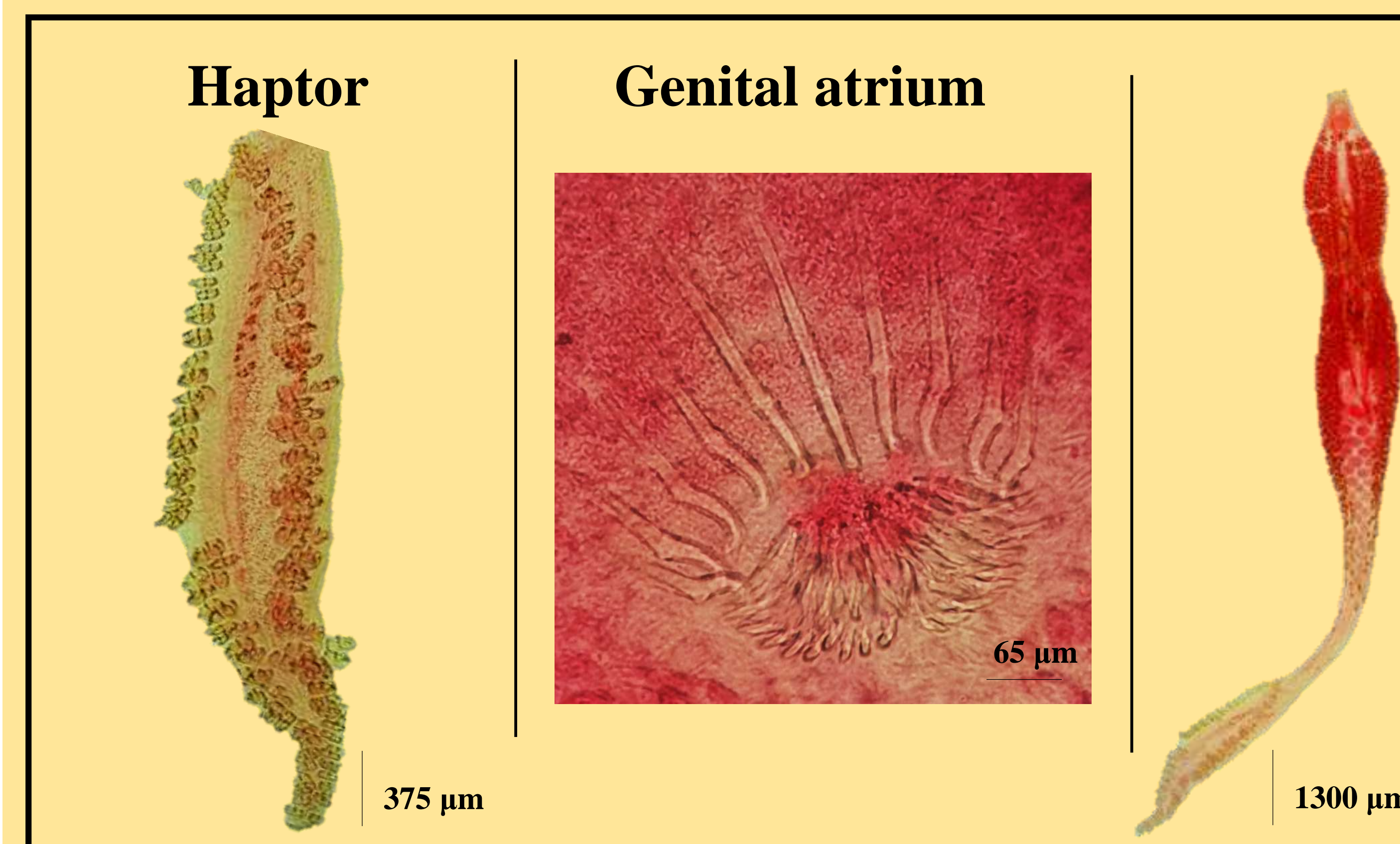
RESULTS

- Four species of Monogenea have been identified. They belong to three families: Diclidophoridae Cerfontaine, 1895; Gotocotyliidae Yamaguti, 1963 and Microcotylidae Taschenberg, 1879 (Table 1).

Family	Parasite	Host
Microcotylidae	<i>Bychowskicotyla mormyri</i> (Lorenz, 1878) Unnithan, 1971	<i>L. mormyrus</i>
	<i>Bivagina alcedinis</i> (Parona & Perugia, 1889)	<i>S. meana</i>
Gotocotyliidae	<i>Gotocotyla acanthura</i> (Parona & Perugia, 1896) Meserve, 1938	<i>O. melanura</i>
Diclidophoridae	<i>Choricotyle chrysophryi</i> Van Beneden & Hesse, 1863	<i>D. sargus</i>

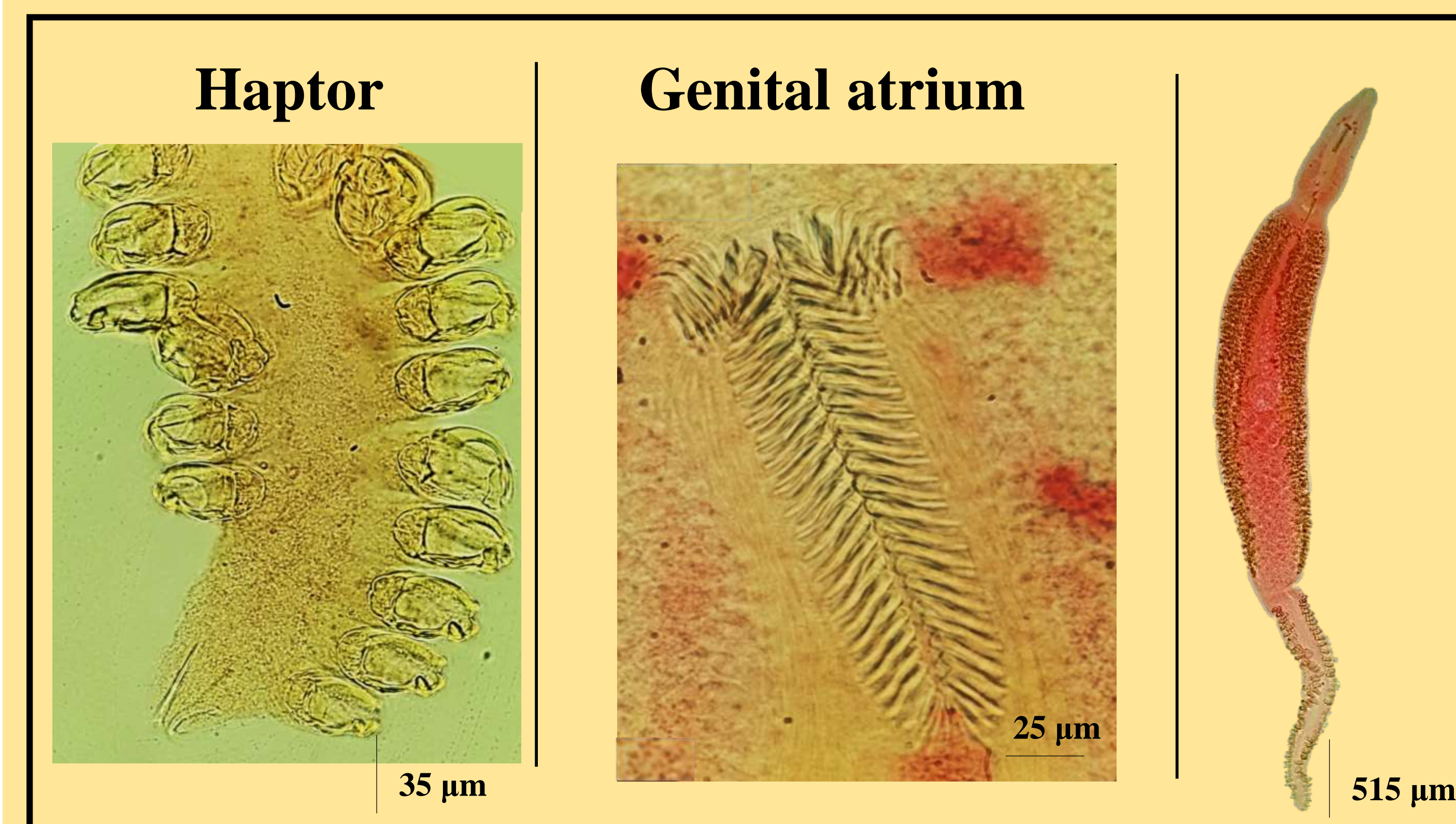
Table 1: Parasite-Host List

Taxonomic study



Bivagina alcedinis

- Genital atrium unarmed.
- Double armed vagina .
- Haptor symmetrical with numerous pairs of clamps.

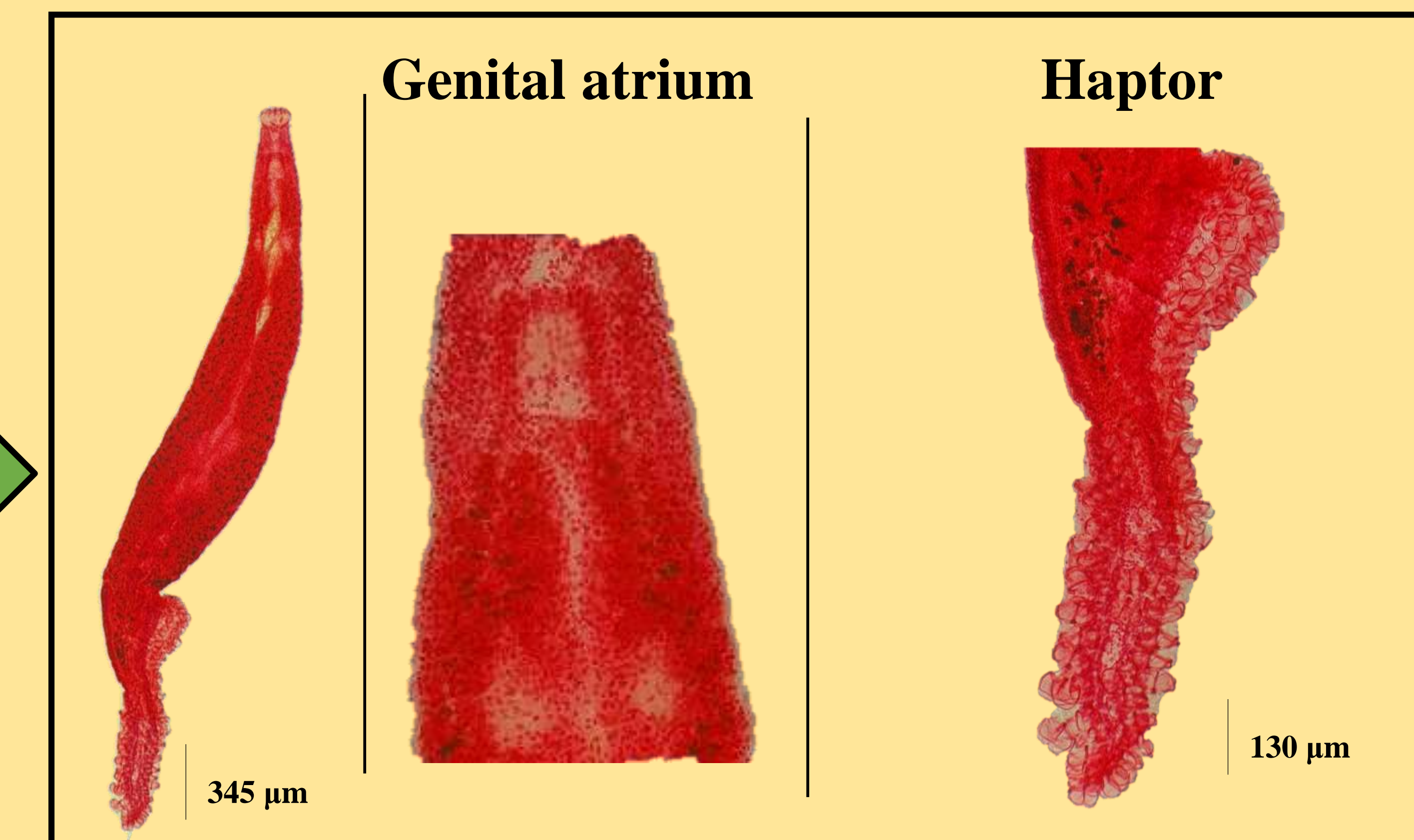


Choricotyle chrysophryi

- Genital atrium armed.
- No vagina.
- Haptor with 4 pairs of subequal peduncles.

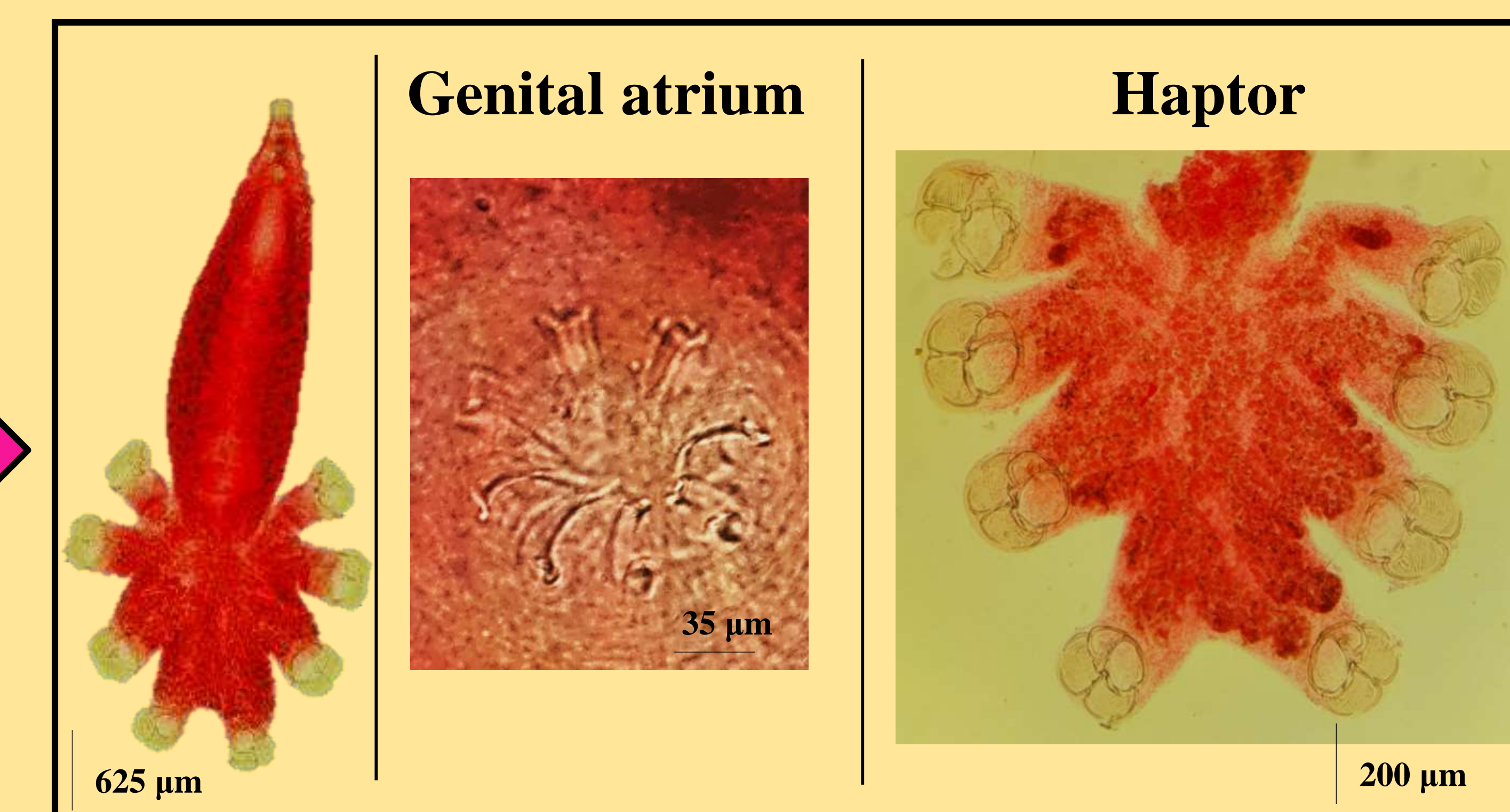
Bychowskicotyla mormyri

- Genital atrium armed with three groups of spines.
- Single unarmed vagina.
- Haptor symmetrical with numerous pairs of clamps.



Gotocotyla acanthura

- Genital atrium armed with pectinate spines
- Single unarmed vagina.
- Haptor Symmetrical with a pair of terminal anchors.



Based only on their morphology, we can say that Monogeneans are very diversified.

Hosts



Lithognathus mormyrus (Linnaeus, 1758)



Spicara meana (Linnaeus, 1758)



Oblada melanura (Linnaeus, 1758)



Diplodus sargus sargus (Linnaeus, 1758)

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