

# Stop Aquatic Invasive Species

## Asian Tapeworm (*Bothriocephalus acheilognathi*)

The Asian tapeworm is an aquatic intestinal parasite that can infect freshwater fish, particularly in species of carp. This tapeworm can reduce body growth, cause anemia and eventually mortality in infected fish by absorbing the nutrients from its host. The Asian tapeworm has both female and male reproductive organs and can reproduce through self-fertilization. Eggs are released into the water with the host's fecal material and hatch into free-swimming larvae. The larvae are consumed by crustaceans and infect fish through the consumption of the infected crustaceans.

The Asian tapeworm is native to East Asia and has been introduced in Europe, Australia and the United States. It has been reported to have been found in Manitoba's Lake Winnipeg.

### Identification

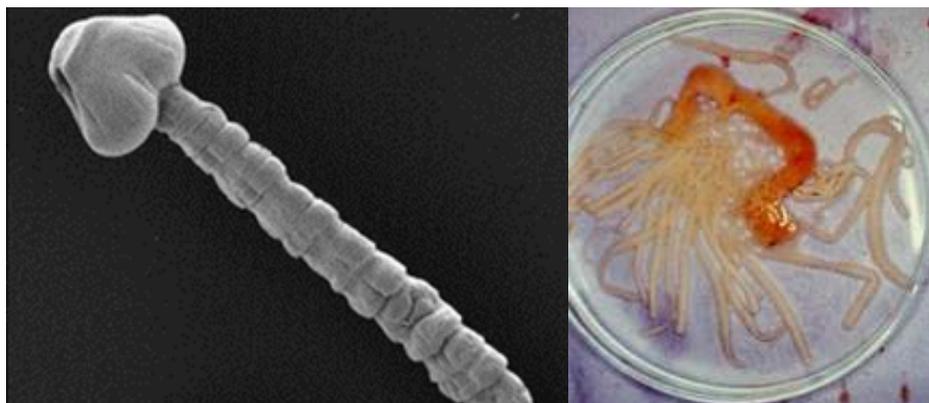


Photo credit:

- Heart shaped scolex (head region)
- No neck
- Body is segmented
- Size can reach a length of 20 centimetres or more

[saskatchewan.ca/tip](http://saskatchewan.ca/tip)

TIP LINE: 1-800-667-7561

SaskTel Cell: #5555

## How would the Asian tapeworm get here?

The Asian tapeworm was likely introduced to areas accidentally with one of its native hosts, the grass carp, and can spread to new waters through translocation of bait fish.

## What can I do to prevent the spread of Asian tapeworm?

Clean, drain and dry your boat and equipment thoroughly before launching into a new area. Remove and dispose all visible plants, animals and mud into enclosed garbage cans.

Never use invasive species as bait or in your aquarium; always check with the sellers to be sure. Make others aware of this invasive animal and report any findings to the Saskatchewan TIP line.

# CLEAN + DRAIN + DRY YOUR BOAT



### Current Saskatchewan Regulation

*The Fisheries Regulations* prohibit Saskatchewan residents and visitors from importing, possessing, transporting or selling aquatic invasive species.

### Report Sightings

Report any sightings to the nearest Ministry of Environment office or call the TIP line.

### Need more information or have questions?

Call 1-800-567-4224 (in North America) or email [centre.inquiry@gov.sk.ca](mailto:centre.inquiry@gov.sk.ca).

For a complete list of prohibited species, click here

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