

Trichodinids of Australian Freshwater Fishes:
Preliminary Results of the First Systematic
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The trichodinids infecting freshwater fish of Australia are completely unknown. This poster presents some of the diversity of trichodinids recovered from native and feral freshwater fishes in a systematic survey for this family of peritrichous ciliates. A considerable native fauna was uncovered, representing an unexplored source of biodiversity in Australian freshwater systems. In addition, a number of exotic species of trichodinids were recovered, from both exotic and native fishes, indicating that host-switching events have occurred. *Trichodina heterodentata*, for example, a species imported with tilapia (*Oreochromis mossambicus*) has acquired at least eight native host species. These host-switching events have apparently become important for structuring the parasite communities of native fishes.