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## PARASITIC ISOPODS ON TROUT

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Although parasitic Crustacea are not uncommon on migratory salmonids in the northern hemisphere, there appear to be no records of such an association in Australasia. A trout (*Salmo trutta* L.) was taken in Lake Waituna, Southland in April 1963 and seven parasitic isopods found attached to it. Three specimens were examined and identified as *Nerocila orbigni* (Guéren, 1832). The specimens were females and the lengths were 24, 28 and 28 mms.

Lake Waituna is coastal and is fed by several streams. Drainage to the sea is dependent on a temporary opening in a sand bar so that the lake discharges at irregular intervals. During these intervals sea water may enter the lake. The trout weighed seven pounds and our informant stated that in his opinion the fish had not recently come in from the sea. Records for the parasite (Hale, 1926, 1940) give teleosts and elasmobranchs as hosts, but there is no sug-

gestion that this species might inhabit brackish water. The simplest explanation seems to be that the parasites attached themselves to the trout in the sea and retained their position for some time after the trout entered L. Waituna.

Trout appeared in the coastal waters of Tasmania and New Zealand from about 1870 onwards, and it will be of interest to see whether they acquire a large complement of marine parasites.

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