First Caribbean Report of *Glossobius impressus* (Isopoda: Cymothoidae) and a New Host, Fourwing Flyingfish, *Hirundichthys affinis*

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Flyingfishes are used as human food in much of the Caribbean. As inshore fisheries become depleted, the pelagic fisheries will become more important. The parasitic isopod *Glossobius impressus* (Say) is probably important in flyingfishes, yet we know almost nothing about its biology. The species is common and widespread from Brazil to New Jersey, USA, and throughout the tropical and subtropical Atlantic, but not in the Caribbean Sea (Bruce and Bowman, 1989; Kensley and Schotte, 1989). Herein we note a new host species and new Caribbean locality for this isopod.

During a Department of Marine Sciences cruise in the Caribbean Sea, 371 km south of La Parguera, Puerto Rico, on the R/V *Isla Magueyes*, a fourwing flyingfish, *Hirundichthys affinis* (Günther), flew on board. An ovigerous female identified as *G. impressus* was removed from the mouth of the fish, preserved in 70% ethanol, and later deposited in the U. S. National Parasite Collection (USNPC 87893).

Bruce and Bowman (1989) and Kensley and Schotte (1989) point out the unusual void in records for the middle of this parasite’s geographic distribution. The small number of specimens listed, however, and a record on the northeast boundary of the Caribbean at Anguilla (Bruce and Bowman, 1989), suggest that the apparent absence in the Caribbean may represent a lack of collecting effort. The present record, well into the Caribbean Sea, suggests a true, regional occurrence for this isopod and one that is not accidental or incidental.

One of the records noted above (Bruce and Bowman, 1989) lists a host fish, the mirrorwing flyingfish, *Hirundichthys speculiger* (Valenciennes), while the other known records (listed by Bruce and Bowman, 1989) merely note unidentified flyingfishes or predator fishes that probably obtained their isopods by eating flyingfishes (Williams and Bunkley-Williams, 1996). The fourwing flyingfish is the second host species known for *G. impressus*.

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**LITERATURE CITED**

