

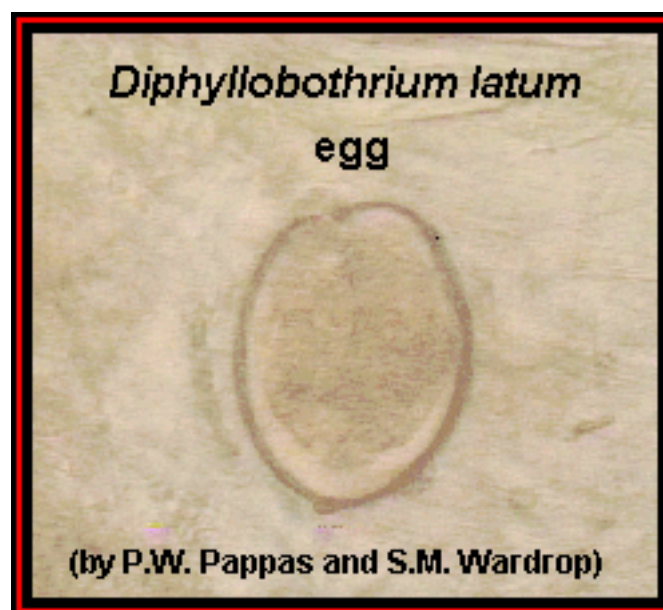
Graphic Images of Parasites

Diphyllobothrium latum (the broadfish tapeworm)

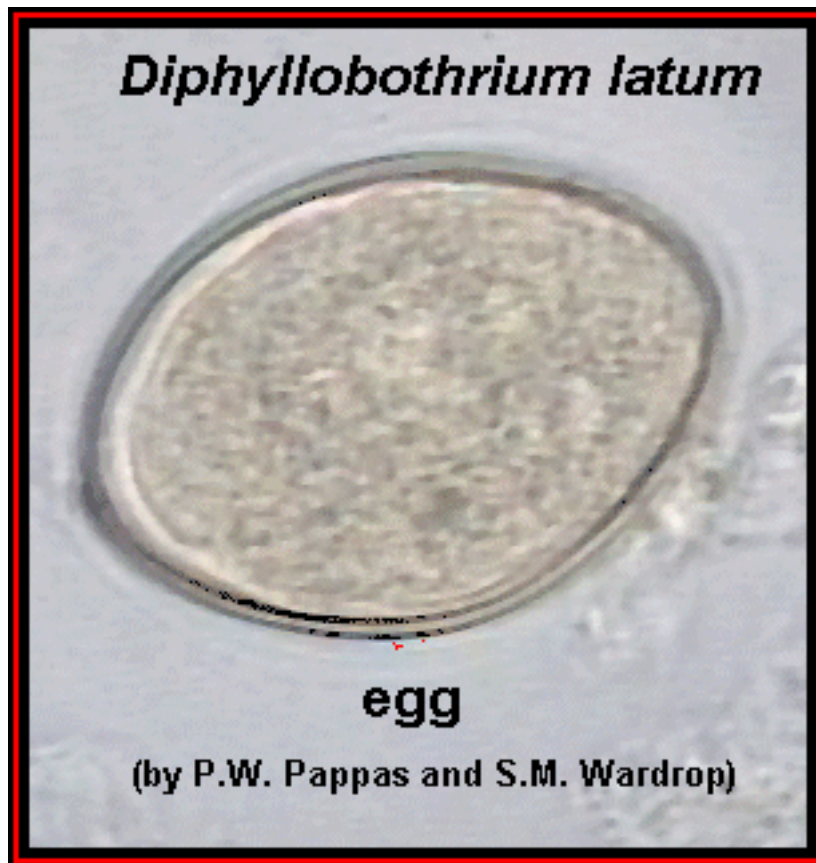
Many "fish eating" vertebrates can serve as the definitive host for *Diphyllobothrium latum* (the broadfish tapeworm), including humans, dogs, foxes, cats, mink, bears, and seals. The adult tapeworm lives in the host's small intestine, and in humans the tapeworm can reach a length of 10 meters (>30 feet) and produce over a million eggs a day!

The life cycle of *D. latum* involves two intermediate hosts. The first intermediate host is a copepod, the second intermediate host is a fish, often pike or salmon, and the definitive host is infected by eating raw or undercooked fish ([view diagram of the life-cycle](#)). In humans the tapeworm is more prevalent in areas where humans eats lots of fish; this includes Scandinavia and areas bordering the Great Lakes in the US. Dogs and cats are often infected when they are fed the offal remaining after cleaning fish.

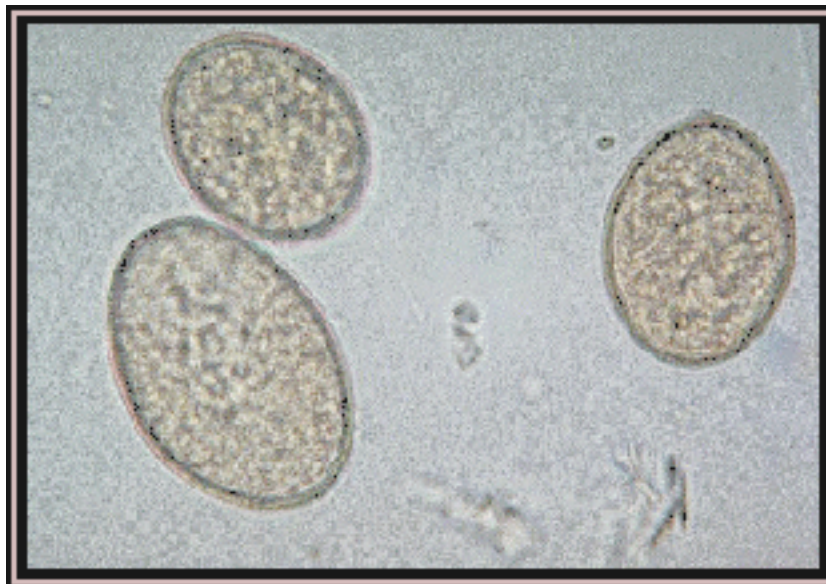
Occasionally, humans are infected with the plerocercoid stage of of cestodes. Such infections are referred to [sparganosis](#).



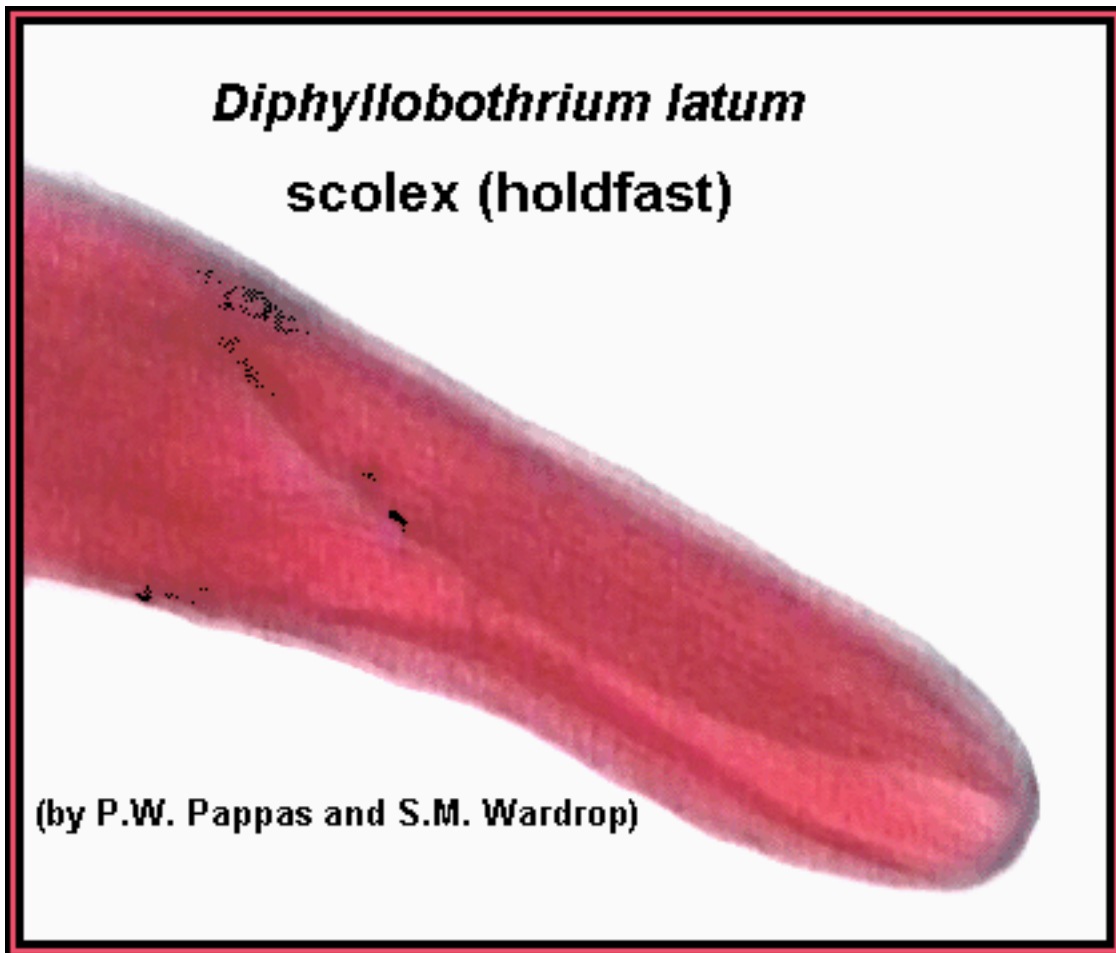
Diphyllobothrium latum egg. The egg measures approximately 50 x 75 μm , has an operculum and an abopercular "bump."



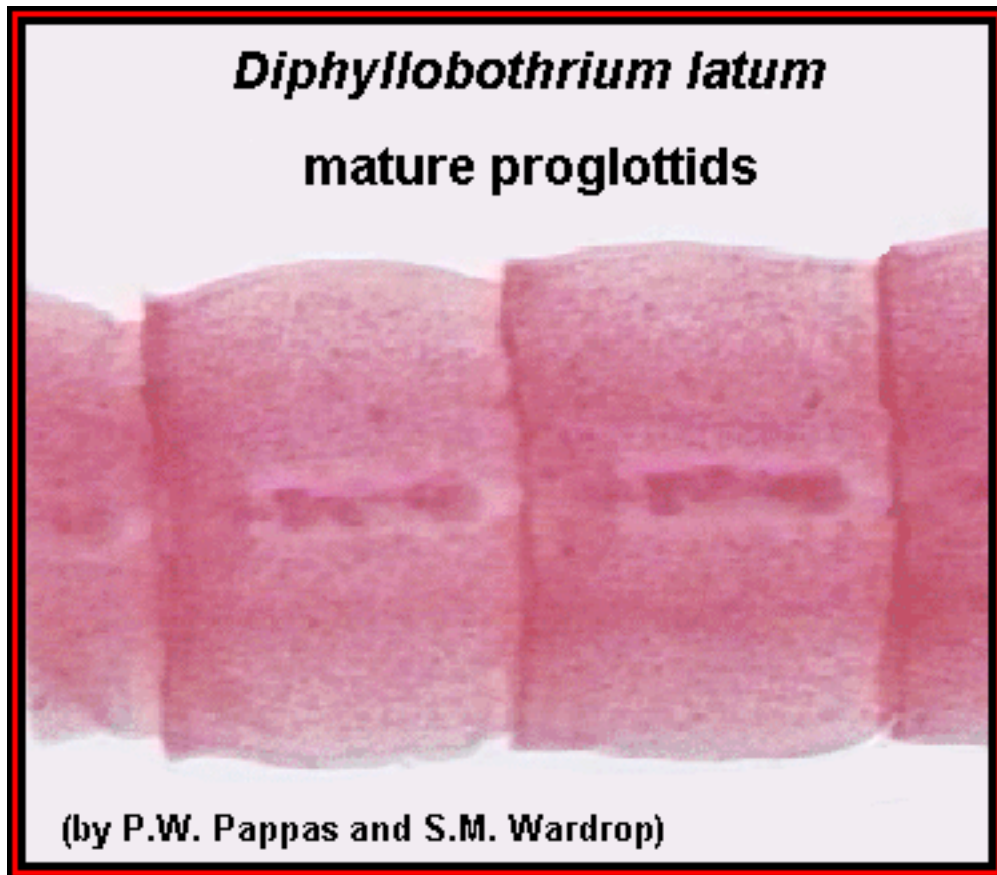
Diphyllobothrium latum egg.



Yet another image of *D. latum* eggs; the "bump" can be seen clearly on one of the eggs. (Original image from [Oklahoma State University, College of Veterinary Medicine](http://www.vetmed.okstate.edu/parasite/diphyllobothrium.html).)



Scolex (holdfast) of *Diphyllobothrium latum*. The scolex is characteristic of pseudophyllidean tapeworms in that it has grooves rather than muscular suckers and hooks; compare with the scolex of [*Taenia*](#). The scolex is less than 1 mm in width.



Diphyllobothrium latum proglottids, stained whole mount. Each proglottid measures approximately 2 mm in length. The proglottids are characteristic of pseudophyllidean tapeworms in that the genital pores are medial rather than lateral, and there is a uterine pore; compare with the proglottids of *Taenia*. Click [here](#) to view another image in which some of the internal organs are labeled.
