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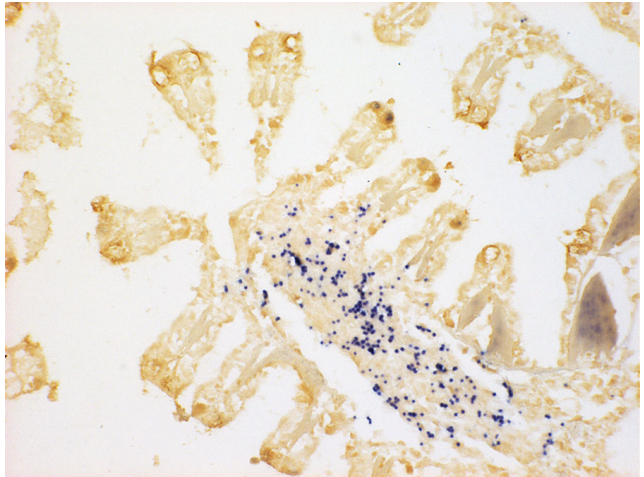
## Microcell parasites of molluscs

Editors:

Ryan B. Carnegie

Marc Y. Engelsma

Stephen W. Feist



*In situ hybridization to Bonamia ostreae cells in the gills of the oyster Ostrea edulis.*

*Photo: Marc Engelsma*

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*Protistan parasites in the genera Bonamia and Mikrocytos are among the historically significant mollusc pathogens, and they remain economically and ecologically relevant today. The study of them has flourished over the last decade with the arrival of a new generation of researchers into the field and the introduction of new tools and methods.*

*As a product emerging from discussions at the 2012 Microcell Working Group meeting in Lelystad, the Netherlands, this DAO Special focuses on recent discoveries on the biology and distribution of microcell parasites and developments concerning their detection, with a particular emphasis on the dynamic state of knowledge related to Bonamia exitiosa.*



**Inter-Research**

Nordbunte 23 (+3, 5, 28, 30), 21385 Oldendorf/Luhe, Germany  
Tel: (+49) (0)4132 7127, Fax: (+49) (0)4132 8883  
Email: ir@int-res.com, Internet: www.int-res.com

