

# UNWANTED



Picture - Aberdeen University Electron Microscopy Unit

## *Gyrodactylus salaris*

This microscopic animal, less than half a millimetre long, is an external parasite of Atlantic Salmon. It is native to the Baltic, where the local Baltic Salmon are immune to it, but was transferred to the Norwegian coast in stock taken there for Salmon farming. It has since destroyed the Salmon populations of over 20 Norwegian river systems. It has now spread to most of northern and western mainland Europe, largely through transfers of fish for trout farming, since trout and some other species can carry it without ill effects. ***Its arrival in the Tweed catchment would completely destroy the Salmon population, resulting in major job losses and economic damage.*** Once established, the only known method of eradication is to completely poison all the fish in a river and leave it fallow – this parasite can live off fish for 5 to 7 days - - but even this would not be possible on in a catchment the size of the Tweed.

IF YOU HAVE USED FISHING EQUIPMENT OR CLOTHING IN MAINLAND EUROPE IT MUST BE TREATED BEFORE USE IN BRITAIN OR IRELAND :

- \* **Dry** at a minimum of 20°C for at least 2 days, or
- \* **Heat** to above 60°C for at least 1 hour, or
- \* **Deep freeze** for at least 24hrs, or
- \* **Immerse** in one of the following solutions for a minimum of 10 Minutes:  
VIRKON © (1% minimum) : WESCODYNE © (1% min) : Common Salt (3% min) : Sodium Hydroxide (0.2% mini)

**IF ANY DOUBTS OR QUERIES, CONTACT THE RIVER TWEED COMMISSIONERS ON 01896 848 294 OR THE TWEED FOUNDATION ON 01896 848 271.**