NEW DESCRIPTIONS

Mediorhynchus rajasthanensis has the least number of proboscis hooks so far reported in the genus. The species is peculiar in its males having smooth body surface whereas the gravid females show marked pseudosegmentation. M. rajasthanensis resembles most closely M. grande (Van Cleave 1916) in the matter of proboscis hooks but has more spines compared to M. grande.

HOST: Great Indian Bustard, Choriotis nigriceps (Vigors).

LOCATION: Intestine.

TYPE-LOCALITY: Pokaran (Jaisalmer District), Rajasthan. Type specimens to be duly deposited in the National Collection in the Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am greatly obliged to Shri H. C. Gupta, Divisional Forest Officer, Jodhpur and Shri Y. D. Singh, Zoo Supervisor, Jodhpur for providing the opportunity of collecting the parasites and Dr. B. K. Tikader, Deputy Director, Zoological Survey of India, Poona for his kind interest in the work.

REFERENCE


A NEW SPECIES OF CESTODE OF THE GENUS SCHISTOMETRA (CESTODA: DAVIDNEIDAE: IDIOGENINAE) FROM THE GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD, CHORIOTIS NIGRICEPS (VIGORS)¹

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(With four text-figures)

INTRODUCTION

Skrjabin (1914), Baer & Fain (1955) and Yamaguti (1959) have maintained the validity of the genus Schistometra Cholodkovsky (1912). Yamaguti (1959) transferred Bertia pinguis Fuhrmann (1904) to the genus Ophy- ¹Accepted July 1974.

ocotyloides Fuhrmann (1920) on the basis of a persistent uterus; and accepted only two valid species of the genus Schistometra, S. conoides and S. macqueeni. Another species is described here.

During August, 1970 two birds of the host species Choriotis nigriceps, were caught by the authorities of the Rajasthan Forest Department but they did not survive in captivity and were
placed at my disposal for examination and collection of helminth parasites. Both the birds harboured the new species described below. A number of these worms were collected and about a dozen of them were mounted for study.

**Schistometra nigriceps** sp. nov.

Length of strobila 123-200 mm. Number of proglottids in mature strobila varying from 255-441. The proglottids much broader than long, measuring 0.279-0.409² in length and 1.372-4.000 in max. breadth. In no case are the segments longer than broad. Scolex 0.513 × 0.693 (Figs. 1 & 2). Rostellum 0.288 × 0.405 in diameter, armed with a single row of 300-400 hooks each 11 µ in length. Suckers 0.198-0.270 × 0.237-0.252, are provided with tentacles 0.020-0.035.

Testes in a transverse band, with its position varying in posterior half of the proglottid, and occupy the median space between the excre-tory canals of the two sides. In antero-posterior direction testes arranged mostly in 2-3 tiers, of 15-20 follicles, sometimes fourth tier also discernible. Testes irregularly super-imposed, 60-80 in number and measuring 0.036-0.054 in diameter. Cirrus sac extending mostly beyond ventral excretory canal and measuring 0.180-0.207 × 0.099-0.108. Eversible cirrus, when fully ejected measuring 0.270 in length and 0.054 in maximum width at its base.

Ovary 0.176-0.215 in diameter, on the poral side, between excretory canal and testes. Vagina, 0.027 in diameter, opening into genital atrium in varying position anterior or posterior to the cirrus sac. Uterus tubular or saccular, its transverse extension not properly discernible. In certain segments having early stage of testes, uterus appears to extend about half the

width of the segment. In more mature segments the sac like nature of the uterus disappears. Genital duct passes between the two excretory ducts. Genital pores irregularly alternate, situated sub-marginally in the anterior part of segment (Fig. 3).

Vitelline gland lying very close and aporal to the ovary, sometimes appearing crescent shaped (Fig. 4).

Host: *Choriotis nigriceps* (Vigors).

Location: Intestine.

Locality: Pokaran (Jaisalmer district, Rajasthan).

**Discussion**

*Schistometra nigriceps* differs from *S. conoides* in having lesser width of proglottids, lesser number of rostellar hooks, smaller number of and shorter size of testes and smaller cirrus sac. *S. nigriceps* further differs from *S. conoides* in the arrangement of rostellar hooks which are arranged in two rows in *S. conoides* (Baer 1955; p. 27) although in the key (p. 40) Baer has mentioned *S. conoides* as having a single row of rostellar hooks. *Schistometra nigriceps* differs from *S. macqueeni* in having lesser number of testes, smaller cirrus sac, a definitely oval or rounded ovary [Woodland (1930) has described transversely elongated ovary] and in the possession of tentacles on the suckers. In addition *Schistometra nigriceps* differs from *S. macqueeni* in the arrangement of rostellar hooks which are arranged in a wavy fashion in *S. macqueeni* but in a simple circular row in *S. nigriceps*. The new species differs from *S. pinguis* (= *Ophryocotyloides pinguis*) in possessing greater number of rostellar hooks, absence of a persistent uterus and longer strobila.

² All measurements in millimetres.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am greatly obliged to Shri H. C. Gupta, Divisional Forest Officer, Jodhpur and Shri Y. D. Singh, Zoo Supervisor, Jodhpur for the opportunity to collect these parasites; and to the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta for the facilities during the work.

**Schistometra nigriceps** sp. nov.

Figs. 1 & 2. Scolex (RH., rostellar hooks).

Fig. 3. Mature segment (Poral part) showing the general shape and position of vitelline gland.

Fig. 4. Mature proglottid showing general anatomy and crescent shaped vitelline gland. (S., cirrus sac; EV., excretory vessels; GA., genital atrium; O., ovary; T., testes; U., uterus; Va., vagina; Vit., vitelline gland).

**References**


**FUHRMANN, O.** (1904): Neue Anoplocephaliden
A NEW MARSDENIA R. BR. (ASCLEPIADACEAE) FROM SOUTH INDIA

A. N. HENRY2 AND K. SUBRAMANYAM3

(With a plate)

Marsdenia tirunelvelica sp. nov.

Suffrutex volubilis; caules teretes, brunneolii, glabrati, ramosi. Folia ad 8.5 × 3.8 cm, elliptico-lanceata ad obovata vel pandurate, acuminate, integra, subcoriacea, atrobrunnea supra, infra vero pallida, subglabra, basi obtusa, subtruncata vel subcordata; nervis (lateralibus) 4-5 paribus, infra prominentibus; petioli 2-2.8 cm longae. Flores virido-flavi, cymis umbellatis; pedunculi inter petiilos quorum uno propinquiros, exorientes, teretes, glabri; pedicelli ad 2 cm longi, glabri; bracteae 2.3 × 1 mm, lanceatae, ad basim pedicellorum aggregatae, glabrae, persistentes. Calyx 5-partitus; lobi 2.8 × 1.8 mm, imbricati, elliptico-ovati, ad marginos minute ciliati, glandulosi intra ad basim. Corolla urceolata; tubus 3.5 mm longus, lobi 1.2 × 1.5 mm, torti, late ovati. Corona 5 lobis carnosis et parvis; lobi infra connati, leviter acclives, infra columnam staminalem adnati. Gynostegium 3 mm longum. Apices antherarum membranacei, ovato-oblongi, obtusi, super apicem styli incumbentes; alae antherarum cornaeae; massae pollinis erectae, minutae, ob-

1 Accepted February 1976.
2 Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore.
3 Botany Department, Central College, Bangalore.