

RESEARCH PAPER

**Biosystematic studies on dilepididean cestode genus *Ophiovalipora* HSU, 1935 with a report of a new species from *Varanus salvator***

K.V. KALYANKAR, SANJAY SHAMRAO NANWARE AND D.B. BHURE

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**ABSTRACT**

Present communication deals with the taxonomic description of a new species, *Ophiovalipora lingampetensis* sp. nov. collected from intestine of *Varanus salvator* at Lingampet, District. Nizambad, A.P. India. The worm comes closer to known species of the genus in general topography of organs but differs due to large, oval, quadrangular scolex, rostellum armed, suckers muscular. Neck long, Mature proglottids broader than long, Numerous testes, evenly distributed, cirrus pouch elongated, cylindrical, Large genital atrium, vas deferens long, wide, seminal vesicle thin, straight, well developed bilobed ovary, vagina wide posterior to cirrus pouch, receptaculum seminis enlarged, curved, Vitelline gland medium, small ootype, posterior to ovary, Gravid segments broader than long, uterus saccular, filled with egg capsules.

See end of the article for authors' affiliations

**K.V.KALYANKAR**

Department of Zoology, Lal Bahadur Shastri Mahavidyalaya, Dharmabad, NANDED (M.S.) INDIA

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The genus *Ophiovalipora* was erected by Hsu, 1935 designating as its type species *O. houdemeri* in *Elaphe Carinata* Nanking, China. Subsequently, coil, 1950 have been added *Ophiovalipora minuta* from little green heron, *Butorides virescens* L. and also transferred to this genus, following two species from genus *Dendrouterina* Fuhrmann 1912 (i) *D. lintoni* (Olsen, 1937) from the little green heron *Butorides virescens* L. renamed as *Ophiovalipora lintoni* (Olsen, 1937) (ii) *D. nycticoracis* Olsen, 1937 from Black Crowned night heron, (*Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli* Gmelin) renamed as *Ophiovalipora nycticoracis* (Olsen, 1937).

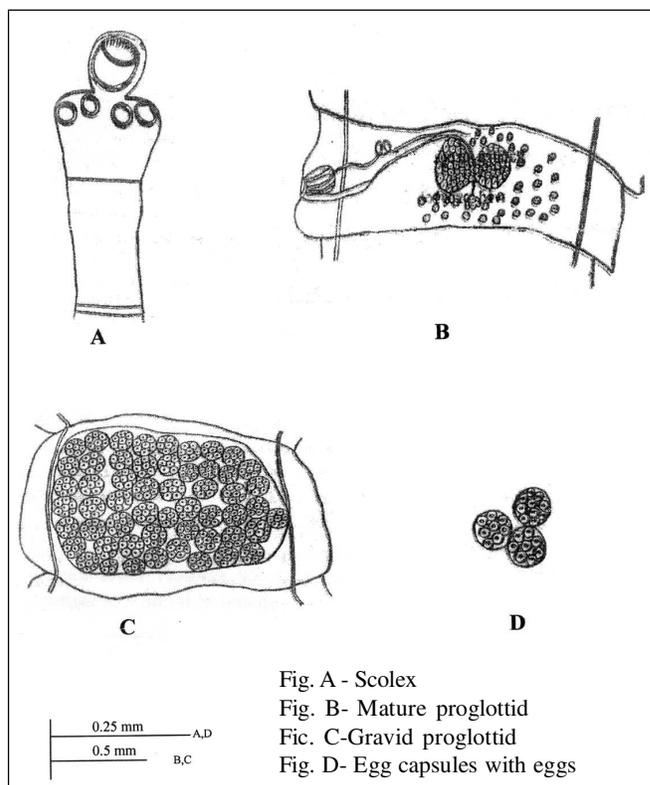
**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

During the course of study on cestode parasites of reptiles, Ten cestodes were collected from intestine of *Varanus salvator* at Lingampet District- Nizambad, A.P. India in April 1990. Worms were washed with water, stretched in lukewarm water and fixed in 5% formalin for 24 hours. Subsequently, they were washed in running tap water, dehydrated through a graded series of alcohols and stained in Borax caramine, differentiated in acid alcohol, cleared in xylol and mounted in Canada Balsm. Camera Lucida sketches were made from permanent preparations. Measurement were taken with an aid of an oculometer. On subsequent study, these worms appeared new to science and are described herein as new species.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

(Description Based on Ten Specimens)

The worms are long, 75 mm in length and consisting of 200 proglottids. Scolex is large, quadrangular, with oval, button shaped rostellum at anterior margin, well marked off from strobila, measures 0.190-0.349 mm x 0.182-0.242 mm in length and breadth. Rostellum is protruded, armed with two rows of hooks, small, oval, measures 0.097 mm



**Fig. 1 : *Ophiovalipora lingampetensis* sp. nov.**