

RESEARCH PAPER

Toxonomic studies on cestode genus *Amoebotaenia* Cohn, 1900, (Cestoda : Dilepididate) from *Vanellus malbaricus* with description of a new species

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ABSTRACT

The present communication deals with an account of a new species of a cestode of the genus *Amoebotaenia* Cohn, 1900. The new form differs from all other species of genus with characters in having a scolex distinctly marked off from strobila, rostellum armed with 16 hooks, mature proglottids slightly broader than long, testes 28, large cirrus pouch, ovary distinctly bilobed, small Ootype, Post ovarian vitelline gland.

Key words : *Amoebotaenia*, Cestode, Helminth parasites, *Vanellus malbaricus*

The genus *Amoebotaenia* was erected by Cohn, 1900 with its type species *Amoebotaenia brevis* (Linst 1884) collected from *Charadrius pluvialis*.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

During the course of avian helminths thirteen specimens of cestodes were recovered from the intestine of *Vanellus malbaricus*. The cestodes were flattened, preserved in 4% formalin, stained in Harri's Haematoxylin, dehydrated through different grades of alcohol, cleared in xylol and mounted in DPX. Measurements in mms otherwise stated Sketches were drawn with the aid of a Camera lucida.

Description:

Amoebotaenia bhujangi sp. nov.
(Fig. A-D)

On morphological examination, worms considerably small with scolex, immature, mature and Gravid proglottids. Scolex distinctly marked off from strobila, squarish in shape, small, slightly wider than long, measures 0.260 in length and 0.242-0.320 in breadth. Rostellum small, oval, armed with 16 hooks, in single circle. Rostellum measures 0.015 x 0.078 in length and breadth, respectively. The hooks are medium in size, elongated, single pronged, narrow anteriorly, wider posteriorly, with a small notch near the posterior end, measures 0.057-0.069 in length and 0.005-0.008 in breadth. Rostellar sac is large, triangular, broad anteriorly, narrow posteriorly, extends upto the posterior end of the scolex, highly muscular, measures 0.260 in length and 0.113 in breadth. Scolex bears four suckers, which are large, oval, double walled, arranged in two pairs, one pair in each half of the scolex,

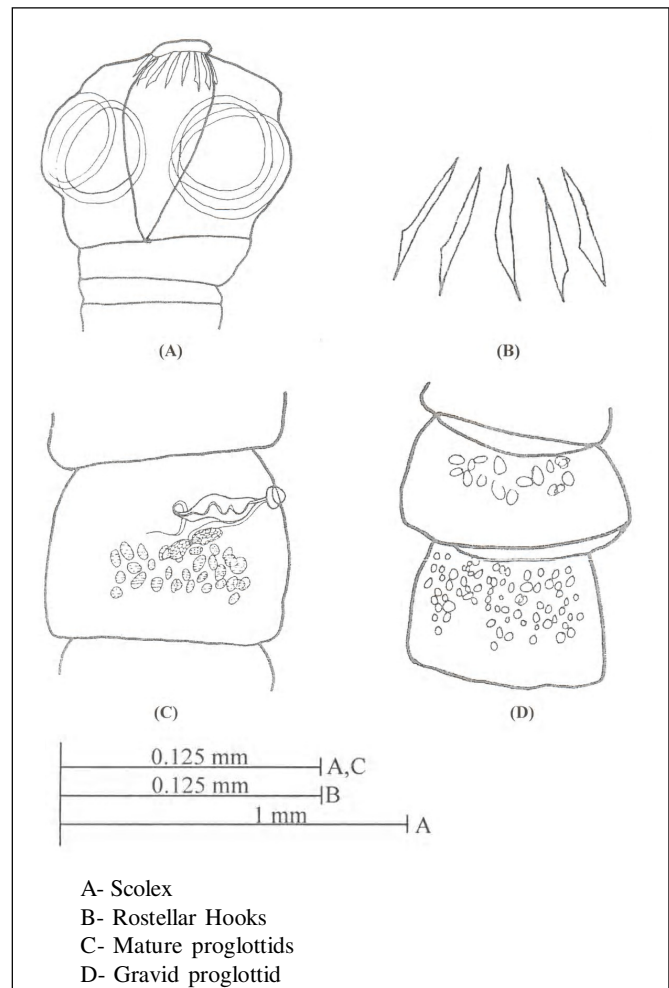


Fig. 1 : *Vampirolepis aurangabadensis* sp. Nov.

overlapping on each other in each pair, measures 0.142-0.156 in length and 0.113 to 0.139 in breadth. Neck is