

RESEARCH PAPER

A new species of the genus *Vampirolepis* (Spassky, 1954) (Cestoda : *Hymenolepididae*) from *Acridotherus tristis*

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Accepted : February, 2010

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ABSTRACT

The present communication deals with a new species of the genus *Vampirolepis* (Spassky, 1954) from the intestine of *Acridotherus tristis*, at Aurangabad (M.S., India). The new species *Vampirolepis aurangabadensis* is characterized by having the scolex, Rostellum armed with bipronged hooks, Neck long with thick musculature, Mature proglottids broader than long, Testes three in number, Cirrus pouch small, Vas deferens thin, Ovary distinctly bilobed, Vitelline gland medium, Genetal pores small, oval, marginal.

Key words : *Acridotherus tristis*, Cestode, Helminth infection, *Vampirolepis*

Genus *Vampirolepis* was erected from *Erythrina erythrina* as type species *Vampirolepis semenovi* at Smolensk, oblast. Lateron, Malhotra and Kapoor, 1980, added *V. somariensis* from *Turdoides striatus* at Allahabad, U.P. India.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

During the survey of Avian cestode parasites, the hosts collected from various localities were autopsied in the laboratory for helminth infection. In all twenty cestodes were collected from the intestine of *Acridotherus tristis*. Cestodes were flattened, preserved in 4% formalin. To facilitate identification of worms, cestodes were stained in Harri's Haematoxylin, dehydrated in graded series of alcohols, cleared in xylol and mounted in DPX. Sketches were drawn with the aid of a Camera lucida. Measurements in millimeters otherwise stated.

Description:

Vampirolepis aurangabadensis sp. nov.
(Fig. A-C)

The worms are medium in size, with thin musculature. The scolex is distinctly marked off from the strobila, medium in size, oval in shape, measures 0.3292 in length and 0.1559-0.2772 in breadth. The rostellum is medium, almost oval in shape, armed with bipronged hooks, measures 0.0693 in length and 0.0866 in breadth. The rostellar sac is large, oval, long, extending posteriorly almost upto the middle of the scolex, measures 0.1126 in length and 0.0866-0.1074 in breadth. Rostellum bears a single circle of bipronged hooks, which are 8 in number. The hooks measures 0.0173-0.0259 in length and 0.0034-0.0051 in breadth. The handle is long and prongs are short

and uneven. Four suckers are of medium size, almost oval in shape, arranged in two pairs, one pair in each half of it, overlapping on each other in each pair, measures 0.067 in length and 0.0693 in breadth. The neck is long, with thick musculature, measures 0.4159 in length and 0.1213 to 0.1386 in breadth.

Mature Proglottids are broader than long, almost five times broader than long, with convex lateral margins, with short, blunt projections, measures 0.078-0.090 in length and 0.459-0.468 in breadth. Testes are three in number, medium, almost oval, one poral, while other two antiporal, roughly arranged in a triangle, measures 0.0381-0.0493 in length and 0.0350 to 0.0405 in breadth. Cirrus pouch is small in size, oval in shape, runs transversely, slightly obliquely placed, not reaching upto the longitudinal excretory canals, in the anterior half of the segments, measures 0.0294 in length and 0.0121 in breadth. The cirrus is thin, a coiled tube, contained within the cirrus pouch, measures 0.0242 in length and 0.0057 in breadth. Vas deferens is thin, long, runs transversely, in the anterior half of the segment, slightly zig-zag, measures 0.1039 in length and 0.0017-0.0034 in breadth.

Ovary is distinctly bilobed, in the middle of the segment, lobes unequal, with irregular margin and near the posterior margin of the segments. The poral lobe is smaller than the antiporal lobe, measures 0.0622 in length and 0.0173-0.0224 in breadth. The antiporal lobe measures 0.1473 in length and 0.027 to 0.0259 in breadth. The vagina is a thin tube, starts from genital pore, posterior to cirrus pouch, extends transversely and obliquely upto 1/3 of the segments, enlarges and forms the receptaculum seminis, reaches and opens into ootype, measures 0.1733 in length and 0.051 in breadth. The ootype is small in size, round in