

RESEARCH PAPER

Studies on the genus *Davainea*, Blanchard, 1891 from *Bubulcus ibis* with description of a new species

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Accepted : April, 2010

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ABSTRACT

The present communication deals with the taxonomic observation of avian tapeworm *Davainea ibisae* Sp.Nov. collected from intestine of a *Bubulcus ibis* at Madnur, Dist.- Nizamabad, A.P.,India. The worm comes closer to all the known species of this genus in general topography of organs but differs due to scolex quadrangular, indistinctly marked off from strobila, four suckers, rostellum small, bearing numerous rostellar hooks. Neck long. Mature segments broader than long. Testes 16-20 in numbers, lies in the aporal side of the ovary, cirrus pouch sac like, oval, placed towards 1/3rd margin of segments. Ovary distinctly bilobed, vagina lies posterior to cirrus pouch. Genital pores big, oval in shape, marginal and unilateral.

Key words : *Bubulcus ibis*, *Davainea*, Taxonomic observation

The genus *Davainea* was erected by Blanchard, 1891 (Davaine, 1860) with its type species *D. proglottina* from *Gallus domesticus* (Linnaeus, 1758). Later on *D. minuta* is added by Cohn, 1901 from *Tringa totanus*, (Linnaeus). Fuhrmann, 1909 added *D. paucisegmentata*, from *Numida ptilorhyncha*. Then *D. himantopodis* is added by Johnston, 1911 from *Himantopus leucocephalus*, (Linnaeus). Fuhrmann, added three species in this genus i.e. *D. nana* in 1912, from *Numida ptilorhyncha*, *D. tetraoensis*, in 1919 from *Tetra urogalli* and *D. andrei*, in 1933 from *Perdix perdix*. Later on *D. meleagridis*, is added by Jones, 1936 from *Meleagris gallopura*. Schmeltz, 1941 is added *D. baeri*, from *Gecinus nigrigensis*. Later on Shinde *et. al.*, added three species i.e. *D. indica* in 1972 from *Gallus domesticus*, *D. ambajogaiensis*, in 1977 from *Gallus domesticus* and *D. domesticus*, in 1981 from *Gallus domesticus*. *D. chauhani* is added by Chauhan, 1982. Subhi Ashfaq and Shinde, 1988 added *D. jalnaensis*. Bhaware *et al.*, 1992 added *D. retharei*, from *Streptopelia decaocta*. Hiware *et. al.*, 1993 added two species to this genus i.e. *D. aurangabadensis* from *Vanellus indicus* and *D. thapari* from *Pellornerum ruficeps*. *D. osmanabadensis* is added by Mahajan *et. al.*, in 1999 from *Gallus domesticus*. Lakhe *et al.*, 2004 added *D. muktabae* from *Acridotherus tristis*. Recently Jadhav *et al.*, 2008 added *D.shindei* from *Gallus domesticus*. The present communication deals with the description of a new species *Davainea ibisae* Sp.Nov. collected from intestine of a *Bubulcus ibis* at Madnur, Dist.- Nizamabad, A.P.,India.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Nine cestode parasites were collected from intestine of a *Bubulcus ibis* at Madnur, Dist.- Nizamabad, A.P.,India. in the month of May,1988. Out of these seven parasites were taken for Morphological studies. These parasites are small, preserved in 4% formalin and stained with Harris haematoxylin, passed in various alcoholic grades and mounted in D.P.X. Drawings were made with the aid of camera lucida and all measurements are recorded in millimeters unless otherwise mentioned and the ranges are mentioned in parentheses.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Description:

(Description based on seven specimens)

The worms are medium, with thin musculature and having 168 segments. The scolex is indistinctly marked off from strobila, big, quadrangular and measures 0.354-0.437 × 0.35- 0.442 in length and breadth. Scolex bears four suckers, which are large, oval, laterally overlaps with each other, highly muscular, occupy major portion of it and measures 0.175× 0.126 in length and breadth. Rostellum is oval, armed with two circle of hooks and measures 0.067 ×0.092 in length and breadth. Rostellar hooks are very minute, numerous and measures 0.005 ×0.002 in length and breadth. Neck long, elongated and measures 0.981 ×0.330-0.548in length and breadth.

Mature segments three times broader than long, with unequal lateral margins, with projection on a posterior one side of segment and measures 0.282-0.568 ×1.379-1.524 in length and breadth. Testes small, oval in shape, 16-20