

A CASE STUDY

Taxonomic evaluation of new mammalian cestode *Moniezia (Blanchariezia) maharashtra* sp. nov. (Cestoda: Anoplocephalidae) infecting *Capra hircus* L.

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Accepted : March, 2010

Moniezia (B.) maharashtra sp. nov. is characterised in having scolex simple; medium size; oval, much broad in middle and tapering posteriorly with four large suckers; without rostellum; distinctly marked off from strobilla; Suckers large; oval; arranged in each half region at anterior most extremity of scolex region; in pairs; in each pair one slightly overlapping on each other. Neck short, broader than long; wide with convex lateral margins. Mature proglottids big in size, four and half times broader than long, with distinct anterior and posterior projections; craspedote with double set of reproductive organs. Testes medium size; oval, 116 in number. Cirrus pouch medium, oval, obliquely placed, do not reaching upto longitudinal excretory canals. Cirrus wide, stout, curved, contained within cirrus pouch. Vas deferens on each side is thin, short with two, three convolutions directed laterally. Ovary on each side large, butterfly shaped in appearance, with irregular margin, distinctly bilobed, lobes unequal, each with numerous short, blunt, round acini, directed posteriorly, placed in middle of segment, present on each lateral side of segment. Vagina thin convoluted tube, situated posterior to cirrus pouch, runs obliquely and opens into ootype. Ootype large, oval, postovarian in concavity of ovarian lobes. Vitelline gland large, compact lobed, postovarian near poral ovarian lobe Genital pores bilateral, small, oval. Longitudinal excretory canals thin with slight curvature. Interproglottidal glands present in inter-segmental regions of anterior and posterior margins of segment, medium in size, 38 in number, oval with thick musculature, either single or paired irregularly and lineally arranged.

In view of distinguishing characters exhibited by tapeworms, present species is considered new to science & designated as *Moniezia (B.) maharashtra* sp. nov. Aurangabad is new locality record for genus *Moniezia (Blanchariezia)*.

The genus *Moniezia* was established by Blanchard in 1891 as a type species - *Moniezia expansa* from *Ovis aries*, Skrjabin and Schulz 1937 divided this genus into three subgenera as follows:

1) Interproglottidal glands grouped in rosettes.....

Moniezia

2) Interproglottidal glands arranged lineally (Sometimes absent)

Blanchariezia

3) No interproglottidal glands at all.....

Baeriezia

The present tapeworms agree in all characters with subgenus *Blanchariezia*. Skrjabin and Schulz (1937) having two species as *Moniezia (Blanchariezia) benedeni* (Moniez, 1879); Skrjabin and Schulz, 1937 and *Moniezia (Blanchariezia) pallida* (Monnig, 1926). Later on two more new species were added by Jadhav *et al.* (1985) viz. (i) *Moniezia (Blanchariezia) aurangabadensis* and (ii) *Moniezia (Blanchariezia) bharalae*. The present communication deals with the description of a new species *Moniezia (Blanchariezia) maharashtra* sp. nov. collected from the domestic goat, *Capra hircus* L. at Aurangabad (M.S., India).

Eighteen tapeworms were collected from small intestine of the hosts, *Capra hircus* L. at Aurangabad (M.S., India) in the month of July 1993. These worms were flattened, preserved in 4% formalin

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Key words :

Taxonomic evaluation,
Moniezia, *Capra hircus*