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On new species of the genus *Polypocephlus*, Braun, 1878 with its new species

Ashok Mote

Department of Zoology, Sant Ramdas College, Ghansawangi, Dist. Jalna (M.S), India.

Abstract
Present research communication deals with new species of the genus *Polypocephlus*, Braun, 1978.

Keywords: Cestode, *Polypocephalus,* New species.

INTRODUCTION

Braun (1878) [1] erected a new genus polypocephalus with its type species *P. radiates* which was characterized by the presence of tentacles and suckers on the scolex. Linton (1889) [2] obtained a new species of the cestode from the intestine of trygon centrura which he named *Parataenia medusia*. The scolex of linton's species bears a close resemblance to that of Braun's *P.radiates*, Shipley and Hornell (1906) [3] described two new species of cestode *Rhysanobothrium uarnakense* and *Anthobothirum pulchrum* from *Trygon uarnak* and *Trygon sephen* respectively. Both these resemble the genus *Polypcephalus* Braun (1878) [1] in the characters of their scolices. It seems evident that these authors had not seen either Braun's or Linton's work, for they refer to the tentacles on being very curious and as far as we know unique amongst cestode. In 1912 Southwell [4] described a new cestode *Parataenia elongata* from the intestine of *Trygon kuhli*. Woodland (1930) [5] made a detailed study of *Parataenia elongata* Southwell and *Parataenia medusia* Linton and confirmed southwell's view that the two genera *Polypocephalus* and *Parataenia* were synonymous. Southwell considered *Thysanobothrium uaranakense* Shipley and Hornell and *Parataenia elongata* southwell, to be synonynonymous with *Polypocephalus rediatus* Braun but as neither Braun nor Shipley and Hornell have described the genital organs. It is doubtful whether these three species are synonymous. Subhapradha (1951) [6] redescribed *P.radiata* Braun and *P. medusia* Linton from *Rhynchobatus granuilatus* respectively. She reported five new species i.e. *P. rhinobatidis* from *Rhinobatus granulatus*, *P.vitellaris* from *Rhynchobatus dieddensis*, *P. lintoni* from *Rhynchobatus dieddensis*, *P.corooatus* from *Rhynchobatus dieddensis* and *P.affinis* from *Rhinobatus granulatas* from madras (East Coast to India). Shinde (1976) [7] redescribed *P. rhinobatidis* Subhapradha (1951) [6] from *Trygon* Species, from west coast of India. In 1986 Jadhav et al. (1986) [8] added one new species i.e. *P. ratnagiriensis* from *Trygon zugei*.

The present communication deals with a new species i.e. *Polypocephalus waltairesis* n.sp. from *Carcharias acutus* at Kakinada *Rhynchobatus djeddensis* at Kakinada, A.P., (East coast of India).

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*Corresponding Author
Ashok Mote
Department of Zoology, Sant Ramdas College, Ghansawangi, Dist. Jalna (M.S), India.

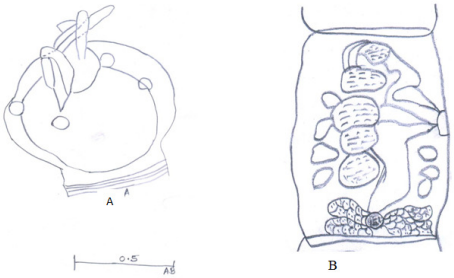
Email: ashokmote@gmail.com

DESCRIPTION

Five specimens of the cestodes were collected from the spiral valve of *Carcharias acutus* at waltair, A.P. (East coast of India), India, in the month of April, 1988.

The scolex medium size, almost oval in shape broader in the middle and measures 0.893 in length 0.412 – 0.898 in breadth. scolex divided two regions, anterior and posterior, anterior region semicircular, small from which a crown of five tentacles arises and measures 0.733 in length, 0.364 – 0.703breadth, posterior region large, having four, small, round accessory suckers, situated in two pairs, measure 0.082-0.092 in dia, the neck in absent.

The neck is absent. Mature segments longer than broad, almost two times longer than broad, almost two times longer than broad and measure 0.0776 – in length and 0.407 – 0.509 in breadth, testes large in size, oval, six, in the central medulla of the segment, preovarian, from the ovary to the anterior margin of the segments and measure 0.116 – 0.155 in length and 0.087 – 0.101 in breadth, cirrus pouch medium, oval, obliquely placed, almost at 1/3rd of segment, opens marginally, extends medially upto the centre of the segment, measures 0.189 – 0.199 in length, 0.067 – 0.106 in breadth, cirrus thick, wide proximally, narrow distally, situated within the cirrus pouch, measures 0.160 in length, 0.048 in breadth, vas deferens thick, a wide tube, runs towards, anterior side of the segments coiled, measures 0.271length, 0.024 – 0.038 breadth, ovary bilobed, small, batterfly shaped, in appearance with 3-4 acini, placed near the posterior margin of the segments, measures 0.320 in length and 0.106 – 0.121 in breadth, vagina a wide tube, posterior to the cirrus pouch starts from the genital pore, takes a posterior turn, runs obliquely, reaches and opens into the ootype, measures 0.412 – 0.509 in length, 0.082 – 0.097 breadth. Ootype small size, round shape, anteroventral to the ovary measures 0.048 diameter. vitellaria follicular, situated at the lateral sides of the segments.



DISCUSSION

1. In the worm under discussion, the scolex is medium in size, oval in shape, anterior region medium, semicircular, tentacles unbranhed, 5 in numbers, testes 6 in number, oval in central medulla cirrus pouch oval in shape, obliquely placed 1/2 of segments vagina posterior to the cirrus pouch and vitellaria follicular, in a single row on each side of the segments differs from p. radiates which is having the scolex distinct from body tentacles unbranched, single, testes 4 vas deferens continue inside the cirrus pouch, cirrus pouch small, conical, transversely placd, reaches 1/2 medially vagina along the cirrus, uterus 'Y' shaped and vitellaria granular, do not extend below the ovary.
2. The present worm differs from p. affinis which is having the scolex distinct from body tentacles 4 in number branched, occur in pairs, testes 6 in number cirrus pouch small, oval, elongated, reaches 1/2 medially and vitellaria granular, extend below the ovary.
3. The present cestode differs from p. coronatus which is having the scolex distinct from body, tentacles brancned, occurs in pair, 10 in number testes 4 in number, vas deferens continue inside cirrus pouch, cirrus medium in size, round in shape, reaches 1/2 medially uterus straight and vatellaria follicular, extend below the ovary.
4. The present worm differs from p. lintoni which is having the scolex distinct from body. Tentacles unbranched, single; testes 4 in numbers, vas deferens continue inside the cirrus pouch, cirrus pouch medium in size, tubular, anteriorly diverted, reaches 1/2 medially; vagina posterior to cirrus pouch, uterus straight and vitellarie follicular, extend below the ovary.
5. The present cestode differs from p. medusia which is having the scolex distinct from body, tentacles unbranched, single; testes 4 in number cirrus pouch.large.oval elongated,anteriorly diverted,vegina posterior to cirrus pouch, uterus bent and vitellaria extend below the ovary.
6. The present tapeworm differs from p.pulcher which is having scolex distinct form body, tentacles branched, four in number and other characters not mentioned
7. The present form differs from p. rhynchobatidis which is having the scolex distinat from body, terntacles unbranched, single. 12in number. Tenstes 4 in number , vas dererens do not continue inside the cirrus pouch almost quandrangular, medium in size, posteriory , uterus bent and vitellaris extend below the ovary.
8. The present tapeworm differs from p.rhynchobatis which is having the scloex distinct from body,tentacles unbranched, single ll in number, testes 6 in number cirrus pouch oval medium in size, uterus straight and vitellaris extend below the ovary.
9. The present form differs form p. vitellaris which is having the acolex not distinet form body tentacles unbranched single 26-27 in number testes 4 in number vas deferens continue insid the cirrus pouch cirrus pouch medim in size, oval in shape anteriorly directed, reaches ½ medially vagina posterior to cirrus pouch, uterus bent and vitellaris extend below the ovary.
10. The present worm differs form p. braunii which is having the scolex distinct form body terntacles unbranched single 14 in number testes 6 in number vas deferens do not continue inside the cirrus pouch vagina posterior to cirrus pouch and vitellaria extend below the ovary.
11. The present cestode differs form p. katpurensis which is having ternacles lunbranched single, 14 in number , testes 6 in umber, vas deferens do not continue inside the cirrus pouch, cirrus pouch oval, small directed anteriorly reaches ½ medially, vagina posterior to cirrus pouch and vitellaria extend below the ovary
12. The present form differs form p. alii which in having the scolex distinct form body. Terntacles unbranched,single . 13 in number, testen 6 in umber cirrus pouch oval, small curved elongated, transversely placed, extend ½ medially, vagina posterior to cirrus pouch, uterus saccular and vitellaris granular, extend below the ovary.
13. The present tapeworm differs form p. thapari which in having the scolex distinct form body, tentacles unbranched. Single 14 in number testes 6 in number, cirrus pouch small, oval, directed anteriorly, reaches 1/3 medially, vagina posterior to cirrus pouch and vitellaria granular, extend below the ovary.
14. The presnt worm differs form p. singhii which is having the sclox distinct form body, tentacles unbranched, single 15 inumber, vas deferns do not continue indie the cirrrs pouch , cirrus pouch oval medium in size, directed anteriorly. Alongated, reaches 1/3 medially, vagina posterior to cirrus pouch and vitellaris granular, extend below the ovary vulva at genital pore, uterus saccular and vitellaria granular, extend below the ovary.
15. The present cestode differs form p. ratnagiriensis which is having scolex quadrangular in shape, distinct form body, tentacles unbranched, single, 9 in number, testes 6 oval, in a single row vasdererens short, continue inside the cirrus pouch, cirrus pouch oval, large, vagina posterovental pouch and vitellaria follicular, 100 -140 innumber, in four rows.
16. The present worm differs from p. trygoni whih is having the scolex distinct formbody, tentacles unbranched, single , testes 6 in a single row vas dererens continue inside the cirrus pouch cirrus pouch oval in shape , large in size vagina posteroventral to cirrus pouch, short, thin and vitellaria follicular, in two rows on each side.

The above noted characters are valid enough, to erect a new species for these worms and hence the name polypocephalus waltairensis n.sp.is proposed after the locality.

Type species	*Polypocephalus waltairensis* n.sp.
Host	*Carcharias acutus*
Habitat	spiral valve.
Locality	waltair, A.p.(East cost of india) india.
Date of collection	10th April,I 1988.

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