

## RESEARCH NOTE

# The systematic status of *Piscinema barakensis* [sic] Gambhir et Ng, 2014 and *Rhabdochona carpioe* Nimbalkar, Deolalikar et Kamtikar, 2013, two nematodes recently described from freshwater fishes in India

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**Abstract:** Based on the original description, the nematode genus *Piscinema* Gambhir et Ng, 2014 and its type species, *P. barakensis* [sic] Gambhir et Ng, 2014 (probably a misidentified physalopterid larvae), are removed from the Philometridae, where they were allocated; they are considered a *genus inquirendum* and *incertae sedis* and a *species inquirenda*, respectively. The poorly described nematode *Rhabdochona carpioe* Nimbalkar, Deolalikar et Kamtikar, 2013 (Rhabdochonidae) appears largely fabricated and is regarded a *species dubia*.

**Keywords:** Nematoda, Philometridae, Rhabdochonidae, fish, Oriental Region

Gambhir and Ng (2014) described a new philometrid genus and species, *Piscinema barakensis* Gambhir et Ng, 2014, based on nematode specimens (allegedly females) found in the stomach of the catfish *Bagarius* sp. in Manipur, India. The specific name is malformed, since the generic name is neuter. The species description is poor, but it is apparent from the text and illustrations that these nematodes possess a functional anus and rectal glands and, consequently, do not belong to the family Philometridae Baylis et Daubney, 1926, where they were placed. This is supported by the fact that they were found in the host's stomach, whereas all philometrids are tissue or body cavity parasites. The general morphology (especially the structure of the

cephalic end) and measurements of these indicate that may be in fact infective larvae belonging to the family Physalopteridae Railliet, 1893. Therefore, *S. barakense* [emend.] is considered to be a *species inquirenda*. Since it is the type species of *Piscinema* Gambhir et Ng, 2014, this genus should be considered a *genus inquirendum* and *incertae sedis*.

Nimbalkar et al. (2013) erected a new nematode species *Rhabdochona carpioe* Nimbalkar, Deolalikar et Kamtikar, 2013 based on specimens from the intestine of the common carp *Cyprinus carpio* Linnaeus in Aurangabad, India. The description is rather confused and it seems probable that the text of this description was partly 'adapted' from the papers of other authors. Moreover, all of the line drawings purported to be *R. carpioe* are in fact those previously published by Moravec et al. (2010) (see fig. E and F in Nimbalkar et al. 2013) for *R. hellichii turkestanica* (Skryabin, 1917) and by Moravec and Kamchoo (2012) (see fig. A–D in Nimbalkar et al. 2013) for *R. rasborae* Moravec et Kamchoo, 2012. Due to the evident plagiarism and serious mistakes in the description of this alleged new species, *R. carpioe* should be considered a *species dubia*.

The author's attempts to borrow the type specimens of both *P. barakense* [emend.] and *R. carpioe* for a re-examination were unsuccessful.

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