REMARKS ON THE VALIDITY OF THE SPECIES
NOTOPTEROIDES ALATAE MAJUMDAR, 1965

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Abstract. Reexamination of the paratype specimens of Notopteroides alatae revealed the presence of a pair of submedian papillae and a lateral amphid on each pseudolabium, collarette behind the pseudolabia, thick cuticle all around the cervical region instead of lateral alae in that region, short and weakly sclerotized buccal capsule, area rugosa limited to the medio-ventral zone anterior to cloaca, 4 pairs of preanal and 6 pairs of postanal papillae and a pair of lateral phasmids in male tail, markedly unequal and dissimilar spines, short tail in female with subterminal phasmids and no larvae in the uterus. As the definition of Helicometra longistaminata recovered from Mastacembelus armatus (the host of N. alatae) incorporates all these features, the species N. alatae is synonymized with H. longistaminata.

A new species Notopteroides alatae was created by Majumdar (1965) to accommodate the worms recovered from the intestine of Mastacembelus armatus at Calcutta. Johnson and Khera (1967) synonymized the genus Notopteroides Chakravarty et Majumdar, 1962 with Pseudoproleptus Khera, 1955 and renamed N. alatae as P. alatus. Sahay et al. (1970), probably due to ignorance, independently transferred N. alatae to the genus Pseudoproleptus as P. alatus. However, later in their paper, in violation of the rules of nomenclature, Sahay et al. (loc. cit.) renamed this species as Pseudoproleptus armatus. Singh (1970), whose paper, though preceding Sahay et al. (loc. cit.) in the same journal and same issue, also used the name P. alatae for this species. Margolis (1975) in his review on the genus Pseudoproleptus stated "Pseudoproleptus alatus is considerably larger with different oesophageal measurements and proportions than previously described species referable to this genus and seemingly represents an independent species. Although the structure of the anterior end, except for the stated absence of cephalic papillae, agrees with that of Pseudoproleptus, certain other characters are anomalous with respect to this genus and require verification". He particularly referred to the absence of spicules, the presence of only three pairs of preanal papillae in male, the presence of cervical alae and the condition of viviparity. Soota (1984), however, treated this species as synonym of P. vestitulus Khera, 1955.

The present study, based on the reexamination of the type specimens (Paratypes, 253, 252, Regd. No. W 6674/1) available at Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta reveals that:
1. Two large lateral pseudolabia are present, each carrying only an internal labial tooth, two submedian cephalic papillae and an indistinct lateral amphid (Fig. 1 A).
2. Body cuticle immediately behind pseudolabia is expanded to form a collar and behind it the cuticle becomes thicker all around but does not form lateral inflation (= ala) at the cervical region (Fig. 1 A).
3. Mouth opens into a short, weakly sclerotized buccal capsule which in turn leads to the bipartite oesophagus, anterior short, muscular (0.42–0.50 mm long in male and 0.40–0.50 mm long in female) and posterior long, glandular (3.01–3.45 mm long in male and 3.12–3.35 mm long in female).
4. Male tail bears distinct caudal alae and area rugosa is limited to the medio-ventral zone anterior to cloacal margin (Fig. 1 B).
5. Ten pairs of caudal papillae are present in male, of which 4 pairs are preanal and 6 pairs postanal; a pair of lateral phasmids lies between the 2nd and 3rd pair of caudal papillae from the posterior end.

6. Spicules are markedly unequal and dissimilar, larger left spicule (0.40—0.54 mm long) tapering and gutter-like distally and shorter right spicule (0.21—0.30 mm long) with broad base and rounded distal tip, bearing a hyaline cap (Fig. 1 B).

study of the worms by the original author of N. alatae led him to describe the worm quite inadequately and erroneously which in turn caused its misallocation to the genus Notopteroides and unfortunate creation of a nominal species. Thus N. alatae hence-forth should be treated as the synonym of H. longissimum instead of P. vestibulus.

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ПРИМЕЧАНИЯ ПО ВАЛИДНОСТИ ВИДА NOTOPTEROIDES ALATAE MAJUMDAR, 1965

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Резюме. При повторном обследовании паратипов Notopteroides alatae обнаружены следующие признаки: наличие одной пары субмедуллярных сосочков и латеральной амфида на каждой псевдольбе, толстая кутикула вокруг шейной области вместе с латеральной каемой, короткие и слабо субтерминальные роговые канды, передняя каема ограничивает только на мезоцентрическую зону перед каемой, 4 пары премедуллярных и 6 пар постапикарных сосочков и одна пара латеральных фазид на хвосте самца, едва заметные ноющие и неясные линии у коротких хвост у самок с субтерминальными фазидами и без явного в матках. Так как все эти признаки отвечают виду Helicinema longissimum от Mustacrombus armatus (который является также хохлом вида N. alatae), вид N. alatae считается синонимом вида H. longissimum.

REFERENCES


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