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OECEOPTOMA THORACICA L., A NEW INTERMEDIATE HOST OF THE CESTODE NEOSKRJABINOLEPIS SINGULARIS (CHOLODKOWSKY, 1912).

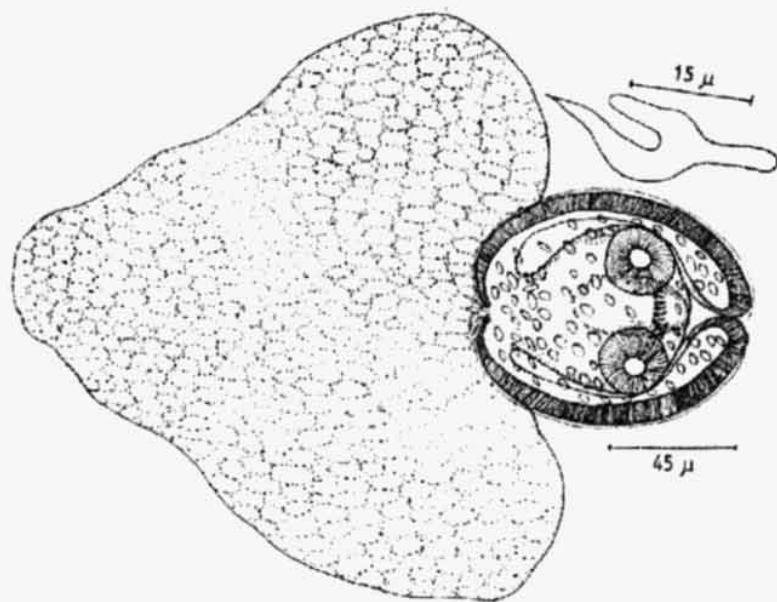


Fig. 1

While searching for larval forms of tapeworms parasitizing small mammals, we dissected insects collected near our field station Klec, district J. Hradec, southern Bohemia. In *Oeceptoma thoracica* we found several cysticercoids, which we identified as larvae of the cestode *Neoskrjabinolepis singularis* (Cholodkowsky, 1912). This species is widely distributed in Czechoslovakia, its definitive hosts are some insectivores of the family Soricidae. In various years we examined more than 2,000 beetles; only in May

and June 1967 we found cysticercoids of *N. singularis* in 4 out of the 114 beetle specimens examined. *Oeceptoma thoracica* is a new intermediate host of this cestode.

Until the present, the occurrence of cysticercoids in beetles has been recorded only by KISIELEWSKA (Bull. Acad. Pol. Sci. Cl. II/VI/5: 205–208, 1958), who found them in *Catops* sp. at the National Park of Bialoweza in Poland. **Description:** shape of the cysticercoid almost spherical or somewhat obovoid (Fig. 1), size 88–92 × 70–74 μ. Tail relatively short, greatly extended at the base, shovel-shaped, size 120–140 × 130–150 μ. The cyst is covered with 5 layers. The cuticular cover bears fimbrialike appendages resembling fimbria of an indistinct structure. Calcareous corpuscles are irregularly dispersed in the last intermediary, parenchymatous layer. The scolex inside the cyst bears four very motile suckers, changing their shape from spherical to elongated. Width of scolex 80–104 μ, length 120–130 μ. Size of suckers 40–50 × 32–38 μ. The rostellum, resting on a large barrel-shaped pouch (width 53–60 μ) is armed with 10 hooks (Fig. 1) (length 32 to 34 μ).

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