

A DESCRIPTION OF THE CYSTICERCOID OF THE CESTODE *VIGISOLEPIS SPINULOSA* (CHOLODKOWSKY, 1906) FOUND IN COLLEMBOLA

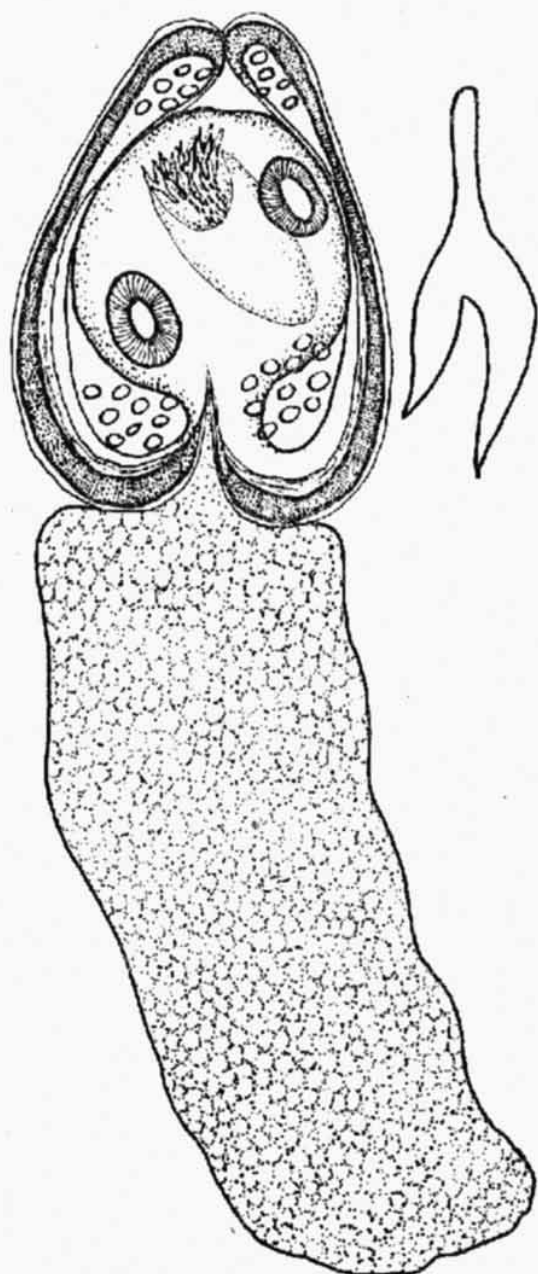
The cestode *Vigisolepis spinulosa* (Cholodkowsky, 1906) is a very frequent parasite of the common shrew and other Soricidae. In the last 60 years following its detection in the U.S.S.R., this species was recorded from France, Germany, Poland and Czechoslovakia.

There was no knowledge available on its life history and its intermediate hosts. In studies

of the biology of cestodes parasitizing small mammals in southern Bohemia during the autumn and winter months we frequently found cysticercoids and young cestodes of this species in the shrew (*Sorex araneus* L.). In December 1967, after finding these cysticercoids in shrews we started to examine samples of soil from these sites in the eclector and obtained several species of insects and mites, which we examined under the microscope. In 4 of the 22 examined spring-tails of the species *Tomocerus* (*Pogonognathellus*) *flavescens* Tullberg, 1871 (for the identification of this species we express our thanks to Dr. Rusk of the Entomological Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy in Prague) we found cysticercoids of the cestode *Vigisolepis spinulosa* which are described in the following text.

Description: A pear-shaped cysticercoid (Fig.) measuring 200—250 by 140—160 μ in diameter. The tail is $1\frac{1}{2}$ times longer than the body of the cysticercoid, measuring 300—350 μ in length and 120—140 μ in width. The covering of the cyst is not too thick. The thin hyaline layer is followed by the basal layer of darker colour, its width being 4—6 μ . The covering is deeply invaginated at both poles. The scolex lies inside the cyst; on viable cysticercoids the species can be identified without difficulties by its typical rostellum covered with 4—8 μ long hooks and also by the shape, number and size of the first row of hooks. The scolex measures 98—106 μ in diameter. The number of hooks in the first row (Fig.) is 18—20, their length is 30—36 μ . The suckers measure 80—100 μ in diameter.

This is not only the first finding of this cysticercoid species, but also the first recording of spring-tails as the intermediate host of this cestode.



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