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F. Moravec: Reconstruction of the nematode genus *Rhabdochona* Railliet, 1916 with a review of the species parasitic in fishes of Europe and Asia

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Dr. F. Moravec from the Institute of Parasitology of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Prague, ichthyoparasitologist well known to the world scientific public, presents in this monograph the results of his studies of the morphology, taxonomy and systematics of nematodes of the genus *Rhabdochona*, which are important parasites of fishes. A series of original scientific papers dealing with this genus from fishes of South, Central and North America and Africa, which were published in the last years, is thus complemented with another part to form a complete survey of these helminths from all parts of the world.

The introductory section of the book (pp. 8—19) offers an analysis of the position of *Rhabdochona* in the family Rhabdochonidae (a key to genera is attached), a reconstruction of this genus and key to Eurasian species. The subfamily Rhabdochoninae includes 5 valid genera and the genus *Rhabdochona* is divided into 4 subgenera (*Rhabdochona* Railliet, 1916; *Globochona* Moravec, 1972; *Globochonoides* Moravec, 1975 and *Sinonema* Moravec, 1975). In the subgenera *Rhabdochona* and *Globochona* the author used also a non-systematic division into morphological groups (based on eggs). In this case it is an auxiliary classification of great practical and theoretical significance.

The major part of the work is a revision of Eurasian species (pp. 20—88). The author recognizes 25 taxons as valid and other two as "species inquirenda". He himself has studied

20 of these species using either type material from many museums or his own material. The main morphological and metrical characters of the remaining species are commented on the basis of their original descriptions. The redescriptions of the revised species are made with a scientific exactitude and documented with 24 detailed original figures. The geographic distribution and range of definitive hosts is given for each species and in many cases also a detailed historical analysis and critical evaluation of the synonymy are added. The main metrical characters of some species are summarized in 10 tables for better comparison. On the basis of this revision the author excluded 8 species from the genus *Rhabdochona* and transferred them to other genera. The complete list of references dealing with this subject comprises 187 original scientific papers which are cited and analyzed in the text.

The present monograph should be appreciated as a work of high scientific level. The taxonomical analysis in form of a revision is exact and makes possible a perfect differentiation of Eurasian species of the genus *Rhabdochona*. The published results suggest that the author has attained a qualitatively higher degree in the taxonomy of species belonging to this genus. The book is of great value to all ichthyoparasitologists, but it will be successfully applied on a larger scale also in the taxonomy and zoogeography of parasitic nematodes.

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