

**A NEW CESTODE LECANICEPHALUM MAHARASHTRAE SP. N.
(LECANICEPHALIDAE) FROM A MARINE FISH TRYGON SEPHEN**

A single specimen of a new cestode belonging to the genus *Lecanicephalum* Linton, 1890 was recovered from the spiral valve of *Trygon sephen* in Ratnagiri, India. It is identified as *Lecanicephalum maharashtrae* sp. n.

***Lecanicephalum maharashtrae* sp. n.**

Host: *Trygon sephen*. Location: Spiral intestine.

Locality: Ratnagiri, Maharashtra, India.

Type specimen collected on 17th April, 1973.

Deposited in Cestodology Laboratory, De-

partment of Zoology, Marathwada University Aurangabad. All measurements are given in millimeters unless otherwise mentioned.

Description: The worm is 2.5 cm long, with 65 segments. Scolex quadrangular in shape, divided into two regions, anterior and posterior. Anterior region small, oval, with evaginable apical depression. It measures 0.63 in length and 0.37 in breadth. Posterior large part measuring 0.69 in length and 0.57 in breadth. It bears four suckers, equally disposed and protruded in

condition measuring 0.09 and 0.05 in length and breadth. Neck measuring 1.68 in length and 0.28 in breadth.

Immature broader segments are feebly marked off. Mature and gravid segments are longer than broad measuring 0.70×0.34 and 0.83×0.35 in length and breadth respectively. The testes are 35 to 40, preovarian, abruptly arranged in 3 to 4 rows, rounded to oval, 0.07×0.07 , 0.05×0.04 in size. Ovary granular, transverse, bilobed, situated near posterior border of the segment. Two lobes measure 0.02 in width with a short isthmus. Total length is 0.30. A short vagina and rudimentary cirrus pouch is observed near the genital opening which is situated at one fourth from anterior margin. Uterus is a big sac in the centre of gravid segment. Granular vitellaria occupy the lateral margins of each segment.

Lecanicephalum maharashtra sp. n. resembles *L. peltatum* (Linton, 1890) in having sub-

quadrangular head, anterior region with deep evaginable apical depression, posterior region with four suckers disposed symmetrically and bilobed ovary. The present form differs from the previous one in the number of proglottides (65 against 150), number of testes (35 to 40 against 16 to 17), nature of ovary (granular against isolated acini), vitellaria (granular against vitelline follicles with 12 to 14 acini in description but 30 to 40 in figure on each side) and uterus (sac-like centrally placed against convoluted tube along antero-posterior axis). It is the first report from Maharashtra (India), so the name *Lecanicephalum maharashtra* sp. n. **Acknowledgement.** The authors are thankful to Professor R. Nagabhushanam, Department of Zoology, Marathwada University, Aurangabad for providing the laboratory facilities.

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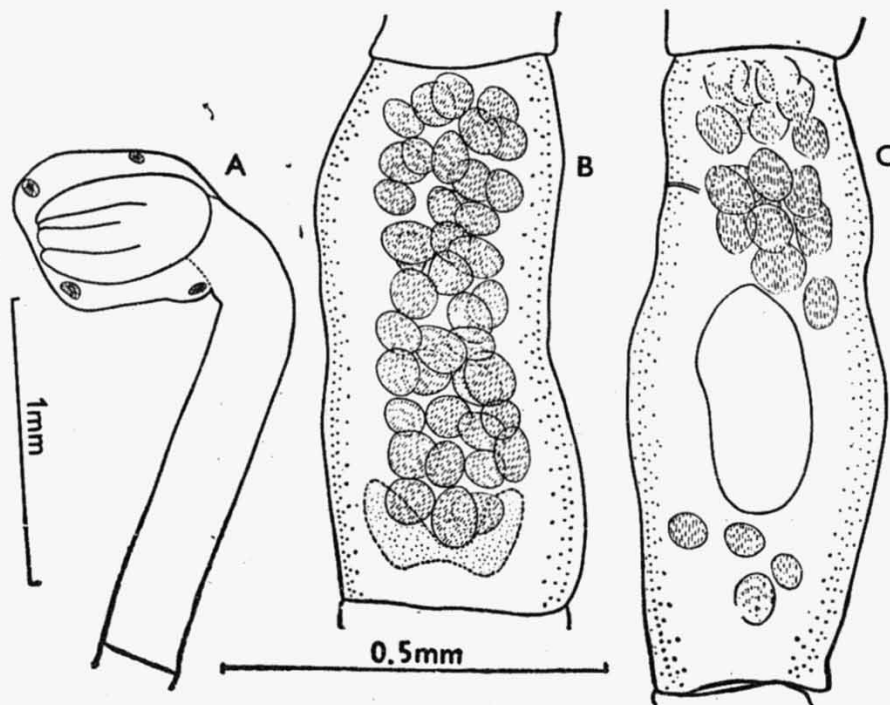


Fig. 1. *Lecanicephalum maharashtra* sp. n. A — scolex, B — mature segment, C — gravid segment, Scale: 1.0 mm applies to A, 0.5 mm applies to B and C.