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FIRST RECORD OF THE NEMATODE *CAPILLARIA SALVELINI* POLYANSKY, 1952 FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA

While studying the helminth parasites of fishes of the river Kamenice near Hřensko (a tributary of the Elbe, northern Bohemia), 10 specimens of brown trout (*Salmo trutta m. fario* L.) were examined in November 1978 and July 1979; in two of them (body lengths 20 and 22 cm), nematodes *Capillaria salvelini* Polyansky, 1952 were found in the posterior section of their intestines. This parasite species was not previously reported from Czechoslovakia and this finding is the first record of *C. salvelini* both from the R. Elbe basin and central Europe.

A total of two specimens of this nematode were obtained — a male and a young female. The male body (Figs. 1A, B) is 6.17 mm long with a maximum width 0.084 mm. The overall length of the oesophagus is 3.20 mm of which the length of the muscular section is 0.285 mm; distance of the nerve ring is 0.015 mm. The spicule is 0.501 mm long and 0.009 mm wide at its mid-length. The spicular sheath is smooth, without spines. The tail is rounded, 0.009 mm long, provided with two large, rounded ventrolateral papillae connected between each other by a fairly wide dorsal cuticular membrane, forming thus a kind of the pseudobursa.

This species is rather similar to *Capillaria*

brevispicula (Linstow, 1873) — a common intestinal parasite of European cyprinids; it can be easily mistaken for the latter species, particularly when the specimens are collected from atypical fish hosts. So far, both these species have been distinguished mainly on the basis of different lengths of the spicule in males; however, the values of the spicule lengths overlap to some extent in the two species and, therefore, this character is not reliable for the species distinction. The only reliable differentiating character is the presence of the cuticular membrane on the male tail of *C. salvelini* (i.e., presence of the pseudobursa) which is absent from *C. brevispicula* (Fig. 1C); there are also certain interspecific differences in the shape of the proximal end of the spicule.

Capillaria salvelini is known as the parasite of salmonid fishes of the Holarctic and it has been reported from fishes of both North America and Eurasia. In Europe it has been recorded from the U.S.S.R. (Murmansk), Norway, Ireland, Great Britain, and Yugoslavia (Polyanskiy Yu. I., Tr. Zool. inst. AN SSSR 12: 113—147, 1952, Čanković M., Delić S., Kiškarolj M., Rukavina J., Parazitofauna slatkovodnih riba Bosne i Hercegovine, 159 pp.,

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Kennedy C. R., J. Fish Biol. 13: 457—466, 1978). To this species belong also the specimens from salmonids and cottids of Mongolia, reported erroneously by Moravec and Ergens (Folia parasit. (Praha) 17: 217—232, 1970) as *C. brevispicula*; it has been confirmed by a recent re-examination of these materials.

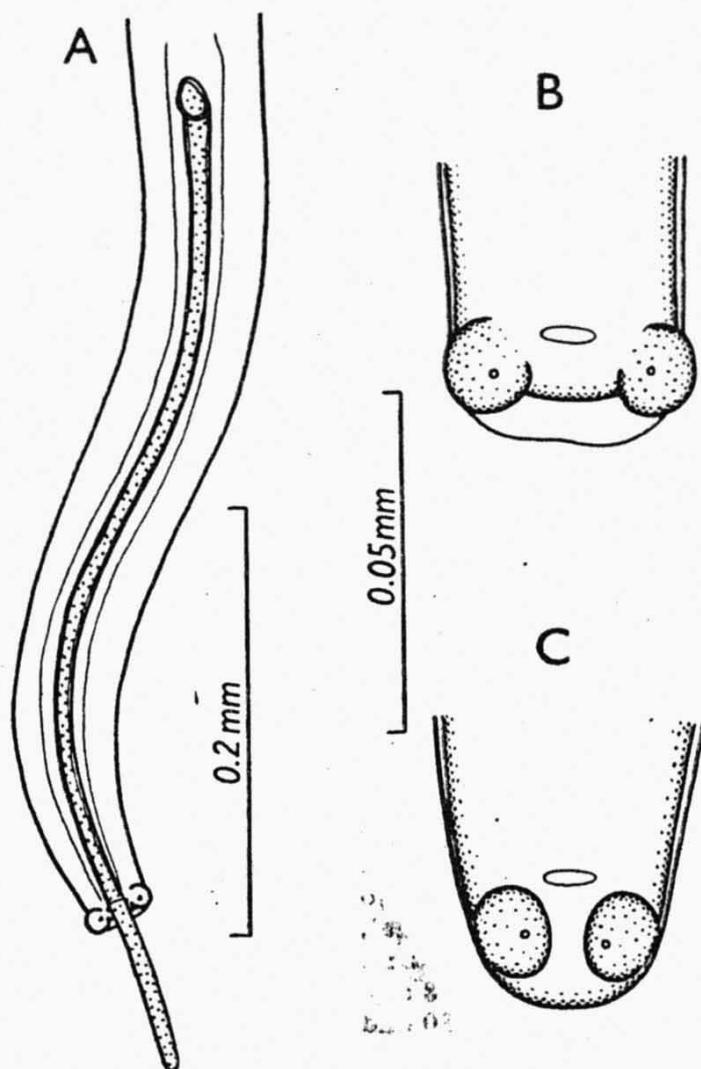


Fig. 1. A—B—*Capillaria salvelini* Polyansky, 1952 from *Salmo trutta m. fario* (A—posterior region of male body, B—tail of male, ventral view); C—*Capillaria brevispicula* (Linstow, 1873) from *Tinca tinca* (tail of male, ventral view).

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