

## INVALIDITY OF THE GENUS THOMINX DUJARDIN, 1845 (NEMATODA: CAPILLARIIDAE)

The genus *Thominx* (type species *Th. manica* Dujardin, 1845) was established by Dujardin (*Histoire naturelle des helminthes ou vers intestinaux. xvi + 654 + 15 pp.*, Paris, 1845) for the capillariid nematodes which are, in contrast to the genus *Trichosomum* Creplin, 1829 (= *Capillaria* Zeder, 1800), characterized by the presence of a spiny spicular sheath in the male. Later on, *Thominx* was taken for either a subgenus of *Capillaria* (Travassos L., *Mem. Inst. Osw. Cruz* 7: 146–172, 1915, Yorke W., Maplestone P. A., *The nematode parasites of vertebrates*. London, 1926) or a synonym of the latter genus (Baylis H. A., *Parasitology* 23: 533–544, 1931). Skryabin (Med. parazit. i paraz. bol. 8: 167–170, 1939) considered the presence of spines on the spicular sheath to be a generic feature and re-established *Thominx* as an independent genus. At the present time, many authors account *Thominx* either a valid genus or at least a subgenus of *Capillaria*, while others share the opinion of Baylis (op. cit.) that capillariids are represented by a single genus *Capillaria* s.l.; this dissension results mainly from the inadequately elaborated system of nematodes of the family Capillariidae.

The genus *Capillaria* has been generally believed to be characterized by a nonspiny spicular sheath in the male. However, according to Skryabin et al. (Skryabin K. I., Shikhobalova N. P., Sobolev A. A., Paramonov A. A., Sudarikov V. E., *Opredelitel paraziticheskikh nematod*, t. 4. 927 pp., Moscow, 1954), Gagarin (1951) found that the spicular sheath of *C. anatis* (Schrank, 1790) — a type species of *Capillaria*, was covered with spines and, consequently, he transferred this species to the genus *Thominx*. Skryabin et al. (op. cit.)

designated then *C. columbae* (Rudolphi, 1819) (= *C. obsignata* Madsen, 1945, partim) as a new type species of *Capillaria* which was accepted also in the monograph by Skryabin et al. (Skryabin K. I., Shikhobalova N. P., Orlov I. V., *Osnovy nematodologii*, t. 6. 587 pp., Moscow, 1957) and some subsequent authors. Nevertheless, this proceeding was not in accordance with international rules. According to the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (Chapter VIII) the genus is objectively determined by its type species that cannot be transferred to another genus. Hence, *C. anatis* (Schrank, 1790) remains a type species of *Capillaria* and this genus is characterized by presence of a spiny spicular sheath in the male. Since there are no substantial differences between *C. anatis* and *Th. manica*, which might be considered to be of generic level, the genus *Thominx* Dujardin, 1845 becomes a synonym of the genus *Capillaria* Zeder, 1800.

The generic appartenance of the species with the nonspiny spicular sheath and many of those possessing the spiny spicular sheath can be determined only on the basis of a new detailed revision of the family Capillariidae with a new delimitation of genera. Although as many as 19 genera have so far been described within this family, the situation remains very confused mainly because of substantial differences in the opinions concerning the generic criteria in this nematode group. It is also impossible to agree with the view of Baylis (op. cit.) listing all capillariids within the genus *Capillaria* only.

F. MORAVEC,  
Institute of Parasitology, Czechoslovak  
Academy of Sciences, Prague