

DIPLECTANUM LACUSTRE THURSTON ET PAPERNA, 1969 (MONOGENEA: DIPLECTANIDAE FROM THE EGYPTIAN LATES NILOTICUS

Diplectanum lacustre was described by Thurston and Paperna (Proc. Helminth. Soc. Wash. 36: 214—218, 1969) from the gills of *Lates albertianus* from the Lake Albert and from the River Nile between Lakes Victoria and Kyoga in Uganda and from the gills of *L. niloticus* from the Volta Lake in Ghana. Thurston and Paperna gave the dimensions of the body, opisthaptor and squamodiscs, length of the anchors and their roots and length of bars. The present study contributes further details to our knowledge of the structure of the hard parts of the opisthaptor of *D. lacustre*.

Two specimens of *L. niloticus* were obtained in Egypt from the River Nile near Cairo (July 1971). Host preparation and methods concerning preparation, fixation, mounting and measurement of the parasites were employed as given by Ergens and Lom (Causative agents of parasitic diseases of fishes, Academia, Praha, 384 pp., 1970) (In Czech). Figures were drawn with the aid of a camera lucida. Measurements are in millimeters.

The description herein is based on a phase-contrast microscope study of 3 fixed specimens of *D. lacustre*.

Description: Opisthaptor with two squamodiscs consisting of 11—12 concentric rows of rodlets,

two pairs of anchors, three connecting bars and seven pairs of marginal hooks. Total length of dorsal anchors 0.044—0.047, their shaft measures 0.020—0.022, point 0.009—0.010, outer root 0.022—0.025; inner root vestigial. Total length of ventral anchors 0.053—0.057, length of their shaft 0.020—0.022, of point 0.009—0.010, of inner root 0.010—0.012, of outer root 0.032—0.035. Central connecting bar measures 0.008—0.011 × 0.038—0.044, lateral bars 0.009—0.012 × 0.034—0.038. Total length of marginal hooks about 0.012. Squamodiscs 0.038—0.051 × 0.038—0.044.

The values for the total length of anchors in both pairs and for the length of outer root of ventral anchors in the specimens studied by us are markedly lower than those given by Thurston and Paperna (1969). However, they correspond to the values derived from the original illustration of the type specimen and it can be therefore supposed that measuring of the hard parts of opisthaptor in *D. lacustre* carried out by the mentioned authors was not quite exact.

R. ERGENS,
Institute of Parasitology,
Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences,
Prague

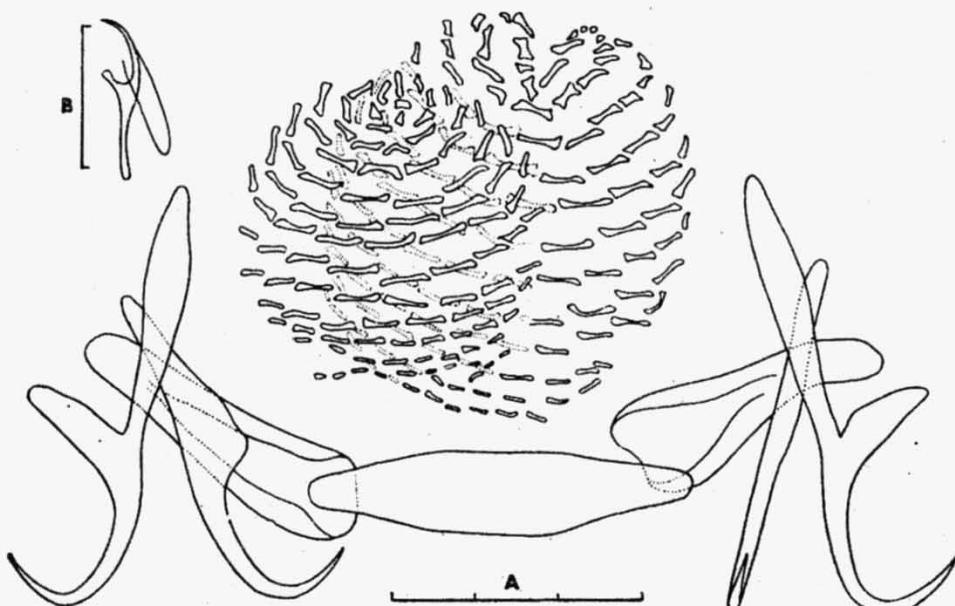


Fig. 1. Hard parts of the opisthaptor of *Diplectanum lacustre* Thurston et Paperna, 1969.

Scales (1 part = 0.01 mm): A — for anchors, bars and squamodiscs, B — for marginal hook.