UNUSUAL FINDING OF LARVAL STAGES OF THE CESTODE HYDATIGERA TAENIAEFORMIS (BATSCH, 1786) IN THE PHEASANT

Strobilocercus fascicularis, the larva of the cestode Hydatigera taeniaeformis (Batsch, 1786). The strobilocerci were placed in oval or spherical bladders, diameter 6—9 mm. Length of larva from 4—7 cm. Diameter of scolex from 1.5—1.8 mm; four suckers, diameter 0.420—0.460 mm. Restholm armed with 28—30 hooks arranged in two rows. Length of hooks of the first row 0.440—0.462; of the second row 0.280—0.292 mm. The number, shape and measurements of the hooks coincides with the data given for this species by K. I. Abuladze (in: Taeniids—tapeworms of animals and man. Osnovy estodologii. T. IV. Moscow 1964, pp. 1—530, in Russian). The finding of these cestode larvac in birds is very surprising. According to Abuladze (1964), the intermediate hosts utilized by this cestode species are, generally, rodents of the families Muridae and Cricetidae and, very exceptionally, cat and gibbon. The utilization of birds as intermediate hosts of the cestode Hydatigera taeniaeformis has not been recorded as yet in the literature. The presence of strobilocerci in the pheasants is exceptional; evidently, these birds had come into contact with a large number of mature cestode eggs, which developed in their livers into mature strobilocerci.

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