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TWO HELMINTH SPECIES FROM GALLUS LAFAYETTI (GALLIFORMES) IN CEYLON

The helminth fauna of the jungle fowl (*Gallus lafayetti*) has so far been insufficiently investigated. Data on the cestode fauna of this host have heretofore been missing, the only exception being a note on nematodes of the species *Heterakis pusilla* Linstow, 1906, found in the compendium of Skryabin et al. (Opre-delitel paraziticheskikh nematod — IV. Izdat. AN SSSR, Moscow, pp. 1—927, 1954). Two helminth species were identified in *G. lafayetti* caught and helminthologically examined in Ceylon, in January 1971. In either case these species were found in this host for the first time. For further details concerning these findings see below;

Fam. Davaineidae

1. *Raillietina* (R.) *tetragona* (Molin, 1858)

The morphology of our material (a greater number of cestodes from the small intestine of the host *G. lafayetti*) corresponds with the characteristics of this species from the typical host *G. gallus* L. It differs in some metrical signs (somewhat smaller size of the cirrus sac, an insignificantly higher average number of testes) from the descriptions given in literature. But, as these deviations are so insignificant, we consider the assignment of our material to the

species quoted being fully justified. The description based on the material from the new host follows (all measurements in mm): Body 4.2—8.3 long, 1.2—1.6 wide. Scolex spherical, 0.160—0.228 in diameter. Suckers oval, size 0.112—0.140 × 0.052—0.064. The edge of suckers bears 6—8 parallel rows of hooklets; rostellum armed with two rows of hooklets 0.06—0.08 long, numbering 80—100.

The fully formed hermaphrodite proglottids of strobila reach 0.900—1.040 in width, 0.290—0.372 in length. Testes spherical to oval, 0.030—0.045 in diameter, distributed along the posterior margin and on both sides of the proglottids. Their number varies from 28 to 40. Cirrus sac is oval-shaped, situated halfway up the length of proglottids and reaching 0.048 to 0.078 × 0.036—0.040 in size. It opens into a shallow genital atrium. Sperm duct almost even in younger proglottids, markedly sinusoid in older ones. Vagina opens into the genital atrium extending, in a spindle-shaped way, towards the middle of the proglottids and terminated in a rounded seminal receptacle having 0.035—0.040 in diameter. Ovary fan-shaped, consisting of numerous follicles, its transverse diameter being 0.200—0.288. Lo

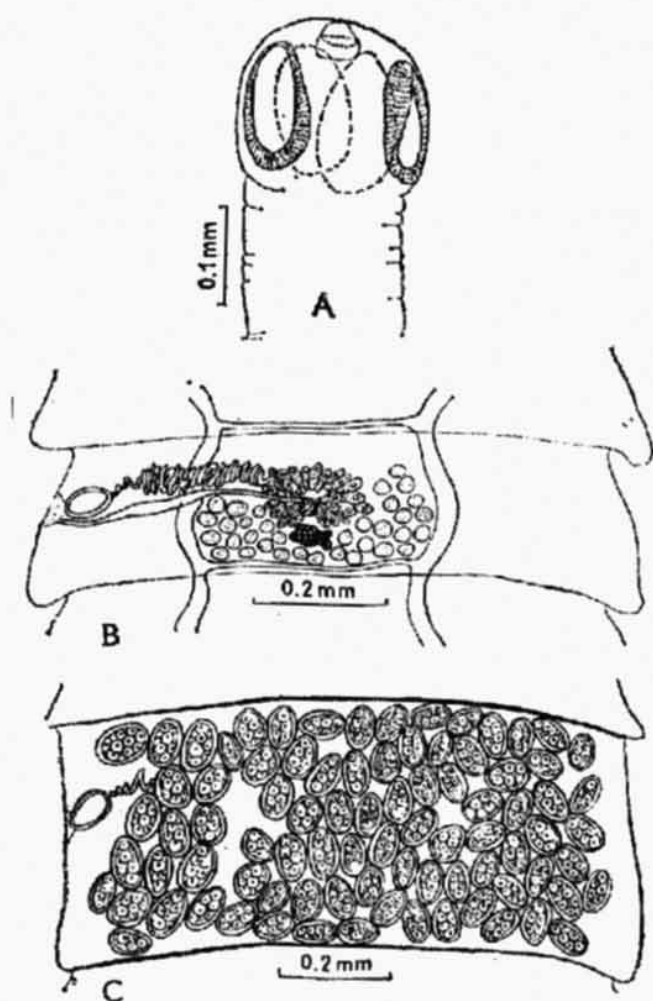


Fig. 1. *Raillietina tetragona* (Molin, 1858) from the host *Gallus lafayetti*. A — scolex; B — hermaphrodite proglottid; C — gravid proglottid. Orig.

bulated yolk gland placed beneath the nether margin of ovary, measuring 0.044—0.068 in diameter. Gravid proglottids reach 1.120—1.600 in width, 0.480—0.820 in length, filled with oval parenchymatous capsules 0.085—0.124 × 0.070—0.096 in size. Each capsule contains 8—12 eggs.

Fam. Ascaridiidae

2. *Ascaridia galli* (Schränk, 1788)

This species is a common parasite of the

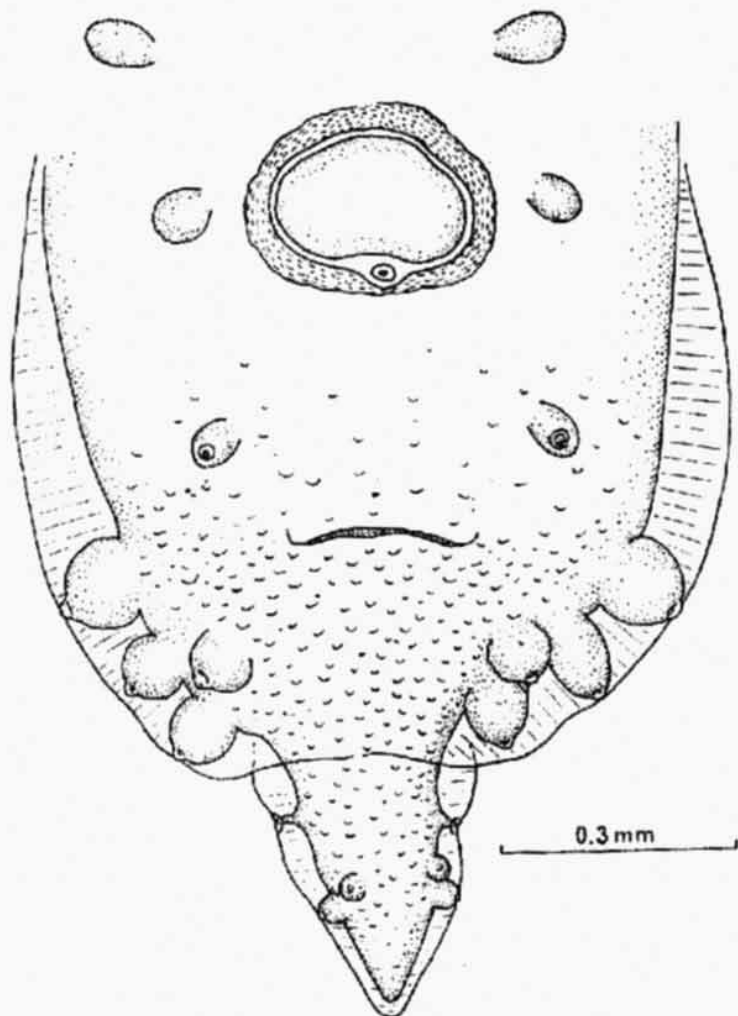


Fig. 2. *Ascaridia galli* (Schränk, 1788) from the host *Gallus lafayetti*. Posterior body end of male (ventral view). Orig.

hosts of the genus *Gallus*. Two specimens (1 ♂ and 1 ♀) have been found in the small intestine of the new host *G. lafayetti*, fully conforming with the material from *Gallus gallus* f. dom. in morphology and measurements. The exact diagnosis has been limited by the fact that the distal end of spicules in our material had been broken off so that it was impossible to establish their overall length and shape.

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