A NEW CESTODE STAPHYLOCYSTIS SANCHOORENSIS SP. N. (HYMENOLEPIDIDAE) FROM THE SHREW, SUNCUS MURINUS SINDENSIS

H. S. NAMA and P. S. KHICHĐ

Department of Zoology, University of Jodhpur, Jodhpur

Abstract. A new cestode Staphylocystis sanchoorensis sp. n. has been described from the house shrew, Suncus murinus sindensis. It is distinguished from other species by a crown of 30 Y-shaped rostellar hooks.

Thirty specimens of a new cestode, belonging to the genus Staphylocystis Villot, 1877, were recovered from the intestine of a house shrew, in Sanchoore, India. It is identified as Staphylocystis sanchoorensis sp. n.

Staphylocystis sanchoorensis sp. n. Figs. 1, 2

Host: Suncus murinus sindensis. Location: Small intestine. Locality: Sanchoore (Rajasthan), India.

Type specimens: Holotype No. N. 120, Paratype No. N. 121, 122—123 (on one slide), collected on January 20, 1973, deposited with the Zoology Museum, University of Jodhpur, Jodhpur, India. (All measurements are given in millimeters.)

Description (based on 4 specimens): Worms, without last segment, length 3.11—10.77, maximum width 0.38—0.70. Proglottides broader than long. Immature segments 0.225—0.033 long, 0.162—0.176 broad, mature segments 0.045—0.070 × 0.180—0.360, gravid segments 0.110—0.230 × 0.210—0.690. External segmentation quite distinct.

Scolex globular measuring 0.16 × 0.17—0.18 × 0.185, with four suckers each 0.07 × 0.075—0.09 × 0.10 in size and a rostellum 0.051—0.053 long and 0.065—0.077 broad, crowned with a circle of 30 Y-shaped hooks, each 0.015—0.017 in length. Excretory system consists of four longitudinal canals extending nearly in straight line, the outer ones being 0.004—0.0045 and the inner ones 0.002—0.0025 in diameter.

Genital pores unilateral, situated usually in mid-segment, but in the initial stages slightly below mid-line. Cirrus sac disposed obliquely, measurements 0.057—0.060 × 0.01—0.012, it extends beyond inner excretory canal to about one-fourth across the segment. Both cirrus sac and genital duct pass ventral to poral excretory canals. Internal and external seminal vesicles absent. Of the three testes, two are aporal and one poral, measuring 0.017 × 0.015—0.037 × 0.030 in size and not in straight line. The two aporal testes are usually displaced anteriad and posteriad one above the other. Ovary transverse, somewhat bilobed, situated near the middle of the segment, size 0.020 × 0.030—0.022 × 0.32. Vagina posterior to cirrus sac. Vitelline gland ovoid,
post-ovarian, 0.025 × 0.020—0.030 × 0.027. It is more prominent in posterior segments where it measures 0.042 × 0.045 in diameter. Eggs almost spherical 0.030 × 0.040 to 0.032 × 0.037; onchospheres 0.025—0.30 with embryonic hooks 0.016—0.019 in length.

*Staphylocystis sanchoensis* sp. n. is in the rostellar hook range of *S. tiara* (Duj., 1845) but differs in size of the body, hooks and organ structure. The new species is distinguished from *S. acuta* (Rud., 1819) by smaller number of hooks, from *S. chrysocollaris* (Janicki, 1904); *S. dodecantha* (Baer, 1925); *S. furcata* (Stieda, 1862); *S. loossi* (Hilmy, 1936); *S. minutissima* Meggitt, 1927; *S. murissylecali* (Rud., 1819); *S. pauciglottis* Neiland, 1953; *S. scalaris* Duj., 1845; *S. solitaria* Meggitt, 1927 and *S. toxometra* Baer,

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**Fig. 1.** *Staphylocystis sanchoensis* sp. n.: A — rostellar hook, B — scolex.

**Fig. 2.** *Staphylocystis sanchoensis* sp. n.: A — egg capsule, B — mature segment.
1932 by larger number of hooks. Prokopić (1967) considered S. murissylvatici (H. muris-sylvatici) to be synonymous with Variolepis crenata Goeze, 1782.

S. sanchoensis sp. n. is quite different from Hymenolepis jacobsoni (S. minutissima) and H. suncii, reported by Vaucher and Tenora (1971) from Suncus murinus, in the number and size of hooks. The shape and measurements of hooks of S. sanchoensis sp. n. are characteristic in comparison to their counterparts (Baer 1925, 1932).

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