

MONILIFORMIS DUBIUS MEYER, 1933 (ACANTHOCEPHALA) IN EGYPT

During helminthological examinations of cockroaches of the species *Periplaneta americana* L. in Cairo-Imbaba (A.R.E.) in 1972 acanthellas were frequently found. These infective stages of acanthocephalans were located in body cavity of their hosts and were recovered from 15 of the 42 cockroaches examined. Intensity of infection was 4—42 specimens per intermediate host. The acanthellas were determined as *Moniliformis dubius* Meyer, 1933.

The adults of this species parasitize definitive hosts of the genus *Rattus*, which have a cosmopolitan distribution. *M. dubius* was reported from these hosts from North and Central America and Asia (China and Japan) (Petrochenko V. I., Akantotsefaly (skrebni) domashnykh i dikikh zhivotnykh (Acanthocephala of domestic and wild animals)—2. Moskva, pp. 1—458, 1958). The data for determination of acanthellas are given in the paper by Moore D. (J. Parasit. 32: 257—261, 1946), who studied the life cycle of this species. Its intermediate hosts were dealt with in some previous papers, in which the acanthellas were recorded to parasitize besides *P. americana* also *Blatta orientalis* and *Calandra oryzae*. Similarly as other species of acanthocephalans, also *M. dubius* employs reservoir hosts during its life cycle. These are the cold-blooded vertebrates.

On the basis of our material we are giving characteristic morphological and metrical fea-

tures complementing the literary data hitherto available (Fig. 1): The encysted acanthella measures 0.96—1.60 mm in length and 0.82 to 1.52 mm in maximum width. The body of acanthella is 0.88—0.98 mm long and 0.67 to 0.74 mm wide. The proboscis is invaginated in a proboscis receptacle in middle part of body. Its hooks are distinct and well sclerotized. The body is moderately pigmented, its wall is about 0.38 mm thick in the middle part.

An acanthella with evaginated proboscis measures up to 1.40—2.25 mm in length. The proboscis is 0.35—0.39 mm long and 0.012—0.013 mm wide at the summit. The proboscis hooks are arranged in 11 longitudinal rows of 10—11 hooks each. The lower hooks (9th—11th hooks in the row) are smaller than the upper ones. The first eight hooks measure 0.038—0.044 mm, the others only 0.025 to 0.028 mm in length. The roots of all hooks are divided by a small medial incision into two processes. The lemnisci are distinct and reach up to middle of body length. There is a group of rounded giant cells at the base of lemnisci. Two small oval testes are already situated in posterior part of body. The cement glands are small, rounded, and 8 in number.

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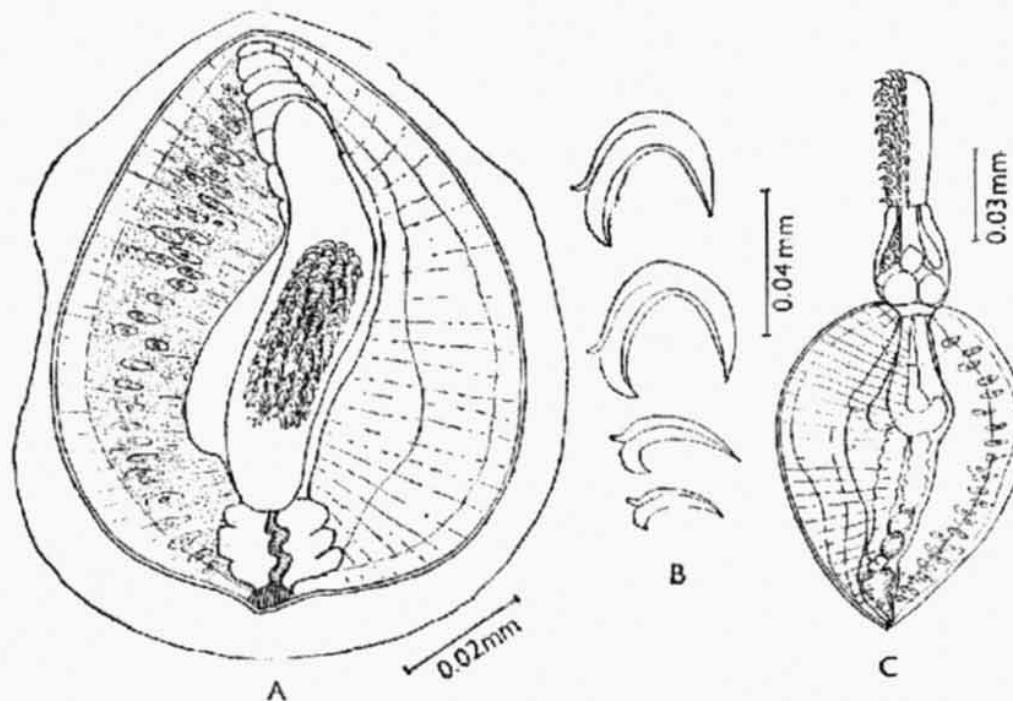


Fig. 1. *Moniliformis dubius* Meyer, 1933. A — encysted acanthella (general view); B — hooks in the sequence 1, 2, 10, and 11 (lateral view); C — acanthella with evaginated proboscis (general view) Original.