

VALIDITY OF THE NAME *GYRODACTYLUS SERAVSCHANI* OSMANOV, 1965 (MONOGENEA: GYRODACTYLIDAE)

Osmanov (Vest. Karakalpaksh. fil. AN Uzbek. SSR 4: 21—32, 1965) described a new species of the genus *Gyrodactylus* Nordmann, 1832 — *G. seravschani* — from the gills of *Schizothorax intermedius* McClelland from the river Kshtut (Zeravshan River basin, Uzbek. SSR). In the differential diagnosis the author

states that the new species most closely resembles *G. sprostonae* Ling Mo-en, 1962 from which it differs only in longer anchors and longer point of anchors.

However, further studies of *G. sprostonae* from the gills of *Carassius auratus gibelio* (Bloch), *C. carassius* (L.) and *Cyprinus carpio*

L. originating from various localities of Eurasia disproved the possibility to differentiate *G. seravschani* from *G. sprostonae* on the basis of these characters. The limiting upper values of metrical variability of hard parts of opisthaptor in *G. sprostonae* were very close to or even exceeded maximal measurements of hard parts of opisthaptor in *G. seravschani* reported by Osmanov. In this relation, I proposed (Ergens R., Parazitologiya 5: 524—531, 1971) to consider *G. seravschani* a synonym of *G. sprostonae*.

In 1979 I received from Dr. U. D. Dzhalilov several tens of fixed specimens of gyroactylids obtained from gills of *S. intermedius* from Tajikistan, which resembled *G. sprostonae* in the shape and measurements of the complex of anchors, but distinctly differed from it in one of the most important characters — shape of marginal hooks. This fact suggested that the synonymy of *G. seravschani* and *G. sprostonae* might have been erroneous and led to a reexamination of one of its syntypes deposited in the collection of the Zoological Institute, USSR Academy of Sciences, Leningrad. It was found that, in addition to the complex of anchors, also marginal hooks of this parasite (which, unfortunately, were not considered either in the original description or during the determination of the synonymy) were identical in shape with marginal hooks of all mentioned specimens from Tajikistan, but not with marginal hooks of *G. sprostonae*. That means that the parasites from gills of *S. intermedius*, both from Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, represent an independent species which should be recognized under the name *G. seravschani* used for the first time by Osmanov in 1965.

With regard to all above facts and in order

to avoid any further errors I present a supplemented description of *G. seravschani* and exact illustrations of hard parts of its opisthaptor. The measurements of the hard parts of opisthaptor and cirrus are given in millimeters. The values reported by Osmanov are in parentheses.

Total length of anchors 0.056—0.060 (0.052—0.056), of shaft 0.040—0.043 (0.040 to 0.047), point 0.023—0.026 (0.024) and root 0.022—0.024 (0.023). Ventral bar measuring 0.004—0.005 × 0.019—0.021 (0.003 × 0.020) with 0.012—0.013 (0.014) long shield and very small lateral processes. Dorsal bar 0.001—0.002 (0.001) long and 0.014—0.019 (0.018) wide. Total length of marginal hooks 0.023—0.025 (0.023—0.024), hook proper measuring 0.006. Cirrus spherical, 0.011—0.012 in diameter, with spines arranged in one row. Pharynx with long processes.

As it is evident from Fig. 1, *G. seravschani* and *G. sprostonae* very closely resemble one another and differ only morphologically in the shape of marginal hooks and partly also in the shape of anchors. The measurements of the hard parts of opisthaptor are almost identical. Consequently, a prerequisite of a reliable determination of the two species is a perfectly fixed material.

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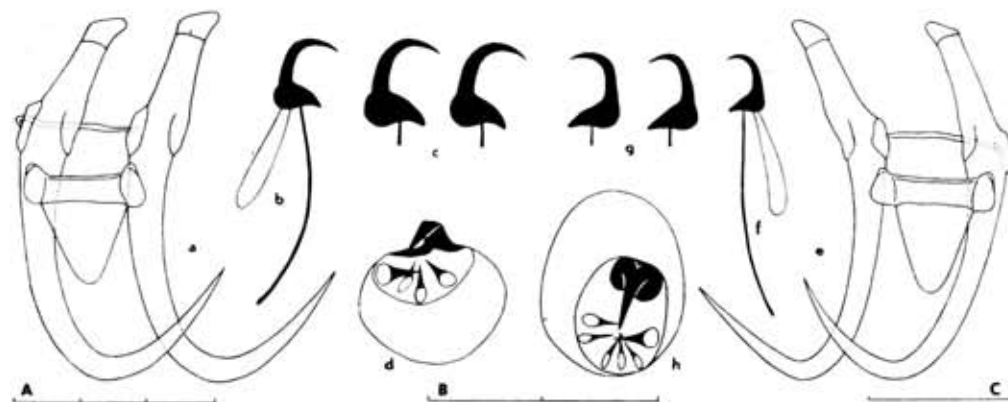


Fig. 1. Hard parts of the opisthaptor and cirrus of *G. seravschani* Osmanov, 1965 (a, b, c, d) and for comparison hard parts of the opisthaptor and cirrus of *G. sprostonae* Ling Mo-en, 1962 (e, f, g, h). Scales (1 part = 0.01 mm): A — for anchors, B — for marginal hooks and cirrus, C — for hook proper of marginal hooks.