MORPHOLOGICAL ANOMALIES IN THE STROBILA OF MONIEZIA BENEDENI

Some morphological anomalies can be occasionally found in tapeworms, like in other animal groups which could lead to erroneous determination of these helminths. Especially, various anomalies are often reported in the larval stages of tapeworms. For example, Schiller E. L. (1973: J. Parasitol. 59: 122—129) describes morphological anomalies of the scolex in *Taenia crassiceps* larvae. Leiper R. T. (1913: Vet. Journal 69: 525—527) describes a cysticercus with six suckers and two rostella. Also Railliet A. (1892: Bull. Soc. Zool. France 16: 110—117) reported *Cysticercus pisiformis* possessing six suckers. The same author has found some anomalies in *Coenurus serialis* in 1899. Mueller J. F. (1973: J. Parasitol. 59: 15—58) described pseudosuckers on the neck of *Hydatigera taeniaeformis*. The larval anomalies of *Phyllobothrium delphini* have also been reported by Skryabina A. S. (1971: Zool. Zh. 50: 582—584; in Russian).

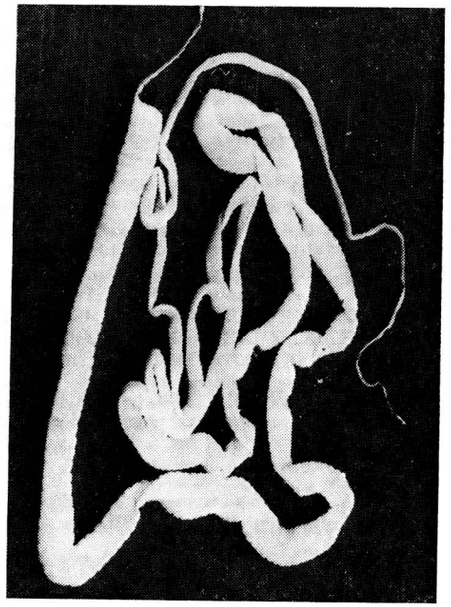

Fig. 1. Anomalous strobila of *Moniezia benedeni*.

In adult tapeworms a mass occurrence of strobila anomalies has been recorded in *Hymenolepis nana* by Namitokov A. A. (1972: Parazitologiya 6: 161—162). Also Heyneman D. (1961: Nature 204: 297—298) described anomalies of *H. nana*. McCulloch H. (1913: Am. J. Trop. Dis. Prev. Med. 1: 453—461) described Y-shaped strobila of *Taenia saginata*. The multistrobilation has been recorded in *Cothetocephalus thateheri* by Dailey M. D., and Gvestreet R. M. (1973: J. Parasitol. 59: 469—473).

We have found the anomaly in the strobila of *Moniezia benedeni* during our helminthological examination of cattle in Havana abattoir. The last segment of the strobila beared a piece consisting of 26 atypical segments (exceeding 20 cm in length (Fig. 1). These segments were not resembling segments of the species *Moniezia benedeni* which are three times wider than long. The segments which have arisen on the end of the last segment of strobila were narrow and on the contrary twice longer than wide. Only one half of these segments can be seen in the picture, as the second one was used for other examinations. The abnormality is also in that the segments have arisen from the last segment of the tapeworm. The last segment of the mature tapeworm is gravid, full of eggs. We were surprised by the fact that all abnormal segments contained fully developed eggs.

It was of great importance to draw attention to this anomaly because if we would not have found the segments connected with the last segment of the tapeworm but separately, nobody would consider them to be the segments of *M. benedeni*.

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