THE FIRST RECORD OF THE NEMATODE SPIROXYYS CONTORTUS (RUDOLPHI, 1819) IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

In June 1962, in the Brook Čierne Voda near Michalovce (eastern Slovakia) one turtle Emys orbicularis L. was captured, harbouring nematodes Spiroxyys contortus (Rudolphi, 1819) in its stomach. Altogether two complete females, four females' fragments and two fragments of males were obtained. The morphology of the nematodes found corresponds on the whole to the descriptions of this species as given by HEDRICK (J. Parasit. 21: 397–409, 1935 and Trans. Amer. Microsc. Soc. 54: 307–335, 1935). However, since it is the first finding of this species in Czechoslovakia, some essential measurements are added:

Male: The longest male's fragment (without anterior extremity) measuring 23.12 mm, maximum width 0.57 mm. Length of spicules 2.45 mm, tail 0.61–0.65 mm long.

Female: Length of body 40.80–42.57 mm, maximum width 0.79–0.96 mm. Entire esophagus 3.72 mm long, nerve ring at a distance of 0.66 to 0.68 mm from anterior end of body, cervical papillae at 1.20 to 1.33 mm. Length of lips 0.090–0.093 mm, their maximum width 0.129 mm. Vulva slightly preequatorial. Tail measuring 0.41–0.50 mm. Size of eggs 0.075 to 0.087 x 0.051–0.054 mm.

According to HEDRICK (Trans. Amer. Microsc. Soc. 54: 307–335, 1935) various cyclops species serve as intermediate hosts of S. contortus while dragonfly nymphs, fishes, tadpoles, frogs and newts can become its reservoirs. Larvae of this nematode species were also recorded from the fish Leuciscus idus in the River Latorica.

Fig. 1. Spiroxyys contortus (Rudolphi, 1819). A, B—anterior end of body (lateral and dorsal view), C—posterior end of male (ventral view).

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