THE FIRST FINDING OF THE NEMATODE ASHWORTHIUS SIDEMI SCHULZ, 1933 IN SIKA NIPPON FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Postmortem inspection of Sika nippon Temminck, 1837 from the preserve Lány near Prague disclosed the incidence of the nematode Ashworthius sidemi in the spleen of 11 animals. This is yet another case of introduction of a specific parasite together with the imported host. The nematode was described by Shults (1933) from Sika hortulanum in the USSR. (Zool. Anz. 103: 74-75, 1933) and since then has not been recorded by any author (Yamaguti S., Systema helminthum III: 418, 1991). Apart from the locality Lány, we found this parasite in the locality Manšťa and, evidently, it is present in all localities inhabited by its host, the species Sika nippon.

Description. Large worms, the females similar to nematodes of the genus Haemöochus in that the white ovaries shine through the pink cuticle like a ribbon. Cuticle with longitudinal and transverse striation throughout its length. Mouth leading into small buccal cavity bearing on its dorsal side a thick, hook like bent tooth, length 0.010 - 0.015 mm. Mouth surrounded by 4 small papillae.

Male: body 17—26 mm long, maximum width 0.321—0.392 mm. Cervical papillae at 0.428 to 0.470 mm from anterior end of body. Oesophagus 1.2—1.4 mm long. Bursa narrow, clearly trilobate, with a long dorsal lobe. Ventral rays arise from common shaft and divide in approximately one half of their length; they are relatively long. Lateral rays also arise from common shaft. Posterolateral ray shorter and more slender than the two other rays which reach the margin of bursa. Externodorsal ray very thin, long, from 0.346—0.534 mm. Dorsal ray widely sepa-
rated from extornodorl ray, greatly distended in its proximal part, length 0.299—0.342 mm. At 0.119—0.214 mm from its base, it bears two short processes with thumb-like distended point on each side. At these sites the ray attenuates, dividing into two short branches close to its end each terminating in a bifurcation. Sometimes, one end of the ray bears three ridges. Genital cone on ventral side is a very complicated organ bearing two cuticular folds and two long processes. Spicules 0.716—0.719 mm long, dark-brown, always close together, each with a short branch arising at about mid-length. Spicule end curved moderately, ending in a cuticular membrane. A granular structure seen in distal spicule portion.

Female: body 22—33 mm long, maximum width 0.342—0.770 mm. Oesophagus 1.8—2.3 mm long. Posterior end of body tapering from anal pore downwards to blunt point. Anal pore at 0.556 to 0.674 mm from tip of tail. Vulva at 2.1—4.3 mm from end of body; it is covered with a cuticular fold measuring 0.335—0.749 mm, with two spherical cuticular swellings at each side (approximately level with the site where the fold is formed), with marked striation. Eggs 0.105 to 0.110 × 0.057—0.059 mm.

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