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A New Monogenean-ectoparasites Polylabroides siddharthai n.sp. From Edible Fresh-water Cat Fish Sciaena coiter of District Basti, Uttar Pradesh, India

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ABSTRACT: The fresh-water fish *Sciaena coiter* (Ham.) was collected from local fish market of district Basti (U.P.) and examined 05 specimens, of which only one specimen was found infected with 02 specimens of said species. The site of infection being the gill filaments of the host. Mamaev and Parukhin, (1976) established the Genus *Polylabroides* for the worms collected from *Acanthopagrus bifasciatus*. The known species of Genus *Polylabroides* (Mamaev and Parukhin, 1976) are viz., *Polylabroides multispinosus*, Roubal, 1981; *Polylabroides quadrispinosus*, Byrnes, 1985 and *Polylabroides longispinosus*, Byrnes, 1985. The present form differs from all these species except *Polylabroides longispinosus* in having difference in organization of cirrus. However, it differs from *Polylabroides longispinosus* in following features- in having rounded prohaptor; in having curved cirrus spines (Straight in case of *Polylabroides longispinosus*); in having testes arranged in two columns and more in number; in having serrated inner margin of clamp sclerites and having one piece of central sclerites. On subsequent study, the present form appears to be a new species of the genus *Polylabroides* (Mamaev and Parukhin, 1976) and described as a new species and named *Polylabroides siddharthai n.sp*.

KEYWORDS: Monogenean ectoparasites, Polylabroides siddharthai, Sciaena coiter.

I. INTRODUCTION

Monogenean is a class of parasitic flatworms that are mainly ectoparasites of fishes but occasionally they are found as endoparasites (**Gussev**, **1974**; **Byrnes**, **1985**). Monogenean are browsers that move about freely on the fish's body surface feeding on mucus and epithelial cells of the skin and gills; however, a few adult monogenean will remain permanently attached to a single site on the host (**Quilichini**, et. al. **2009**; **Mishra**, **2021a**). Monogenean undergo asexual mode of reproduction and multiply rapidly to form dense population on the gills of the host. The population structure of this monogenean, however, depends on a wide range of environmental factors; the relative importance of these factors varies from species to species and also within the same species depending on the host taxonomy and the nature of habitat (**Chubb**, **1977**; **Mamaev**, **1988**; **Mishra**, **2021b**).

Monogenean constitutes a group, which play an important role as pathogens of severe diseases (Hoffman, 1979 and Srivastava, 1980). This is because they affect those organs and tissues which are vital to the normal functioning such as gills and skin, the organs of respiration (Mishra, 2007, 2014a). In majority of cases, monogenean cause dual type of injury to their hosts. Through their hooks and other organs of attachment, they break the continuity at the site of attachment and result is to localize hemorrhage (Mishra, 2008, 2014b). Monogenean infestations cause irritation and excessive mucus production and create an opening for bacterial invasion (and Mishra, 2020a). A few monogeneans on a healthy mature fish are not usually significant; however, moderate numbers can cause significant mortalities (Mishra and Pande, 2008). When fish are exposed to environmental or behavioural stressors, the potential damage from monogenean is greater. Prevention of monogenean infestations by appropriate quarantine is preferable to treatment of the parasites after they have become established in a system (Venkatnarsaiah and Kulkarni, 1980; Mishra, 2020b). Monogeneans are the most ubiquitous and abundant group of helmith parasites in the aquatic environment (Diggles, and Lester, 1993). Monogeneans feed upon the blood and cells of ruptured tissues (Bychowsky, 1957; Mishra, 2015 and). Researchers have established that the volume of the blood sucked from the fish is quite appreciable and this leads to certain conditions like anemia and mortality (Rizvi, 1971 and Mishra, 2014c).

The genus *Polylabroides* (Dillon, and Hargis, 1965b; Achmerow, 1964; Gussev, 1974; Mamaev and Parukhin, 1976) has been recorded and described in detail from the gills of teleost fishes of super family Siluroidae. Several



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workers like Yin and Sproston (1948); Jain (1957); Tripathi (1959); Byrnes, (1985); Mamaev, 1988; Singh, et. al., (1992); Roubal and Diggles, (1993) has reported different species of genus *Polylabroides* from different teleost as different name. During the study of fresh-water monogenean of district Basti, we came across single infected specimen of *Sciaena coiter*, infected with monogenean belonging to the genus *Polylabroides* (Roubal, and Diggles, 1993). On subsequent study, the present form appears new to us and described here in as such.

II. MATERIAL AND METHODS

The fishes for the present investigation were collected from fresh-water bodies and local fish market of district Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh, India. The monogenean were collected by **Mizelle's** freezing techniques. They were kept in refrigerator for 8 to 48 hours. The low temperature not only relaxes the worm but also help in automatic removal of mucus in which there flukes were entangled. Subsequently, the gills were removed, placed in separate tubes, half filled with water and shake vigorously. This solution now poured in clean petri-dish diluted with water and examined under binocular microscope. The worms thus collected were washed and fixed in hot 70% ethyl alcohol or 10% neutral formalin. Study of chitinoid hard parts were made in either temporary (glycerin) or permanent preparations. Permanent preparations were made after dehydrating through ascending grades of alcohol, clearing in xylene and mounting in Canada balsam. Camera Lucida sketches were made from permanent preparations within a week since the stain fades away in ten days.

III. DESCRIPTION

The body is elongated with tapering anterior and broad posterior end, measuring 3.19 - 3.22 * 1.00 - 1.10 mm. The head is provided with a pair of rounded, muscular buccal suckers each measuring 0.039 - 0.050 mm. The pharynx is oval, muscular and measures 0.041 - 0.051 * 0.031 - 0.041 mm. The oesophagus is simple, bifurcated and anterior to cirrus. The intestinal caeca is diverticulated and extending up to haptor.

The testes are post-equatorial, post-ovarian, multi-locular and 12 - 13 in number. These testes are rectangular in shape and measures 0.82 - 1.55 * 1.6 - 2.4 mm. Genital atrium is oval and measures 0.081 - 0.082 * 0.097 - 0.10 mm. It contains 30 - 31 small and 50 - 52 large spines. The large spines are with curved and pointed tip. The prostatic duct also enters and opens in to cirrus. The seminal receptacle is well developed, rounded, situated at the proximal end of the ovary and measures 0.18 - 0.21 mm. in diameter.

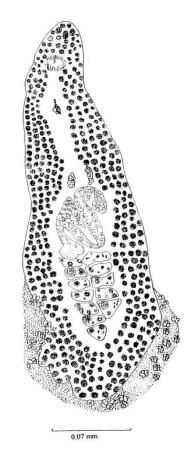
The ovary is rounded, equatorial, pre-testicular, '?' shaped and measures 1.58 - 1.63 * 0.082 - 1.48 mm. Two-three darkly stained reproductive glands are also present on the anterior lateral side of the ovary. Vitelline follicles are well developed, scattered from head up to haptor.

The haptor is asymmetrical, indistinctly set off from the body and starts from near posterior one-third of the body commencing at the level of testes. It is equipped with irregularly distributed clamps 34 - 36 in number. The larger clamps are at the center of the body. The clamps are basic microcotyle type without accessory sclerite and sucker measuring 0.042 - 0.05 * 0.07 - 0.08 mm.

IV. DISCUSSION

Mamaev and Parukhin, (1976) established the Genus *Polylabroides* for the worms collected from *Acanthopagrus bifasciatus*. In all, following species are known under the genus viz., *Polylabroides australis* (Murray, 1931) **Mamaev and Parukhin, 1976**; *Polylabroides quadrispinosus*, **Byrnes, 1985**; *Polylabroides longispinosus*, **Byrnes, 1985** and *Polylabroides multispinosus*, **Roubal and Diggles, 1993**.

The present form differs from all these species except *Polylabroides longispinosus* in having difference in organization of cirrus. However, it differs from *Polylabroides longispinosus* in following features- in having rounded prohaptor; in having curved cirrus spines (Straight in case of *Polylabroides longispinosus*); in having testes arranged in two columns and



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