

**A REPORT OF A SPECIES OF THE GENUS TYLOCEPHALUM (CESTODA: LECANICEPHALIDEA)
FROM A *TRYGON SEPHEN* FROM PANJI, GOA STATE, INDIA.**

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ABSTRACT

This paper deals with the redescription of a cestode from *Trygon sephen* in Panji, Goa state, India i.e. *Tylocephalum marsupium* Linton, 1916. Which is having some additional characters, such as the scolex is globular and small, the number of testes are 25-30, the ovary is large in size 'U' shaped in appearance with 15-16 short, blunt, round acini; the genital pores are medium in size, oval in shape; the longitudinal excretory canals are thin, on both the lateral sides of the segments. The vitellaria are granular, corticular, thin strips, on both the lateral sides and from the anterior to the posterior margin of the segments.

KEY WORDS: Cestode, Goa, *Trygon sephen*, *Tylocephalum marsupium*,

INTRODUCTION

The Genus *Tylocephalum* erected by Linton (18900. Linton, (1916) reported *T. marsupium* from *Aetobatis narinari* at Ceylon, whereas the present worms are being reported, from *Trygon sephen* Cuvier, 1871 at Panhi, Goa state (West coast of India), India. The present work reported a species of the genus *Tylocephalum* (Cestoda: Lecanicephalidea) from a *Trygon sephen* from Panji, Goa state, India.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Ten Cestode parasites were collected from *Trygon sephen*, all were flattened, preserved in 4% formalin, stained with Harris haematoxylin and were passed through various alcoholic grades.

RESULTS

DESCRIPTION

Ten specimens of the cestode parasites were collected from the spiral valve of *Trygon sephen* Cuvier, 1871 at Panji, Goa state, (West coast of India), India, in the month of February, 1991. The scolex is distinctly marked off from the strobili (Figure 1), small in size, globular in shape, highly muscular, clearly divided into two regions anterior and posterior and measures 0.437 to 0.495 in length and 0.194 to 0.383 in breadth. The anterior region is smaller in size, globular in shape highly muscular, with fan wise arrangement of the muscle bands and measures 0.170 to 0.214 in length and 0.204 to 0.277 in breadth. The posterior region is larger in size almost quadrangular in shape broad anteriorly narrow posteriorly, bears four accessory suckers two situated at both the lateral sides and two at the middle region of the scolex and measures 0.267 to 0.296 in length and 0.084 to 0.383 in breadth. The accessory suckers are medium in size, oval in shape and measure 0.102 to 0.112 in length and 0.058 to 0.078 in breadth. The neck is long, thin, muscular, curved and measures 0.679 in length and 0.067 to 0.102 in breadth.

The mature segments are longer than broad, almost more than five to six times longer than broad, with slightly concave and convex lateral margins, without projections at the anterior or posterior corners or the segments and measure 1.819 to 1.880 in length and 0.212 to 0.265 in breadth. The testes are medium in size, oval in shape, 25 to 30 (28) in number, situated anterior to cirrus pouch, pre-ovarian, in two rows, in two lateral fields, evenly distributed, in the central medulla, bounded laterally by longitudinal excretory canals and measures 0.023 to 0.038 in length and 0.038 to 0.053 in breadth. The cirrus pouch is larger in size, oval in shape, obliquely placed, at the middle of the segments or slightly posterior to the middle of the same, opens marginally extends transversely up to the corticular region of the other side of the segments and measures 0.235 in length and 0.159 to 0.205 in breadth. The cirrus is thick, almost straight, slightly curved, contained within the cirrus pouch and measures 0.227 in length and 0.015 to 0.023 in breadth. The vas deferens is short, thin, extends anteriorly and measures 0.227 in length and 0.008 to 0.015 in breadth.

The ovary is large in size, 'U' shaped in appearance, lobes extend anteriorly, with irregular margin, situated near the posterior margin of the segments, each lobe with 15-16 short, blunt, round acini and measures 0.545 in length and 0.121 to 0.152 in breadth. The vagina is a thin tube, long, anterior to the cirrus pouch, starts from the common genital pore, extends obliquely for a short distance, takes a curve to the posterior side, runs in the middle of the segments, reaches and opens in to the ootype and measures 1.099 in length and 0.015 to 0.030 in breadth. The ootype is large in size, oval in shape, with irregular margin, posteroventral to the isthmus, placed near the posterior of the segments and measures 0.121 in length and 0.083 to 0.114 in breadth. The genital pores are medium in size oval in shape, elongated, marginal, irregularly alternate, situated at the middle of the segments or slightly posterior to the middle of the same and

measures 0.144 in length and 0.623 to 0.038 in breadth. The longitudinal excretory canals are thin, on both the lateral sides of the segments and measure 0.015 in width. The vitellaria are granular, corticular, thin strips on both the lateral sides and from the anterior to the posterior margin of the segments.

DISCUSSION

After going through the literature the worm under discussion, turned out to be *Tylocephalum marsupium* Linton, 1916 however, it differs from it, in some characters, which are as follow,

The scolex is globular and small as against relatively large. The number of testes is 25-30 as against 30-32. The ovary is large in size 'U' shaped in appearance with 15-16 short, blunt, round acini as against lobed. As the above characters are minor, it is redescribed here as *Tylocephalum marsupium* Linton, 1916. Linton, 1916 reported *T. marsupium* from *Aetobatis narinari* at Ceylon, whereas the present worms are being reported, from *Trygon sephen* Cuvier, 1871 at Panhi, Goa state (West coast of India), India.

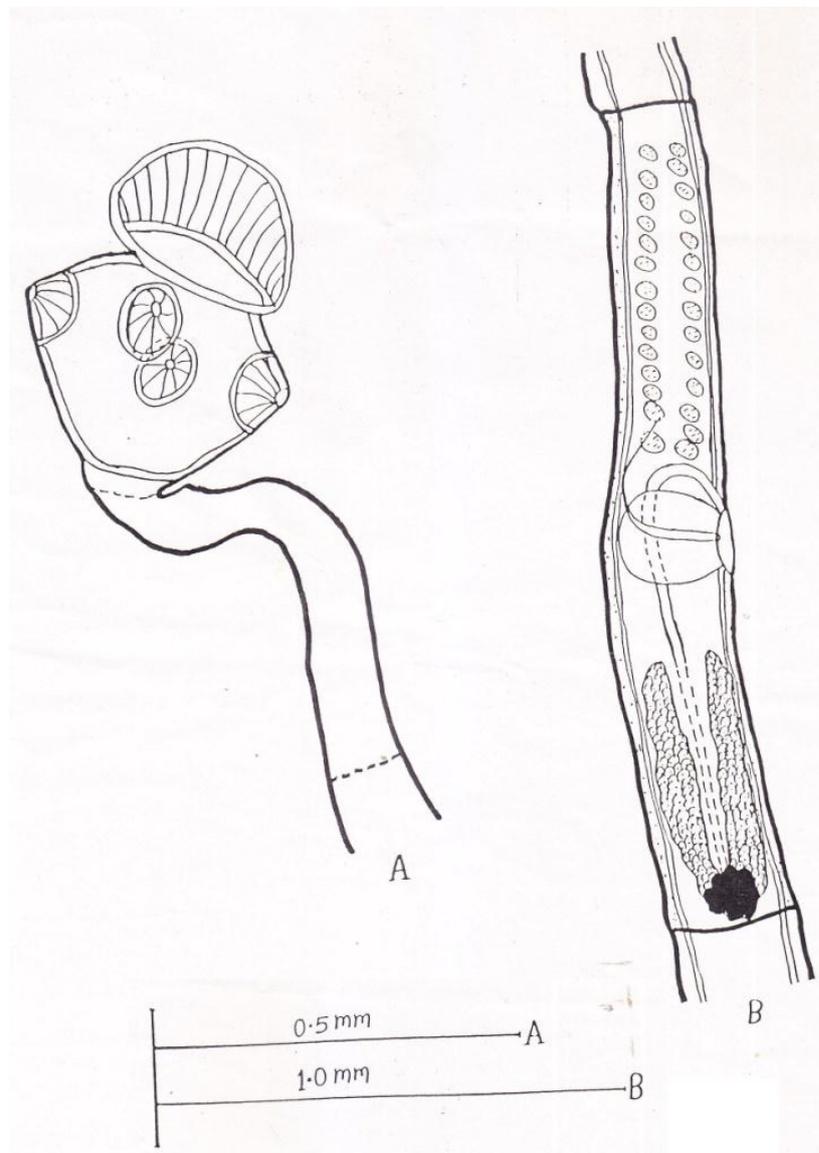


Figure 1. *Tylocephalum marsupium* Linton, 1916. (A: Scolex, B: Mature segment)

Type Species	: <i>Tylocephalum marsupium</i> Linton, 1916.
Host	: <i>Trygon sephen</i> Cuvier, 1871.
Habitat	: Spiral valve.
Locality	: Panji, Goa state, (West coast of India), India.
Date of Collection	: 8 th February, 1991.

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