

Studies on New Species of Cestode Parasite *Flapoccephalus Zugei* Sp. Nov. (Cestoda: Lecanicephalidae Braun, 1900) of *Trygon Zugei* From Mumbai Coast of Maharashtra

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Abstract:

The present communication deals with a new species of the genus *Flapoccephalus* i.e. *F. zugei* sp. nov. of Mumbai coast, M.S. India. A new species of the cestode *Flapoccephalus zugei* obtained from the host *Trygon zugei* is described. A detailed examination of specimens has allowed us to erect a new species *Flapoccephalus zugei* to accommodate the worm. It shows remarkable differences from other known species of *Flapoccephalus*. The scolex is small in size, globular in shape. The scolex is divided into two regions, anterior region is small in size, oval having two globular flaps. The posterior region is medium, almost cushion like structure, bearing medium accessory suckers at anterior part. The flaps are small, globular. The accessory suckers are medium in size round in shape. The scolex is followed by short neck. The genital pores are medium in size, oval. The vitelline follicles are granular, on each lateral side and from anterior to the posterior margin of the segments. The longitudinal excretory canals are medium.

Keywords: Cestode parasites, *Flapoccephalus zugei*, *Trygon zugei*, Mumbai coast

Introduction:

The genus *Flapoccephalus* is erected by Deshmukh, 1977 as a *Flapoccephalus trygon* from *Trygon sephen* Cuvier, (1871) at Ratnagiri. Later on Shinde and Deshmukh added some more new species as a *Flapoccephalus saurashtra* from *Trygon sephen* Shinde and Deshmukh, (1979) at Ratnagiri, M.S. India.

Materials And Methods:

These cestodes were flattened in 4% formalin, pinned in alcoholic grades, stained with Borax carmine and mounted in D.P.X. and whole mount slides were prepared for further anatomical studies.

Description:

The scolex is small in size, globular in shape, broadly marked off from the strobila, narrow anteriorly, broad posteriorly and measures 0.873 (0.843-0.913) in length and 0.722 (0.660-0.877) in breadth. The scolex is divided into two regions. The anterior region is small in size, oval in shape, represented by two globular flaps, flaps are thickly muscular with transverse arrangement of muscle fibres and measure 0.364 (0.293-0.715) in length and 0.181 (0.170-0.197) in breadth. The posterior region of the scolex is medium size, almost cushion like structure, bearing medium accessory suckers at anterior part of the scolex and measures 0.744 (0.738-0.761) in length and breadth respectively. The flaps are small in size, globular in shape and measures 0.011 (0.009-0.014) in length 0.216 (0.213-0.219) in breadth. The accessory suckers are medium in size round in shape and measures 0.048 in diameter. The scolex is followed by short neck, thin, narrow anteriorly, slightly broader posteriorly and measures 0.211 (0.208-0.213) in length 0.043 (0.040-0.048) in breadth. The mature segment are longer than broad, tapering at the anterior end and measure 0.614 (0.604-0.621) in length and 0.232 (0.222-0.242) in breadth. The testes are medium in size, oval in shape, 77 (75-80) in number, preovarian and measures 0.033 (0.014-0.019) in length and 0.004 (0.007-0.0014) in breadth. The cirrus pouch is large size, almost oval in shape, slightly anteriorly directed, placed almost 1/3rd from the anterior margin of the segments and measures 1.703 (1.640-1.760) in length and 1.804 (2.137-1.421) breadth. The cirrus is wide, slightly coiled, thin, curve anteriorly, contained within the cirrus pouch and measures 0.035 (0.022-0.043) in length and 0.036 (0.024-0.048) in breadth.

The vas deferens is anteriorly directed, thin and measures 0.035 (0.022-0.048) in length and 0.036 (0.024-0.048) breadth. The ovary large in size, U shaped in appearance indistinctly bilobed, near the posterior margin of the segments, lobes extends anteriorly and measures 0.123 (0.121-0.126) in length and 0.0121 (0.097-0.0145) in breadth. The vagina is wide, starts from the genital pores, posterior to the cirrus pouch, runs for a short distance, enlarges and forms the receptaculum seminis of the outpe and enormous size, which runs posteriorly and open into and measures 0.844 (0.834-0.854) in length and 0.0227 (0.0121-0.0247) in breadth. The receptaculum seminis is medium in size, oval in shape, and measures 0.243 (0.0194-0.0292) in length and