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PARORCHIS AVITUS (Linton 1914)

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The morphology of *Parorchis avitus* was described by Linton in 1914. Further study on the morphology of this species was done by Stunkard and Cable in 1932. Findings of these two workers confirmed Linton's descriptions and in addition revealed more information such as length, width of pharynx, and width of acetabulum.

On July, 7th 1965, two specimens of *P. avitus* were recovered from the intestine of *Tringa hypoleucos* in Kenya. The trematodes were fixed in A.F.A., stained in Delafield's Hematoxylin and mounted in permount. The study of these specimens showed their similarity to those specimens studied by Stunkard and Cable in 1932. The average measurements in Microns of the two specimens studied are: length 3,410; width, at the widest region just posterior to the acetabulum, 1,914; oral sucker 393 × 383; acetabulum 908 × 908; right testis 315 × 307; ovary 225 × 208; egg 70 × 39. A collar occurs around the oral sucker; the collar is more prominently spined on the ventral side. Cuticle spined, spines being more intensive in the region between the anterior extremity and the acetabulum. The spines become more and more sparse as one approaches the posterior end.

DISCUSSION

Our specimens have everything else in common with *Parorchis avitus* except for the measurements. The other related species is *P. snipis* described from *Totanus hypoleucos* by Lal in 1936; however, *P. snipis* differs in having a shorter aesophagus, and complete lack of spines on the posterior end. Intestinal caece are relatively straight as compared to those of our specimens, which are more convoluted; and complete lack of recurrent excretory tubercle. Stunkard and Cable's specimens of *P. avitus* have average measurements of length 1,800 compared to ours of 3,410; oral sucker 236 wide as compared to ours of 390 × 383; acetabulum 433 wide as compared to ours of 908 × 908; pharynx 100 wide as compared to ours of 214 × 165.

Since the characteristics of *P. avitus* as described by Stunkard and Cable fit in well with those of our specimens, and since Stunkard and Cable's do not show any evidence of eggs being present we think that specimens studied by the two workers (15 days old) were not mature enough, and therefore, did not attain full growth. Present evidence as brought out by our study shows that *P. avitus* is a much larger species than Stunkard and Cable have shown.

LITERATURE CITED

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