

OTODISTOMUM CESTOIDES (VAN BENEDEN, 1871) FROM TWO SPECIES OF SKATES TAKEN IN CHILEAN WATERS

WILLIAM THRELFALL* & JUAN CARVAJAL G.**

Otodistomum cestoides (van Beneden, 1871) (Azygiidae: Digenea) is reported for the first time from *Psammobatis scobina* and *Raja flavirostris*. The skates were caught off the coast of San Antonio, Chile.

Key words: *Otodistomum cestoides* – *Psammobatis scobina* – *Raja flavirostris* – Chile

During a study of the metazoan parasites of chondrichthyans from Chile two specimens of *Otodistomum cestoides* (van Beneden, 1871) were recovered from a single *Psammobatis scobina* that was necropsied, and one specimen from a *Raja flavirostris* (three examined). Both findings constitute new host records.

Description: (Based on three specimens, two whole, one sectioned: all measurements in microns unless otherwise stated). Creamy-white aspinose worms, 17.3-18.0mm long, 2.8-3.8mm wide. Oval in transverse section being up to 2mm thick dorsoventrally in region of ventral sucker. Oral sucker subterminal, 889-969 x 969-1163, while the ventral sucker was 1379-1744 in diameter. No prepharynx, with the pharynx being 376-456 x 353-462. Oesophagus short, ceca wide undulating and almost reaching posterior end of body. Genital pore median, ventral, lying just to posterior of pharynx. "Prostatic sac" large, oval, thin-walled, located between pharynx and ventral sucker, 1060-1322 x 638-798, containing a seminal vesicle 524-821 x 228-239. Ovary pyriform 376-570 x 627-730. Testes tandem, globular to pyriform, just posterior to the ovary: anterior testis 627-684 x 741-912, posterior testis 741-798 x 741-1037. Uterus much-coiled and extending from the anterior of the ovary to the posterior of the ventral sucker.

Vitelline follicles small round to oval bodies, 80-137 (109) diameter, extending from a point 23-30 percent of the total body length from the anterior end to within 12 percent of the posterior end. The eggs measured 70-90 x 40-60 (80 ± 4.3 x 53 ± 4.9). The egg shell (30 measured: 3.0 – 5.3 thick; 4.1 ± 0.5) appeared to be composed of three layers with the inner one (0.5 – 2.0 thick; 1.2 ± 0.4) being either brown, or shiny and highly refractile (84 percent, 16 percent respectively). The eggs have an operculum that has a somewhat thinner wall than the rest of the egg (3.0 – 3.8; 3.4 ± 0.4).

Specimens deposited: U.S. National Parasite Collection, USDA, Beltsville, Maryland, 20705. USNM Helm. Coll. Nos. 79099 – 79100.

Taxonomic comments: Yamaguti (1971) listed six species in the genus *Otodistomum* Stafford, 1904, including *O. veliporum* (Creplin, 1837) as the type species. The taxonomy of this genus and particularly that of *O. veliporum* (in which three subspecies are recognized) and *O. cestoides* (van Beneden, 1871) is very confused. Brinkmann (1975) recognizes only *O. veliporum* relegating all other species to synonymy, while Gibson (1976a; b) presents evidence for the existence of *O. veliporum* and *O. cestoides* as distinct species. The present work confirms the species characteristics of *O. cestoides* outlined by Gibson (1976a; b), i.e. egg size, eggshell thickness, and extent of vitelline follicles.

RESUMO

Otodistomum cestoides (van Beneden, 1871) é encontrado pela primeira vez em *Psammobatis scobina* e *Raja flavirostris*. As raias foram apanhadas ao longo da costa do Chile.

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*Department of Biology, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada, A1B 3X9.

**Laboratorio de Zoología, Facultad de Ciencias Biológicas, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Santiago, Chile.

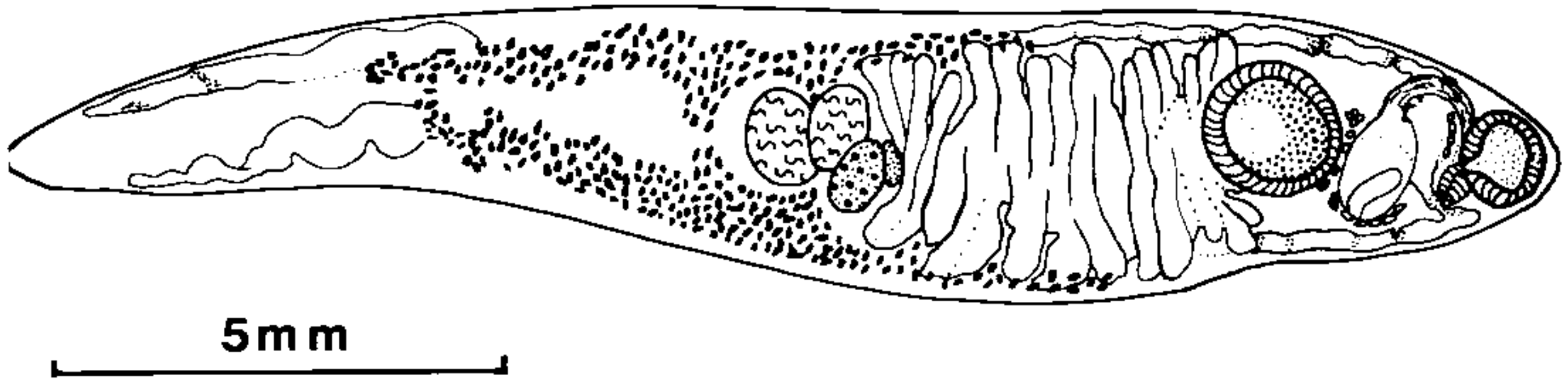


Fig. 1: *Otodistomum cestoides* (van Beneden, 1871) from *Raja flavirostris* taken in Chile.

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