

NEW MORPHOLOGICAL DATA ON *OPECOELOIDES PEDICATHEDRAE*  
TRAVASSOS, FREITAS & BÜHRNHEIM, 1966  
(DIGENEA : OPECOELIDAE)

BERENICE M.M. FERNANDES, ANNA KOHN & R. MAGALHÃES PINTO

*New morphological data on the ventral sucker of Opecoeloides pedicathedrae with ten papilliform processes, original figures and measurements, are reported.*

We recovered 23 specimens of *O. pedicathedrae* from the intestine of one out of three *Menticirrhus americanus* examined. In these specimens we could observe ten papilliform processes, instead of only the six previously described by Travassos, Freitas & Bührnheim (1966) and by Fábio (1976).

The trematodes were stained in alcoholic-acid carmine, dehydrated in EtOH, cleared in Faia's creosote and mounted in Canada balsam. The illustrations were made with the aid of a drawing tube.

Measurements in millimeters of 10 wholmounts: Body elongated 2.35 to 6.83 in length by 0.26 to 0.71 in width. Oral sucker 0.18 to 0.27 long by 0.12 to 0.25 wide. Acetabulum pedunculated 0.34 to 0.47 in depth by 0.26 to 0.59 in longitudinal diameter, with two lips; each lip is formed by two fingerlike papilliform bilobed lobes and one median papillae, in a total of ten papilliform processes (Fig. 2). Accessory sucker 0.06 to 0.12 long by 0.07 to 0.13 wide. Pharynx 0.08 to 0.15 long by 0.08 to 0.12 wide, esophagus present; caeca opening into excretory vesicle at posterior extremity. Seminal vesicle 0.11 to 0.43 long by 0.13 to 0.15 wide. Testes rounded or lobed; anterior testis 0.18 to 0.42 long by 0.15 to 0.35 wide; posterior testis 0.20 to 0.47 long by 0.16 to 0.38 wide. Ovary 0.06 to 0.23 long by 0.08 to 0.32 wide. Eggs 0.059 to 0.068 long by 0.026 to 0.034 wide.

Host: *Menticirrhus americanus* (Linnaeus, 1758), Sciaenidae, "papa-terra".

Site of infection: Intestine.

Locality: Araruama, Rio de Janeiro State, Brazil.

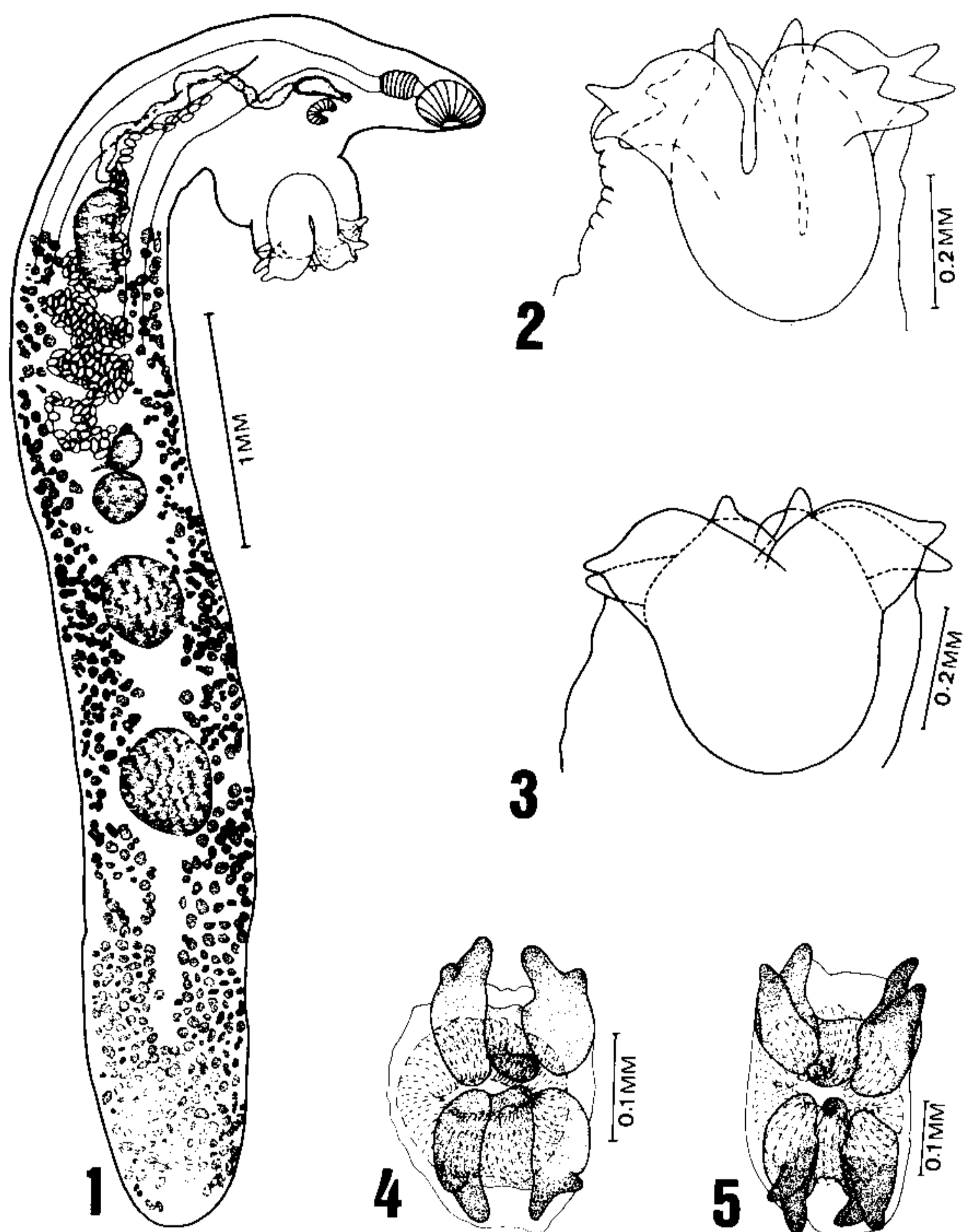
Specimens deposited in the Helminthological Collection of the Oswaldo Cruz Institute no. 32.130 a-1.

## DISCUSSION

*Opecoeloides pedicathedrae* was described from two specimens collected from the stomach of *Umbrina coroides* from Espírito Santo State, Brazil, as having six papilliform acetabular processes: three anterior and three posterior. In 1975 Fábio redescribed it from the intestine of *Menticirrhus americanus* from Rio de Janeiro State and confirmed the six acetabular papillae, although this number was not shown in figs. 2 and 4.

We examined the two specimens studied by Travassos & col. (IOC. Helm. Coll. no. 29.976 and 29.977), and in fact, it is impossible to distinguish more than the three pairs shown. We suppose that this was due to the position of the acetabulum, lateral in the type specimen and retracted in the paratype. Although most of our specimens present ten papilliform processes (Fig. 2), a few of them seem to have only six (Fig. 3), as previously reported. This apparent difference may be explained by the "en face" view of the acetabulum (Figs. 4, 5). The bilobed lobe may be weakly divided with one papilliform process more developed than the other (Fig. 5), in such a way that in a lateral view the acetabulum seems to have only six papillae (Fig. 3).

We had also the opportunity to examine Fábio's material (IOC. Helm. Coll. no. 31.202 a-1) and all the specimens have ten papilliform processes.



*Opecoeloides pedicathedrae* Travassos, Freitas & Bührnheim, 1966. Original figures. Fig. 1: total, I.O.C. Helm. Coll. no. 32.130 f. Fig. 2: acetabulum showing ten papilliform processes, I.O.C. Helm. Coll. no. 32.130 i. Fig. 3: acetabulum showing six papilliform processes, I.O.C. Helm. Coll. no. 32.130 b. Fig. 4: "en face" view of the acetabulum showing feeble papilliform processes, I.O.C. Helm. Coll. no. 32.130 j. Fig. 5: "en face" view of the acetabulum showing well delimited papilliform processes, I.O.C. Helm. Coll. no. 32.130 l.

## RESUMO

São apresentados na presente nota, novos dados morfológicos sobre o acetábulo de *Opecoeloides pedicathedrae* com dez estruturas papiliformes ao invés de seis previamente descritas, figuras originais e medidas.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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