

Taxonomic studies on dilepididae cestode genus *valipora* Linton, 1927 (Dilepididae-wardle, mcLeod and Radinovsky, 1974) from *columba livia*

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ABSTRACT

The present investigation deals with the taxonomic observation of Dilepididean tapeworm *Valipora macrorostratum* Sp.Nov. collected from intestine of a *Columba livia* at various places of Dharmabad Dist.- Nanded(M.S.) India. The present form comes closer to all the known valid species of this genus in general topography of organs but differs due to some characters Scolex rounded to oval, distinctly marked off from the segments, suckers four, rostellum conical, armed with 90-100, 'V' shaped hooks, neck elongated, mature segments two times broader than long, testes small, oval to rounded, 20-25 in numbers, cirrus pouch medium, oval to rounded, cirrus thin, straight, within the cirrus pouch, vas deferens small, coiled, genital pore small, marginal, unilateral, vagina anterior to cirrus pouch, receptaculum seminis small tube, ovary compact, apple shaped, ootype small, oval, vitelline gland compact, post-ovarian, longitudinal excretory canal runs on either side of segment, gravid segments longer than broad, uterus sac like, filled with egg capsules.

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Linton, 1927 erected the genus *Valipora* with type species *V.mutabilis* from *Nycticorax nycticorax* in U.S.A. and Europe. He also added one more species *V.parvispine* in 1927 from *Gavina inner*, U.S.A. and Europe. Later on Capoor and Shrivastava added *V.sultanpurensis* in 1974 from *Nycticorax nycticorax*. Subsequently Capoor and Shrivastava (1982) reported *V.amethiensis* from *Bubulens ibis*. Sonune M.B. and Shinde G.B. (1990) added *V. Marathwadensis* from *Turdiodes caudate*, and *V.Maharashtrii* from *Tringaglareola* in India. C.J.Hiware and B.V.Jadhav (1994) reported *V.yamagutii*. Jadhav *et al.* (1994) described *V.Shindei* from *Bubo bubo* at Basar (A.P.). *Valipora Kallamensis* Pawar and Shinde 2003 have been reported from the host like *Acridotherus tristis* from Kallam, District Osmanabad (M.S.), India. P.S.Patil and S.N.Borde (2007) described another species of *Valipora* *nalinae* from *Columba livia* under the family Dilepididae from Makni, District Osmanabad (M.S.), India. Later on D.V.Menkudale *et al.* (2008) reported *Valipora columbae* from the intestine of *Columba livia* at Kallam, District – Osmanabad, (M.S.) India.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Thirteen cestode parasites were collected from the intestine of *Columba livia* at Dharmabad, district - Nanded. (M.S.), India, during the period of July, 2006 to June 2009. These cestode parasites are preserved in 4% formalin, passed through various alcoholic grades, stained with Harri's Haematoxyline, cleared in xylene, mounted in D.P.X. and drawings were made with the aid of Camera Lucida. All measurements are recorded in millimeter.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

(Description Based On 13 Specimens)(Fig. 1 and 2)

All worms are small, medium in size with scolex, immature, mature and gravid proglottids having 28-30 segments and measures 20-25 mm in length. Scolex rounded to oval in shape, distinctly marked off from the segments and measures 0.954 (0.901-1.00) x 0.567 (0.477-0.657) in length and breadth. Scolex bears four suckers, which is oval to rounded, overlapping to each other in two groups and measures 0.302 (0.233-0.371) x 0.201 (0.190-0.212) in length and breadth. Rostellum conical in shape, present at anterior tip of scolex and measures 0.174 (0.159-0.190) x 0.132 (0.106-0.159) in length and breadth. Rostellum armed with hooks, they are small, inverted 'V' shaped, 90-100 in number and measures 0.013 (0.010-0.015) x 0.007 (0.005-0.010) in

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