**ABSTRACT**

The present paper deals with description of a new species of the genus *Mehdiangularia* Shinde (1969) collected a new species *Mehdiangularia affinisae* new species collected from the intestine of house swift, *Apus affinis*, at Karjat, Dist. Ahmednagar, which differs from *Mehdiangularia swifti*, Shinde, 1969; *Mehdiangularia shastri*, *Mehdiangularia apusae* and *Mehdiangularia thapari* Jadhav et al., 1993 in the shape and size of scolex, number of rostellar hooks, size of rostellar sac, the testes number, shape of cirrus pouch, position of genital pore and in shape and size and position of vitelline gland.

**Key words**: *Mehdiangularia affinisae, Apus affinis, Intestine*

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**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Eleven cestode parasites, were collected from the intestine of house swift, *Apus affinis*. All were flattened, preserved in 4% formalin, washed with tap water, stained in Harri’s haematoxyline, and whole amount slides were prepared for further taxonomical and anatomical studies. Sketches were drawn with the aid of camera lucida. All measurement are given in millimeter.

**Description:**

*(Based on Fig. A,B,C,D,E)*

The worms were medium in length, with thin musculature, scolex, numerous immature and mature segments; scolex medium, conical in shape, narrow anteriorly, broad in middle, slightly tapering posteriorly, distinctly marked off the strobila; slightly wider than long; with rostellulm, rostellar hooks, 0.679-0.654 x 0.776-0.053; rostellum large, oval, situated at tip of the scolex, armed, 0.262 x 0.252; rostellar hooks 14 in number, T shaped in appearance, medium, situated in single circle, anterior ends divided into two parts, each projecting on either side of the main cylindrical shaft (handle) of the hook, 0.136-0.175 x 0.019-0.034; rostellar sac large, cylindrical, muscular, extends up to the middle of suckers, 0.557 x 0.141-0.199; sucker 4 in number, large, oval, arranged in two pairs, situated at the posterior end of scolex, one pair in each half of it, overlapping on each other, in each pair, 0.262-0.306 x 0.204 – 0.277; neck is absent; mature segments medium, almost quadrangular, broader than long,
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The worm under discussion, differs from *Mehdiangularia sswifi* in having scolex (small, truncated in appearance vs. conical, medium, broad at the middle); in the number of rostellar hooks (20 vs. 14); in rostellar sac (small, extends upto equator of sucker vs. large, cylindrical, extends upto middle of the suckers); in testes number (28 vs. 31); shape and size of cirrus pouch (spindle shaped, 0.17 x 0.05 vs. Bean shaped in appearance, medium, 0.165 x 0.029 – 0.043); position of genital pores (regularly alternate vs. irregularly alternate); shape and size of vitelline gland (small, not prominent, vs. medium, oval); further it differs from *Mehdiangularia shashtri* in having scolex (small, barrel shaped vs. medium, conical, broad at the middle), number of rostellar hooks (18 vs. 14); position of rostellar sac (extends posteriorly, beyond posterior margin of the suckers, 0.330 x 0.145-0.215 vs. large, cylindrical, extends upto the middle of the suckers, 0.557 x 0.141-0.199); in the number of testes (30 vs. 31); in shape of cirrus pouch (Fusiform, slightly obliquely placed, 0.509 x 0.024 – 0.121 vs. Bean shaped, medium, 0.165 x 0.009 – 0.043) and in shape and size of ovary (small, bilobed vs. single mass, bean shaped appearance; follicular) also differs from *Mehdiangularia apusae* in shape of scolex (Barrel shaped, broader at the base, narrow of the tip vs. conical, narrow anteriorly, broad at the middle); in testes number (32-35 vs. 31); in number of rostellar hooks (24 vs. 14); shape of cirrus pouch (oval, extending posteriorly upto the suckers, 0.019 x 0.024 vs. bean shaped, 0.165 x 0.029-0.043); cirrus (unarmed vs. armed) and in shape and size of ovary (large, bilobed, round to oval vs. single mass, bean shaped, follicular); and from *Mehdiangularia thapari* in shape and size of scolex (Big, barrel shaped vs. broader at the base, narrow at the tips); in the number of rostellar hooks (26 vs. 44); in rostellar sac (medium, oval, 0.060 x 0.034 vs. 14 large, cylindrical, extends almost upto the middle of the suckers, 0.559 x 0.141-0.199); in testes number (38-40 vs. 31); in shape, size and position of cirrus pouch (long, cylindrical, oblique, 0.681 x 0.007 – 0.098); in shape of ovary (bilobed, follicular vs. single mass, bean shaped in appearance) and in shape of vitelline gland (Roughly triangular vs. medium, oval, compact).

As the above differentiating characters, are enough, to erect a new species, to accommodate these worms and hence the name *Mehdiangularia affinisae* n.sp. is proposed after the species name of the host.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type species</th>
<th><em>Mehdiangularia affinisae</em> n.sp.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Host</td>
<td><em>Apus affinis</em> (Gray, 1830).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Habitat</td>
<td>Intestine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locality</td>
<td>Karjaat, Dist. Ahmednagar, M.S. India.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date of collection</td>
<td>30th October, 1993.</td>
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</tbody>
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