Spinitectus corti, a fish Nematode New to Ceylon

By

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DURING a study by one of us (H. H. C.) of the food habits and the ecology of parasites of the fish *Ophiocephalus gachua kelaarti* Gunther in the Peradeniya district a few specimens of *Spinitectus* (both males and females) were found. These specimens were later identified to be *Spinitectus corti* Moorthy.

Males.—The males collected vary in length from 1.40—1.71mm and the maximum thickness is about 0.126 mm. The cuticle bears about 29 rows of spines, the anteriormost being 0.126 mm from the cephalic end. The first two rows of spines lying anterior to the level of the nerve ring are closer together. The number of spines on the first row is 20 and in the ninth row is 24. The lips are inconspicuous and there are two pairs of submedian papillae and a pair of amphids situated laterally. The nerve ring is 0.133 mm from the head end and the excretory pore is situated 0.248 mm from the cephalic end. The mouth leads into a funnel shaped buccal capsule 0.0259 mm long. The entire length of the oesophagus which follows is 0.442 mm of which 0.130mm is occupied by the shorter muscular portion and 0.313 mm by the glandular portion. Testis is single extending from the middle of the body to the posterior end of the oesophagus. The tail measuring 0.089 mm in length is curved ventrally. The caudal alae are slightly developed and extend about 0.168 mm from tip of tail to some distance beyond the cloacal aperture. There are ten pairs of caudal papillae of which three pairs are preanal, one pair adanal and six pairs postanal. The last three pairs of postanal papillae from a group near the tip of the tail. The spicules are both unequal in length and dissimilar in shape. The two spicules measure 0.350 mm and 0.070 mm, the left being about five times longer than the right.

Females.—The female specimens collected by us agree closely with the description given by Moorthy (1938). The principal measurements are as follows—.Length 1.092—1.634 mm; maximum width 0.154—0.168 mm. Anterior row of spines 0.126 mm from the head end. Number of spinous rings 40—50; number of spines in the first row is 24 and in the ninth row is 34. The nerve ring and the excretory pore are situated 0.137 and 0.233 mm respectively from the cephalic extremity. Length of oesophagus is 0.396 mm; muscular portion is 0.155 mm and the glandular portion 0.233 mm. Tail 0.067 mm and vulva 0.289 mm from tip of tail. Eggs are elliptical and measure 0.0296 mm by 0.195 mm.

Larval forms.—Three larval forms of *Spinitectus corti* have been collected from the atyid shrimp *Cardina simoni* Bouvier.

Distribution.—Mysore, Hyderabad, (India); now from Peradeniya, (Ceylon).

Remarks.—This is the first *Spinitectus* species to be recorded from Ceylon. The original description was made by Moorthy (1938) on a few females collected from *Ophiocephalus gachua*. The male specimens were described later by Ali (1956). The specimens described by us resemble very closely those of the original descriptions except for the differences in size measurements and in the number of spines in the first and the ninth spinous rings.

REFERENCES

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Spinitectus corti Moorthy : Female, anterior end slighly contracted.