

## FIRST RECORD OF *HELMINTHOXYS GIGANTEA* (QUENTIN, COURTIN ET FONTECILLA, 1975) (NEMATODA: OXYURIDA) IN ARGENTINA

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**ABSTRACT:** The oxyurid species *Helminthoxys gigantea* (Quentin, Courtin et Fontecilla, 1975) Hugot, 1988 was first described in *Octodon degus* (Molina, 1782) (Rodentia: Caviomorpha) from Chile. In the present note it is redescribed from a new host, the caviomorphan species *Octodon bridgesi* Waterhouse, 1844, as well as recorded from a new locality. This is the first record of this parasite in Argentina.

**KEY WORDS:** Nematoda, Oxyurida, *Helminthoxys gigantea*, Rodentia, Caviomorpha, *Octodon bridgesi*, Argentina.

### INTRODUCTION

*Helminthoxys gigantea* (Quentin, Courtin et Fontecilla, 1975) (Nematoda: Oxyurida) was first described in *Octodon degus* (Molina, 1782) (Rodentia: Caviomorpha) from Chile as the single species of a new genus: *Octodontoxys* Quentin, Courtin et Fontecilla, 1975 (QUENTIN, COURTIN & FONTECILLA, 1975). HUGOT (1988) considered *Octodontoxys* a later synonym of *Helminthoxys* Freitas, Lent et Almeida, 1937. During a survey of the rodent fauna of Neuquén Province, in Argentina, this nematode species was found in a new host: *Octodon bridgesi* Waterhouse, 1844 (Rodentia: Caviomorpha). This is the first record of this parasite in Argentina.

### RESULTS

#### *Helminthoxys gigantea* (Quentin, Courtin et Fontecilla, 1975) Hugot, 1988

**Synonym:** *Octodontoxys gigantea* Quentin, Courtin et Fontecilla, 1975.

**Host:** *Octodon bridgesi* Waterhouse, 1844 (Rodentia: Caviomorpha).

**Location in the host:** caecum.

**Material:** 5 males and 1 immature female: Colección del Museo de La Plata (MLP), Sección Helmintología No. 1605 D; 2 males: MNHN, PARIS-COLLVERS No. 471 KH.

**Locality:** vicinity of lake Cunhué Chico (71°19'32" W; 39°54'18" S), Parque Nacional Lanín, Provincia de Neuquén, Argentina.

### Measurements

Measurements are given in micrometers. The first

numbers give the measures of one specimen. Those in brackets give the range for all the specimens collected in *O. bridgesi*, and those in square brackets the corresponding value given by QUENTIN, COURTIN & FONTECILLA (1975) in the original description of the species.

**Male:** Body length 14900 (10600-17400) [6320]; maximum width 448 (380-500) [250]; total oesophagus length 1278 (1100-1450) [700]; bulb length 332 (250-430) [200]; bulb width 266 (200-350) [115]; distance from apex to nervous ring 390 [180], to excretory pore 1800 [1200], to first mamelon 7625 (5500-8800) [3400], to second mamelon 9062 (6500-10450) [3900]; tail length 984 (878-1150) [900]; spicule length 211 (185-230) [234]; gubernaculum length 111 (100-120) [80].

**Female:** Body length 13500 [31500]; maximum width 420 [1000]; total oesophagus length 1150 [1600]; bulb length 270 [420]; bulb width 180 [310]; distance from apex to nervous ring 270 [300], to excretory pore 1830 [3800], to vulva 5000 [11400]; tail length 1900 [2850].

### Diagnosis

We consider the differences observed in the measurements as the normal range in the species, or, in the females, as being due to the immaturity of the single individual found in *O. bridgesi*. The morphological features of our specimens are identical to those of *Helminthoxys gigantea* as described by QUENTIN, COURTIN & FONTECILLA (1975) and we consider that they belong to this species.

### DISCUSSION

The genus *Helminthoxys* Freitas, Lent et Almeida, 1937 includes seven species, all of them parasitic on Caviomorpha Rodents (SUTTON, 1989):

- the type species *Helminthoxys caudatus* Freitas, Lent et Almeida, 1937 (= *Helminthoxys pujoli* Quentin, 1973), parasite of *Microcavia australis* (Geoffroy et d'Orbigny) in Argentina and of *Microcavia niata* (Thomas) in Bolivia;

  - H. effilatus* Schuurmans-Stekhoven, 1951 (= *Helminthoxys velizi* Parra Ormeño, 1953), parasite of *Lagidium viscacia boxi* Thomas in Argentina and of *Lagidium peruanum* Meyen in Bolivia and Peru;
  - H. freitasi* Quentin, 1969, parasite of *Thrichomys apereoides* Lund in Brazil;
  - H. tiflophila* (Vigueras, 1943), parasite of *Capromys prehensilis* Poeppig in Cuba;
  - H. quentini* Barus, 1972, parasite of *Capromys pilorides* (Say) in Cuba;
  - H. urichi* Cameron et Reesal, 1951, parasite of *Dasyprocta aguti* (Linnaeus) in Trinidad and in French Guyana;
  - H. gigantea* (Quentin, Courtin et Fontecilla, 1975), parasite of *Octodon degus* (Molina) in Chile and from *Octodon brigesi* Waterhouse in Argentina.

The present host adds another Caviomorpha species to the specific host range of the genus *Helminthoxys* from which two other species registered in Argentina have been recently redescribed (HUGOT & SUTTON, 1989): *H. effilatus* and *H. caudatus*.

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