

Steringovermes notacanthi* n. gen., n. sp. (Digenea: Fellodistomidae) from the deep-sea spiny eel *Notacanthus bonaparte* (Notacanthiformes: Notacanthidae) from the north eastern Atlantic and a new host record for *Olssonium turneri

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Abstract

Steringovermes notacanthi, a new genus and species of fellodistomine digenean, is described from the deep-sea spiny eel *Notacanthus bonaparte* from below 1,000m depth in the north eastern Atlantic. It differs from other related genera in the unique combination of a V-shaped excretory vesicle, multilobate, mainly post-testicular ovary and extensive vitelline fields extending into both the fore- and hindbody. In addition, the fellodistomine *Olssonium turneri* Bray & Gibson, 1980 is reported for the first time from a fish not of the genus *Alepocephalus*, namely the alepocephalid *Narcetes stomias*.

Key words: Digenea, Fellodistomidae, parasites, new species

Introduction

In a survey of the bathymetry of deep-sea digeneans, Bray (2004) pointed out that fellodistomids are one of the most commonly recovered digeneans in deep-water fishes. Several genera were considered to contain species which were restricted to waters deeper than about 200m, the approximate depth of the edge of the continental shelf. These genera are *Steringophorus* Odhner, 1905 (the most frequently encountered genus, see Bray *et al.*, 1999), *Hypertrema* Manter, 1960, *Olssonium* Bray & Gibson, 1980, *Prudhoeus* Bray & Gibson, 1980, *Benthotrema* Manter, 1934, *Megenteron* Manter, 1934, *Lissoloma* Manter, 1934 and *Lomasoma* Manter, 1935. In this paper, I describe a new genus from a deep-sea fish at depths greater than 1,000m, distinguishable from all the above genera by a unique combination of characters relating to the excretory vesicle, ovary and vitellarium. In addition, a new host record is given of the only known species of *Olssonium*.