



***Homalometron moraveci* n. sp. (Digenea: Apocreadiidae) in the yellowfin goatfish, *Mulloidichthys vanicolensis* (Valenciennes, 1831) (Perciformes: Mullidae), from New Caledonia and the Great Barrier Reef, with a checklist of digeneans of *Mulloidichthys* species**

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Abstract

Homalometron moraveci n. sp. is described from the yellowfin goatfish, *Mulloidichthys vanicolensis*, from the waters off New Caledonia and from the Swain Reefs of the Great Barrier Reef. Its unique combination of narrow, elongate body and long hermaphroditic duct reaching well into the hindbody, distinguish this species from all other species of *Homalometron*. A checklist of species of digeneans reported in species of *Mulloidichthys* shows that most of the records are of members of the Opecoelidae and this is the first record of an apocreadiid from this host genus.

Key words: Digenea, Apocreadiidae, *Homalometron moraveci* n. sp., Mullidae, *Mulloidichthys*, New Caledonia, Great Barrier Reef

Résumé

Homalometron moraveci n. sp. est décrit de *Mulloidichthys vanicolensis* de Nouvelle-Calédonie et des Swain Reefs du Récif de la Grande Barrière, Australie. L'espèce est distinguée de tous les autres *Homalometron* par sa combinaison unique de caractères, son corps allongé et étroit et son long canal hermaphrodite continuant bien dans l'arrière du corps. Une liste des espèces de digènes mentionnées chez les espèces de *Mulloidichthys* montre que la plupart sont des Opecoelidae, et que ceci constitue la première mention d'un Apocreadiidae dans ce genre d'hôte.

Introduction

Members of the mullid genus *Mulloidichthys* Whitley, 1929 are widespread in tropical reef waters of the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans. We have recovered, and report on here, specimens of the apocreadiid genus *Homalometron* Stafford, 1904 in the yellowfin goatfish *Mulloidichthys vanicolensis* (Valenciennes, 1831) from off New Caledonia and from the Swain Reefs in the southern Great Barrier Reef. As far as we are aware this is the first record of an apocreadiid in a member of the family Mullidae (Cribb & Bray 1999). The only previous record of a digenean from *M. vanicolensis* is that of a sanguinicolid blood-fluke *Phthinomita* sp. B, from Lizard Island in the northern Great Barrier Reef (Nolan & Cribb 2006). Some confusion exists in the identity of these goatfishes and it is likely that some records of digeneans from other named species of *Mulloidichthys* actually refer to records from *M. vanicolensis*.