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Orientocreadium elegans n. sp. and *Orientocreadium pseudobagri* Yamaguti (Digenea: Orientocreadiidae), from freshwater fish of the Primorsky region (southern far east, Russia) with a description of their life cycles

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Abstract

Until recently only one species from the genus *Orientocreadium* was recorded from the southern part of the Primorye Region, far eastern Russia: *O. pseudobagri* Yamaguti. A new species, *Orientocreadium elegans* **n. sp.**, was found recently in the yellow catfish, *Pelteobagrus fulvidraco* in rivers running into Khanka Lake and in the Arsenjevka River (part of the Ussuri River basin). It is distinguished from other species of *Orientocreadium* by possessing a body that is longer and narrower than *Orientocreadium pseudobagri* and shorter and narrower than *Orientocreadium siluri* and *Orientocreadium chaenogobii*. The suckers of *O. elegans* **n. sp.** are smaller than those of all other species of *Orientocreadium* and the pharynx is smaller than those of *O. siluri* and *O. chaenogobii*. *Orientocreadium elegans* **n. sp.** has spines on the cirrus and inside the metraterm and has the ovary in the posterior half of the body, differentiating it from *O. siluri*. *Orientocreadiium elegans* **n. sp.** has a cirrus sac that lies on the median line of the body dorsal to the ventral sucker, whereas the cirrus sac of *O. pseudobagri* passes laterally around the ventral sucker. Both trematode species use *Lymnaea* spp. snails as their first intermediate host, and tadpoles, freshwater fish and snails as the second intermediate host. The following fish have been recorded as definitive hosts in this region: the Amur sleeper, *Perccottus glehni* and *P. fulvidraco* for *O. pseudobagri*, and *P. fulvidraco* for *O. elegans* **n. sp.**

Key words: Parasite, Trematoda, Digenea, Orientocreadiidae, *Orientocreadium elegans* **n. sp.**, *Orientocreadium pseudobagri*, *Orientocreadium*, life cycle, metacercariae, taxonomy, Primorsky region, Russia

Introduction

Orientocreadium Tubangui was first recorded in the southern far east of Russia as *Macroderoides asiaticus* Belous (see Skrjabin & Antipina 1958). Bychowskaja-Pavlowskaja & Kulakova (1987) synonymized *M. asiaticus* with *Orientocreadium pseudobagri* Yamaguti. Originally described in Japan from the cut-tailed bullhead, *Pseudobagrus aurantiacus* (Temminck & Schlegel) (Bagridae) (see Skrjabin & Koval 1963), *O. pseudobagri* has subsequently been found in the Amur River basin from the Amur catfish, *Parasilurus asotus* Linnaeus (Siluridae) and the yellow catfish, *Pelteobagrus fulvidraco* (Richardson) (Bagridae) (see Strelkov 1971) and from *Pa. asotus* in the Razdolnaja River (Ermolenko 1992). This parasite was also recorded from the Amur sleeper, *Perccottus glehni* Dybowski (Odontobutidae) in the Khanka Lake basin (Besprozvannykh 1984). During our investigations of the parasite fauna of freshwater fish in the Primorye Region a new species of *Orientocreadium* was found which we describe herein. We undertook studies to elucidate the life cycle of both species of *Orientocreadium*. Here we present the morphology of the cercariae, the mode of cercarial infection of the second intermediate host and infection of metacercariae of the definitive host for both of these species of *Orientocreadium*.

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