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Macrourimegatrema brayi n. gen., n. sp. (Digenea: Opecoelidae) from four species of deep-sea macrourid fishes from the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea, with a list of endohelminths reported from species of *Bathygadus* and *Gadomus* (Macrouridae)

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Abstract

Macrourimegatrema brayi n. gen., n. sp. (Digenea: Opecoelidae: Plagioporinae) is described from the pyloric ceca and intestines of 4 species of bathygadine macrourid fishes collected from deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico and off Colombia and Panama. *Macrourimegatrema* n. gen. can be distinguished from all other genera in the subfamily by possessing a combination of the following diagnostic characteristics: an atypically large elongate body; a short, distinct forebody separated from a long hindbody by a distinct constriction at the level of the acetabulum; a terminal, funnel-shaped oral sucker; nearly equatorial ovary and testes and an unusual tubular excretory vesicle that winds between the 2 tandem testes. *Macrourimegatrema* n. gen. is most similar to the genus *Anabathycreadium*, but the former differs in having a smaller body size (6,000 *vs* 15,500 µm); a funnel-shaped oral sucker; a slightly protuberant acetabulum; suckers of equal size; an oval pharynx (rather than being ring-shaped); ceca that terminate some distance from the posterior extremity; a smaller cirrus sac that reaches only a short distance postacetabularly (rather than reaching to the level of the ovary); a genital pore that is bifurcal to slightly prebifurcal (rather than being at the posterior margin of the pharynx); numerous, small, follicular vitelline follicles that approach the level of the acetabulum anteriorly (rather than terminating well short of the level of the acetabulum); an ovary that is immediately pretesticular (rather than being far removed anteriorly from the anterior testis) and *M. brayi* n. gen., n. sp. has an unusual tubular excretory vesicle that winds between the 2 testes. Species of opecoelids are expected to utilize either a crustacean or fish second intermediate host, and the lack of fish reported for the food preferences of members of Bathygadinae studied here suggest that *M. brayi* n. gen., n. sp. probably infects its host through ingestion of a near-bottom pelagic crustacean. The precedence of using general body morphology of the species or its conformation to the characteristics of the 4 subfamilies of Opecoelidae is discussed.

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