

Redescription of *Rhipidocotyle jeffersoni* (Kohn, 1970) Overstreet & Curran, 2002 (Digenea: Bucephalidae)

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Abstract

Rhipidocotyle jeffersoni (Kohn, 1970) Overstreet & Curran, 2002 is redescribed, based on the holotype and on additional specimens from the intestine of the type-host *Salminus brasiliensis* (= *S. maxillosus*) (Characidae), collected at different dates and from several localities of the Paraná River and the hydroelectric power station reservoir of Itaipu, Paraná State, Brazil. *Rhipidocotyle jeffersoni* is compared with all other species in the genus to confirm its validity. New morphological data, such as different positions of the ovary, testes and caeca, and the extent of the uterus are presented and considered to be specific variations.

Key words: *Rhipidocotyle jeffersoni*, *Salminus brasiliensis*, freshwater fish parasite, Bucephalidae, Brazil

Introduction

During studies on the helminth parasite fauna of fishes from the Paraná River and its reservoir (at the hydroelectric power station of Itaipu), Paraná State, Brazil, a large number of specimens of *Rhipidocotyle jeffersoni* (Kohn, 1970) Overstreet & Curran, 2002 were collected from the intestine of *Salminus brasiliensis* (Cuvier) (= *S. maxillosus* Valenciennes) (Characidae) at three different localities. The genus *Pararhipidocotyle* (Kohn, 1970) was erected by Kohn (1970) for the new species *P. jeffersoni* collected from the intestine of *Salminus brasiliensis* (= *S. maxillosus*) from Mogi-Guaçu River, São Paulo State, Brazil, based on the posterior position of the ovary. Later, Overstreet & Curran (2002) reassigned this species to *Rhipidocotyle* as *Rhipidocotyle jeffersoni* observing that the ovary was anterior to the testes.