Rhabdias lamothei n. sp. (Nematoda: Rhabdiasidae) from Leptodeira maculata (Colubridae) in Mexico, including new records of R. fuscovenosa (Railliet, 1899) Goodey, 1924

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Abstract

Rhabdias lamothei n. sp. (Nematoda: Rhabdiasidae) from the lungs of Leptodeira maculata (Colubridae) is described and illustrated. This is the 53rd species assigned to the genus and the first species described from an endemic snake in Mexico. Rhabdias lamothei differs from all other species by having the combination of the following characters: body coiled, truncated anterior end, 6 lips, equatorial vulvae, esophagus length /body length ratio 8.36–12.46 (10.31%), tail length / body length ratio 4.49–12.28 (6.98%), and principally by the markedly elongated tail with a sharp terminal point. The geographical distribution of R. fuscovenosa is expanded in 13 localities and 6 new host records are provided.

Key words: Rhabdias lamothei n. sp., Rhabdias fuscovenosa, taxonomy, Nematoda, Rhabdiasidae, Leptodeira maculata, Colubridae, Mexico

Introduction

The cosmopolitan genus Rhabdias Stiles and Hassall, 1905 includes around 52 species, most of which are parasites of amphibians (Ranidae, Bufonidae) and reptiles (Colubridae) (Baker, 1987; Bursey et al., 2003; Goldberg and Bursey, 2005; Kuzmin, 2003; Kuzmin et al., 2003; Kuzmin et al., 2005; Lhermitte-Vallarino and Bain, 2004; Sarkar y Manna, 2004).

Eight species have been recorded parasitizing snakes (Bursey et al., 2003), 3 of them are distributed in the Americas, R. eustreptos (MacCallum, 1921) Chitwood and Chitwood, 1934, R. fuscovenosa (Railliet, 1899) Goodey, 1924 and R. vellardi Pereira, 1928.