



***Aoruroides cochinchinensis* sp. n. (Oxyurida: Thelastomatidae) from Vietnamese Panesthiinae wood-burrowing cockroaches**

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Abstract

A new thelastomatid species, *Aoruroides cochinchinensis* sp. n., is described from the hindgut of Vietnamese Panesthiinae cockroaches collected in Bi Doup-Nui Ba National Park. It is the first report of nematodes of the genus *Aoruroides* Travassos & Kloss, 1958 from mainland Asia. *Aoruroides cochinchinensis* sp. n. males are characterized by thorn-like cuticular projections on the head end, maximal value of de Man index *a* (19.5) within the genus, and the nerve ring situated on the border of corpus and isthmus. Earlier, only knob-like cervical cuticular projections were described for males of *A. queenslandensis* Jex, Cribb & Schneider, 2004.

Key words: *Aoruroides*, cockroach host, hindgut, LSU rDNA sequences, scanning electron microscopy, taxonomy.

Introduction

The genus *Aoruroides* was established by Travassos & Kloss 1958 to incorporate females of nematodes described by B.G. & M.B. Chitwood as representatives of the genus *Aorurus* Leidy, 1849, namely *A. philippinensis* (Chitwood & Chitwood, 1934). In this paper, the latter authors described oxyurid nematodes from hindgut of the Panesthiinae cockroaches collected on Philippine Islands and among them males which they assigned to *Leidynema nocalum*. It was accompanied with the description of immature females (fourth stage juvenile?) which they considered as conspecific with above mentioned males. Kloss (1960) demonstrated that these males did not belong to the genus *Leidynema* Schwenk, 1929, and established new genus *Philippinema* to incorporate them. In 1966, Kloss described the new species of the genus *Aoruroides*, *A. legionarius*, from Brazilian cockroaches. The description included the data for both males and females. In the same paper, Kloss indicated that male nematodes described as *Leidynema nocalum* (syn. *Philippinema nocalum*) were in fact males of the species *Aoruroides philippinensis* (syn. *Aorurus philippinensis*). The synonymy of *Philippinema* and *Aoruroides* was not clearly declared by Kloss (1966), but Adamson & Van Waerebeke (1992a) confirmed this synonymy in their review of thelastomatid taxonomy. Jex *et al.* (2004) also considered such males and females as conspecific and described new species of the genus *Aoruroides* from Australian Panesthiinae cockroaches. *Aoruroides cochinchinensis* sp. n. described below is the first report of the genus from mainland Asia.

Material and methods

Cockroaches were collected from rotten logs and kept in perforated plastic boxes during the transportation to the laboratory. Insects were killed with quick decapitation and dissected, the hindgut removed and transferred into 0.9% saline. For taxonomic identification the remaining body of cockroach was preserved in 96%