



## Article

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### ***Thryssatrema hanumantharaoi* n. gen., n. sp. (Digenea: Fellodistomidae) from the longjaw thryssa, *Thryssa setirostris* (Clupeiformes: Engraulidae), of the Visakhapatnam coast, Bay of Bengal**

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#### Abstract

*Thryssatrema hanumantharaoi* n. sp., representing a new genus of fellodistomid digenean, is described from a clupeoid fish, the longjaw thryssa, *Thryssa setirostris*, collected from the coast of Visakhapatnam, Bay of Bengal. The new genus is characterized by possessing a combination of the following features: An elongate body; poorly developed suckers; two oval, symmetrical testes situated in the posterior half of the hindbody; a cirrus sac that extends posterior to the ventral sucker; a bipartite seminal vesicle; a median genital pore situated immediately anterior to the ventral sucker; a lobed, pretesticular ovary; uterine coils that fill the entire hindbody; small eggs, elliptical vitelline follicles forming two zones anterolateral to the ovary; and a V-shaped excretory bladder. The new genus shows affinities to *Prudhoeus* and *Elopsium* but differs from the former in the body shape (elliptical versus oval), and by having poorly developed suckers, more posteriorly located gonads and elliptical vitelline follicles arranged in two lateral zones in front of ovary. It differs from *Elopsium* mainly in the body shape (elliptical versus rounded) and distribution of vitelline follicles and in the V-shaped excretory bladder.

**Key words:** Digenea, Fellodistomid, *Thryssatrema* n. gen., *Thryssatrema hanumantharaoi* n. sp., *Thryssa setirostris*, Clupeiformes, Engraulidae, longjaw thryssa, Bay of Bengal

#### Introduction

During our studies on metazoan parasites of clupeoid fishes of the Visakhapatnam coast, Bay of Bengal, infections with a fellodistomid trematode were found in an engrailed, the longjaw thryssa, *Thryssa setirostris* (Broussonet). Detailed study of its morphology revealed that it cannot be accommodated in any known genus of the family Fellodistomidae. Hence a new genus *Thryssatrema* n. gen. with *T. hanumantharaoi* n. sp. as the type species is erected here to include this form.

*Thryssa setirostris* belongs to the family Engraulidae, order Clupeiformes. It is a pelagic, neritic species that enters bays and estuaries, with the geographic distribution limited to Indo-Pacific region. One species of digenean *Parahemiurus merus* (Linton, 1910) from the Daya Bay, China has so far been recorded from this host (Shen & Tong 1990). There are several reports of digeneans from *Thryssa* spp. from the Indian region including 6 species of hemiurids: *Parahemiurus engraulisi* Gupta & Jahan, 1975 from *Thryssa mystax* (Bloch & Schneider) off the Puri coast; *Parahemiurus cameroni* Gupta & Ahmad, 1979 from *Thryssa hamiltoni* (Gray) off the Puri coast; *Parahemiurus hamiltoni* Hafeezullah, 1980 and *Parahemiurus yanamensis* Hafeezullah, 1980 from *Thryssa hamiltoni* from the Godavari Estuary; *Parahemiurus puriensis* Ahmad, 1981 from Dussumier's thryssa, *Thryssa dusumieri* (Valenciennes) off the Puri coast and *Erilepturus thrissocli* (Ahmad, 1980) Madhavi, 2011 from *Thryssa mystax* off the Puri coast; one species of gyliuchenid *Gyliuchen indicus* Gupta and Tandon, 1983 from *Thryssa hamiltoni* off Puri coast; one monorchiid *Opisthomonorchoides simhai* Gupta & Puri, 1984 from *Thryssa mystax* off Puri; one species of faustulid *Bacciger cochinchinensis* Hafeezullah & Siddiqi, 1970 from *Thryssa mystax* off Cochin, and the cephalogonimid *Masenia quiloni* (Gupta & Tandon, 1984) from *Thryssa mystax* off Kerala coast. *Thryssatrema hanumantharaoi* n. gen., n. sp. is the first fellodistomid to be reported from *Thryssa* Cuvier.