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Two new species of *Parasaveljevia* Wieser, 1953 (Thoracostomopsidae, Nematoda) from Argentinean coasts (Chubut, Argentina)

CATALINA PASTOR, VIRGINIA LO RUSSO & GABRIELA VILLARES

Centro Nacional Patagónico (CONICET). C.C. 128 (9120) Puerto Madryn, Chubut. ARGENTINA.

E-mail: pastor@cenpat-conicet.gob.ar

Abstract

Two new *Parasaveljevia* species are described, one from Puerto Madryn, and one from El Límite beach, San Jorge Gulf, Chubut Province, Argentina. The two species are characterised by a combination of characters. *Parasaveljevia uncinoia* n. sp. is characterised by having a long rectangular cirrus, positioned at the level of the inner labial setae, rectangular mandibles with prominent lateral hooks bearing denticles in three lines of nine each, and six cephalic setae of the same length, inserted at the anterior end of a small head capsule. *Parasaveljevia limitense* n. sp. is characterized by having a cirrus posterior positioned, between the labial and cephalic setae, rectangular-arched mandibles bearing denticles in five lines of ten each in a gradient of sizes; a small buccal cavity, small cephalic capsule and abundant cervical setae (4+10). An emendation of the genus diagnosis and a new key are given and discussed.

Key words: *Parasaveljevia uncinoia*, *Parasaveljevia limitense*, marine nematode, description, systematics

Introduction

In the period 2006–2012, two survey projects (PNUD/GEF 02/018; PID/CONICET N°11220090100440) were carried out to examine biodiversity of the meiofauna at several beaches along the Chubut Province, Argentinean Atlantic coast. Nematodes belonging to the genus *Parasaveljevia* Wieser 1953, were recovered, including some non-described forms, which are herein described.

The genus *Parasaveljevia* is a predatory group of free-living, marine nematode taxa belonging to the subfamily Enoplolaiminae De Coninck, 1965, which includes seventeen other “valid” genera (Smol & Coomans 2006). The diagnosis of *Parasaveljevia* given by Wieser in 1953 was not detailed, and did not establish clear boundaries between it and *Oxyonchus*, a closely related genus. In Wieser’s (1953) generic key for Enoplolaiminae, the diagnostic characters for *Parasaveljevia* are: lips high, labial sense-organs setose, teeth present and surpassing anterior end of mandibles, and mandibles well developed. Inglis (1964) illustrated morphological details of the heads of Enoplida, and added *Saveljevia*, *Parasaveljevia* and *Oxyonchus* as having large ventro-lateral teeth and a small dorsal tooth. He stated that these were important diagnostic characters separating them from other Enoplolaimidae. Smol & Coomans (2006) gave a similar diagnosis, adding the presence of cirri-shaped cephalic organs and presence or absence of denticles on mandibular plates, and suggesting that the limits of the *Parasaveljevia* and *Oxyonchus* genera remained unclear.

On Chilean coasts only one species, *P. cirrifera* Wieser 1953, was found by The Lund University Chile Expedition, and is the only species from which males are known. *Parasaveljevia lupata* Wieser 1953 and *P. clavicauda* (Filipjev 1927) are known only from females or juveniles.

The aim of this paper is to contribute a new diagnosis of *Parasaveljevia* and descriptions of two new species: *Parasaveljevia uncinoia* n. sp. and *Parasaveljevia limitensis* n. sp. from Patagonia, Argentina.

Materials and methods

Description of sites studied: Samples were collected from two littoral coastal sediments located in Chubut