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## Note on *Taenia confusa*

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### Note on *Taenia confusa*.

By Henry Baldwin Ward, Ph. D.

About a year ago I described in the *Western Medical Review* (Vol. I. pp. 35, 36) a new tape-worm under the name of *Taenia confusa*. Only two specimens of the form were available at that time and I have not been successful in obtaining others since then. During the past year, one of the students in the Zoological Laboratory of the University of Nebraska has been conducting a careful investigation of this form and one specimen has been entirely sacrificed to that purpose. In advance of the publication of his thesis it seems that I should make a short explanation of one point in which it will perhaps appear lacking.

The most remarkable peculiarity in the structure of the tape-worm is undoubtedly the head, which was present in one of the specimens only, and which was figured and described in my preliminary report on the species. It has not escaped any who have examined the figure and description that there exists between the head as described and that of *Dipylidium* a great similarity. In spite of the fact that there are evident minor differences, the general character of the head which was evident on first study, has impressed itself still more on subsequent examination. The hooks possess precisely the appearance peculiar to the genus *Dipylidium* and have nothing of the form of those hitherto known in the genus *Taenia*. The general shape of the head is not entirely normal, but this might easily be explained in the single specimen as the result of unusual contraction. So much for the resemblance between the forms.

The head which was attached to the one specimen of *Taenia confusa* was cut off and after having been stained was mounted in balsam in the ordinary manner. There was, furthermore, a label accompanying the specimen throughout the entire series of transfers and it is difficult for me to believe that it could have been confused with any other specimen, especially since to my knowledge there were no other tape-worms on the table at the same time; but since a confusion may possibly have arisen and since I do not wish to prejudice the work of my student by allowing him to incorporate in it any doubtful particulars, I have had him complete his paper omitting any reference to the structure of the head. This seemed especially advisable since Dr. Stiles on the occasion of a visit here had the opportunity to examine the head and declared positively that it could be nothing else than the head of a *Dipylidium*. There is, to be sure, no further evidence than

the general form which appeared to us remarkable on first study, and I am able to say positively, from having studied the head under a lens when still attached to the entire chain, that the head of *Taenia confusa* was remarkably small, approximately of this same size and shape, and that there was within the head and beneath the apex, a dark object corresponding to the general position of the inverted rostellum with hooks, which was figured from the specimen as mounted and now in my possession.

But setting aside entirely the question as to the possibility of confusion with regards to the head, I may state here, without anticipating the results about to be published, that there are, in my opinion, abundant characters peculiar to the new form to justify its specific rank. I am willing, however, to leave the judgment and decision of this question to my European colleagues in whose hands the published results of the investigation will soon be placed.

It is proper to record here that a number of proglottids from different regions of the chain have been deposited with the Königl. Museum für Naturkunde in Berlin and can, undoubtedly, be examined there by those who desire to convince themselves of the general appearance of the segment from personal experience.

Zoological Laboratory of the University of Nebraska.

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