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New Records of *Macracanthorhynchus hirudinaceus* in Sciuridae

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NEW RECORDS OF *MACRACANTHORHYNCHUS HIRUDINACEUS* IN SCIURIDAE

A number of squirrels collected from central Ohio have been examined for parasites in the past few years. Among these were the fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger rufiventer*) and the chipmunk (*Tamias striatus*). *Macracanthorhynchus hirudinaceus* was found in 2 specimens of the former, collected on September 23, 1943, near Radnor, Delaware Co., Ohio. In one squirrel, 3 adult specimens were found in the small intestine, and one in the abdominal cavity, attached to the abdominal wall. Since a few hours elapsed before the squirrels were autopsied, it is possible that this individual migrated from the intestine after the death of the host. There was no evidence of its having done so, however, since the intestine was intact. A second squirrel, collected from the same woodlot, contained one specimen of this parasite in the small intestine. The squirrels, both males, were in apparently normal physical condition, and gave no gross clinical evidence of the presence of the parasites. No other parasites were present in either animal.

A specimen of *T. striatus* was collected on June 18, 1944, about 10 miles north of the above locality, in Marion Co., Ohio. An immature specimen of *M. hirudinaceus* was found attached to the mesentery. This abnormal location might be due to the presence of the parasite in an unnatural host.

These specimens, so far as I have been able to determine, represent the first recorded from members of the SCIURIDAE. Katz (Abstract of thesis, *The Parasites of Ohio Squirrels,* in Release No. 131, Ohio Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit) does not record this parasite. He examined 88 squirrels, 16 of which were *S. niger rufiventer.*

That the fox squirrel seems to be a satisfactory host for this parasite is of considerable interest, since it could act as a reservoir host, and keep an area infected, even though swine were not present for a number of years. Swine were present in the woodlot from which these squirrels were collected.

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