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Some Additional Observations on the Morphology of *Dendrouterina botauri* Rausch, 1948 (Cestoda: Dilepididae)

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SOME ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE MORPHOLOGY OF *DENDROUTERINA BOTAURI* RAUSCH, 1948 (CESTODA: DILEPIDIDAE).

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The scolex has never been described for cestodes of the genus *Dendrouterina* Fuhrmann, 1912. The two species belonging to this genus, *D. herodiae* Fuhrmann, 1912, and *D. botauri* Rausch, 1948, were described from incomplete material. Because of the lack of a scolex, this genus was only tentatively placed by Fuhrmann (1912) in the family Dilepididae.

Persistent collecting during the spring migration of 1948 made possible the examination of a number of bitterns, *Botaurus l. lentiginosus* (Montagu). A single bird, collected on May 5, 1948, at Madison, Wisconsin, was found to be infected with two specimens of *Dendrouterina botauri*. Observations on these entire worms have allowed for the completion of the generic diagnosis as well as for a completion of the specific diagnosis of *D. botauri*.

Genus *Dendrouterina* Fuhrmann, 1912

Diagnosis: Dilepididae. Scolex well developed; rostellum armed with 2 rows of hooks. Genital ducts dorsal to longitudinal excretory canals. Genital pores unilateral. Testes numerous, situated posterior to female genital organs. Uterus highly branched, with lateral branches passing dorsal to ventral longitudinal excretory canal on poral side, and ventral to it on aporal side. Parasitic in birds.

TYPE SPECIES: *D. herodiae* Fuhrmann, 1912.

Additional details on the morphology of *Dendrouterina botauri* Rausch, 1948
(Figs. 1 and 2)

Scolex well developed, about 165 μ in diameter. Suckers 65 μ in longitudinal diameter. Short rostellum armed with two rows of hooks, 18 in number. Longer hooks 28 μ in length; short hooks 20 μ in length. Guard and blade of hooks nearly of same length. Neck well defined, from 500 to 700 μ in length.

Eggs in gravid segments are surrounded separately by a thin, membranous sac up to 75 μ in diameter. Eggs ovoid to spherical, from 30 to 40 μ in longitudinal diameter; shells very thin. Onchosphere ovoid, about 23 by 36 μ (when living); hooks of onchosphere measure 6 and 13 μ in length. The eggs are usually arranged in a single row along the uterine branches.

Observations made on these specimens substantiate those from the type material, as described (Rausch, 1948). It was noted that in even the most terminal gravid segments the seminal receptacle persists within the opening at the center of the uterus. Moreover, the gravid uterus is always closed posteriorly, and is never "hufeisenfoermig" as was described by Fuhrmann (1912) for *Dendrouterina herodiae*. The uterus in *D. botauri* is seen in post-mature segments surrounding the ovary, vitelline gland, and seminal receptacle, at which time a single anterior and two posterior enlargements are visible. Lateral branches slowly develop from these enlargements, but at no time is the early gravid uterus net-like, as it was described for *D. herodiae*.

Study of the complete cestode has indicated that the genus *Dendrouterina* should remain in the family Dilepididae.

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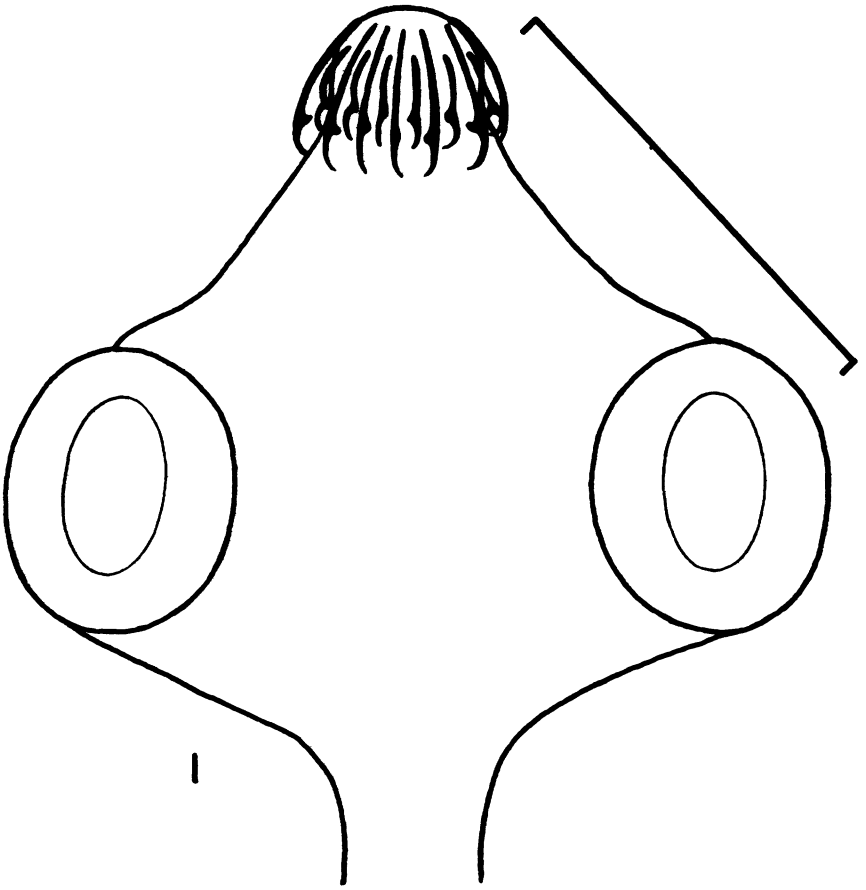

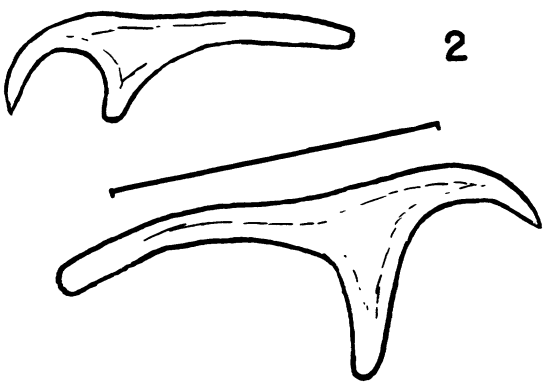

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

FIG. 1. Scolex of *Dendrouterina botauri*. Scale has a value of 100 μ.
FIG. 2. Rostellar hooks of *Dendrouterina botauri*. Scale has a value of 20 μ.

A slide bearing the rostellar hooks of *Dendrouterina botauri* has been deposited in the Helminthological Collection of the U. S. National Museum.

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