



Redescriptions of four species of *Otobothrium* Linton, 1890 (Cestoda: Trypanorhyncha), including new records from Australia, New Caledonia and Malaysia, with the description of *O. parvum* n. sp.

IAN BEVERIDGE¹ & JEAN-LOU JUSTINE²

¹Department of Veterinary Science, University of Melbourne, Veterinary Clinical Centre, Werribee, 3030, Victoria, Australia.
E-mail: ibeve@unimelb.edu.au

²Équipe Biogéographie Marine Tropicale, Unité Systématique, Adaptation, Évolution (CNRS, UPMC, MNHN, IRD), Institut de Recherche pour le Développement, BP A5, 98848 Nouméa Cedex, Nouvelle Calédonie

Abstract

Redescriptions are provided of *Otobothrium carcharidis* (Shiple & Hornell, 1906), *O. crenacolle* Linton, 1890, *O. curtum* (Linton, 1909) and *O. propecysticum* Dollfus, 1969 based on the type specimens and new material collected from elasmobranch hosts from Australia, Malaysia and New Caledonia. All are considered to be valid species. A neotype has been designated for *O. crenacolle*. A new species, *O. parvum*, is described from the spiral valve of *Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos* (Bleeker, 1856) and *Triaenodon obesus* (Rüppell, 1837) from New Caledonia. *Otobothrium minutum* Subhapradha, 1955 is considered to be a valid but poorly described species, being differentiated on the basis of a lack of testes posterior to the ovary. *Otobothrium cysticum* (Meyer, 1842) is considered a *species inquirenda*. The presence of an hermaphroditic sac is a new character for the genus while *O. curtum* lacks bothrial pits, a characteristic found in all congeners examined. The species described or redescribed here can be distinguished based on the number of segments and the number and distribution of testes, in addition to the features of the scolex. *Otobothrium crenacolle* is readily distinguished by its larger bothrial pits. The metabasal armature begins on either the bothrial or internal surface of the tentacle depending upon the species.

Key words: Cestoda, Trypanorhyncha, Otobothriidae, *Otobothrium*, taxonomy, new species, *Otobothrium carcharidis*, *Otobothrium crenacolle*, *Otobothrium curtum*, *Otobothrium propecysticum*, *Otobothrium parvum*

Introduction

In a recent review of the genus *Otobothrium* Linton, 1890, Palm (2004) recognised nine valid species, namely *O. alexanderi* Palm, 2004, *O. australe* Palm, 2004, *O. carcharidis* (Shiple & Hornell, 1906) Pintner, 1913, *O. cysticum* (Mayer, 1842) Dollfus, 1942, *O. insigne* Linton, 1905, *O. minutum* Subhapradha, 1955, *O. mugilis* Hiscock, 1954, *O. penetrans* Linton, 1907 and *O. propecysticum* Dollfus, 1969. Of these, the so-called “large species” (*sensu* Dollfus 1942), *O. alexanderi*, *O. australe*, *O. insigne*, *O. mugilis* and *O. penetrans* (3 of which were added since the publication of the monograph by Dollfus) are relatively readily identifiable and are uncomplicated by contentious synonyms. However, the same is not true of the “small species” within the genus. Among these smaller species, problems exist in defining species, they are difficult to identify and synonymies are controversial.

Dollfus (1942, p. 240) subdivided the genus *Otobothrium* into several groups based on the size of the scolex and the tentacular bulbs. He identified a group of species (small species) with short bulbs and small scoleces, which included *O. balli* Southwell, 1929, *O. carcharidis*, *O. crenacolle* Linton, 1890, *O. curtum*