



Article

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***Prochristianella* Dollfus, 1946 (Trypanorhyncha: Eutetrarhynchidae) from elasmobranchs off Borneo and Australia, including new records and the description of four new species**

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Abstract

Prochristianella cairae n. sp. is described from the spiral intestines of two species of bamboo sharks, *Chiloscyllium punctatum* Müller & Henle and *Chiloscyllium indicum* (Gmelin) (Hemiscyllidae) off the coast of Malaysian Borneo. The species is distinguished from congeners by enlarged microtriches covering the whole scolex peduncle, a unique arrangement of hooks on the basal swelling, a dissimilar number of hooks in each principle row in the metabasal armature and hook files 1 and 1' not being distinctly separated. *Prochristianella jensenae* n. sp. is described from the spiral intestines of three species of whiptail stingrays, *Pastinachus solocirostris* Last & Manjaji-Matsumoto, *Pastinachus atrus* (Macleay) and *Pastinachus gracilicaudus* Last & Manjaji-Matsumoto (Dasyatidae) from coastal waters off Indonesian and Malaysian Borneo and Western Australia, from *Himantura uarnak* (Gmelin) (Dasyatidae) off Nickol Bay, Western Australia and from *Rhinoptera neglecta* Ogilby (Myliobatidae) off Weipa, Queensland, Australia. This species lacks gland-cells within the tentacular bulbs, one of the most distinctive features of this family. *Prochristianella kostadinovae* n. sp. is described from the spiral intestines of *Himantura uarnak* 2 (Dasyatidae) (*sensu* Naylor *et al.* 2012) from the Gulf of Carpenteria. It differs from congeners in its metrical data, a metabasal tentacular armature with 10 hooks per principle row, hooks 1(1') being uncinuate with an elongate base and widely spaced and hooks 4(4') smaller than neighbouring hooks 3(3') and 5(5'). *Prochristianella scholzi* n. sp. is described from specimens of the *Taeniura lymma* species complex (Dasyatidae) (*sensu* Naylor *et al.* 2012) from three localities in Malaysian and Indonesian Borneo. This species has arrays of billhooks on the basal swelling, but differs from similar congeners in having very few, tiny gland-cells within the tentacular bulbs and a metabasal tentacular armature with 9–10 hooks per half spiral row and hooks 4(4') being much smaller than the neighbouring hooks 3(3') and 5(5'). Examinations of new material from northern Australia and Indonesian and Malaysian Borneo provided additional information on *Prochristianella aciculata* Beveridge & Justine, 2010, *Prochristianella butlerae* Beveridge, 1990 and *Prochristianella clarkeae* Beveridge, 1990. In total, 17, 7 and 29 (respectively) new host records and 14, 9 and 28 (respectively) new locality records are added. These records extend the geographical range of all three species in the Australasian region and also represents the first record of *P. aciculata* from Australian waters and the first record of *P. butlerae* from the Indo-Malayan region. *Prochristianella clarkeae* is the least host specific taxon within *Prochristianella*, infecting 43 different host species.

Key words: Cestoda; *Prochristianella cairae* n. sp.; *Prochristianella jensenae* n. sp.; *Prochristianella kostadinovae* n. sp.; *Prochristianella scholzi* n. sp.; *Prochristianella aciculata*; *Prochristianella butlerae*; *Prochristianella clarkeae*; new host record; new geographical record; *Prochristianella macracantha*

Introduction

The trypanorhynch genus *Prochristianella* Dollfus, 1946 has a wide geographical distribution and has been reported from several countries in Europe, Asia, Australia and North and South America. It currently comprises 16 different species, namely *Prochristianella papillifer* (Poyarkoff, 1909) Dollfus, 1957 (*type-species*); *Prochristianella aciculata* Beveridge & Justine, 2010; *Prochristianella butlerae* Beveridge, 1990; *Prochristianella clarkeae* Beveridge, 1990; *Prochristianella fragilis* Heinz & Dailey, 1974; *Prochristianella glabra* (Dollfus, 1969) Palm,