

Research note

The finding of the nematode *Daniconema anguillae* Moravec et Køie, 1987 (*Spirurida, Dracunculoidea: Daniconematidae*) in Lithuania

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Summary

The third-stage larvae of *Daniconema anguillae* Moravec et Køie, 1987 are found in the eels fins caught from Dringis Lake (Lithuanian National park). The morphology of these larvae is briefly described.

Key words: third-stage larvae; fin; *Daniconema anguillae*; *Anguilla anguilla*; Lithuania

Introduction

The nematode larvae with an unusual localization in the eel (*Anguilla anguilla* L., 1758) fins were discovered in the year 1978 during the expedition of Helminthological Laboratory of USSR Academy of Sciences on the Dringis Lake (Lithuanian National park). Parasites were localized in inter-radial membrane of dorsal and anal fins. Systematic position of these larvae was not resolved at that time. A re-examination of obtained specimens shows, that they are third-stage larvae of *Daniconema anguillae* Moravec et Køie, 1987.

Materials and Methods

A total of 5 specimens nematode larvae were examined. Parasites were fixed in a Barbagallo fluid and mounted in glycerin for study using a phase-contrast light microscope.

Results and Discussion

Description (measurements of one specimens) (Fig. 1). Body elongated, 1.56 mm long and 0.037 mm wide. Cuticle with conspicuous transversal striae. Cephalic end with two lip-like elevations. Dorsal elevation large, with larval tooth. Ventral elevation rudimentary. Mouth terminal. Two large, lateral pocket-shaped amphids with fabiform pores present. Depth of amphidial pocket 0.010 – 0.011 mm. The margins of amphidial pore strongly thickened. Si-

ze of amphidial pore 0.002 x 0.005 mm. Rudimental stoma present, its length 0.004 mm. Stoma elongated in lateral direction, but narrowed in dorso-ventral direction. Stoma wall not sclerotized. Esophagus simple, not divided on muscular and glandular parts, 0.311 mm long. Nerve ring 0.161 mm from anterior extremity. Excretory pore 0.246 mm from anterior extremity. Rectum as poorly conspicuous hyaline corrugated tube. Anal opening present. Dense aggregation of cells with conspicuous large nuclei present in anal region of body, its size 0.053 x 0.012 mm. Tail narrow, with rounded tip, 0.359 mm long (23 % of whole

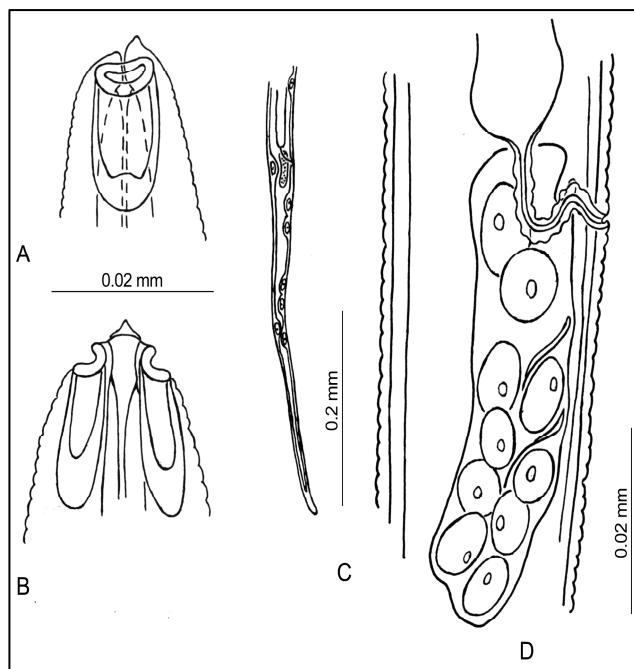


Fig 1. Third-stage larva of *Daniconema anguillae*: A – cephalic end of body, lateral view; B – cephalic end of body, ventral view; C – caudal end of body; D – anal region of body

body length).

Daniconema anguillae Moravec et Køie, 1987 is a rare poorly studied tissue parasite of fishes of the genus *Anguilla* Schrank, 1798. This species has been found in quite few regions of Europe (Denmark, Czech Republic and Hungary) (Moravec and Køie, 1987; Molnár & Moravec, 1994) and North America (Marcogliese & Cone, 1998).

The morphology of the third-stage larvae of *D. anguillae* has been described by Molnár and Moravec (1994). These authors, as well as Molnár (1997), discovered mentioned larvae in fins and subcutaneous connective tissue of eels' bodies. Our data on the morphology of the stoma, amphids, and anal parts of the body, supplement existing description of the third-stage larvae of *D. anguillae*.

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