

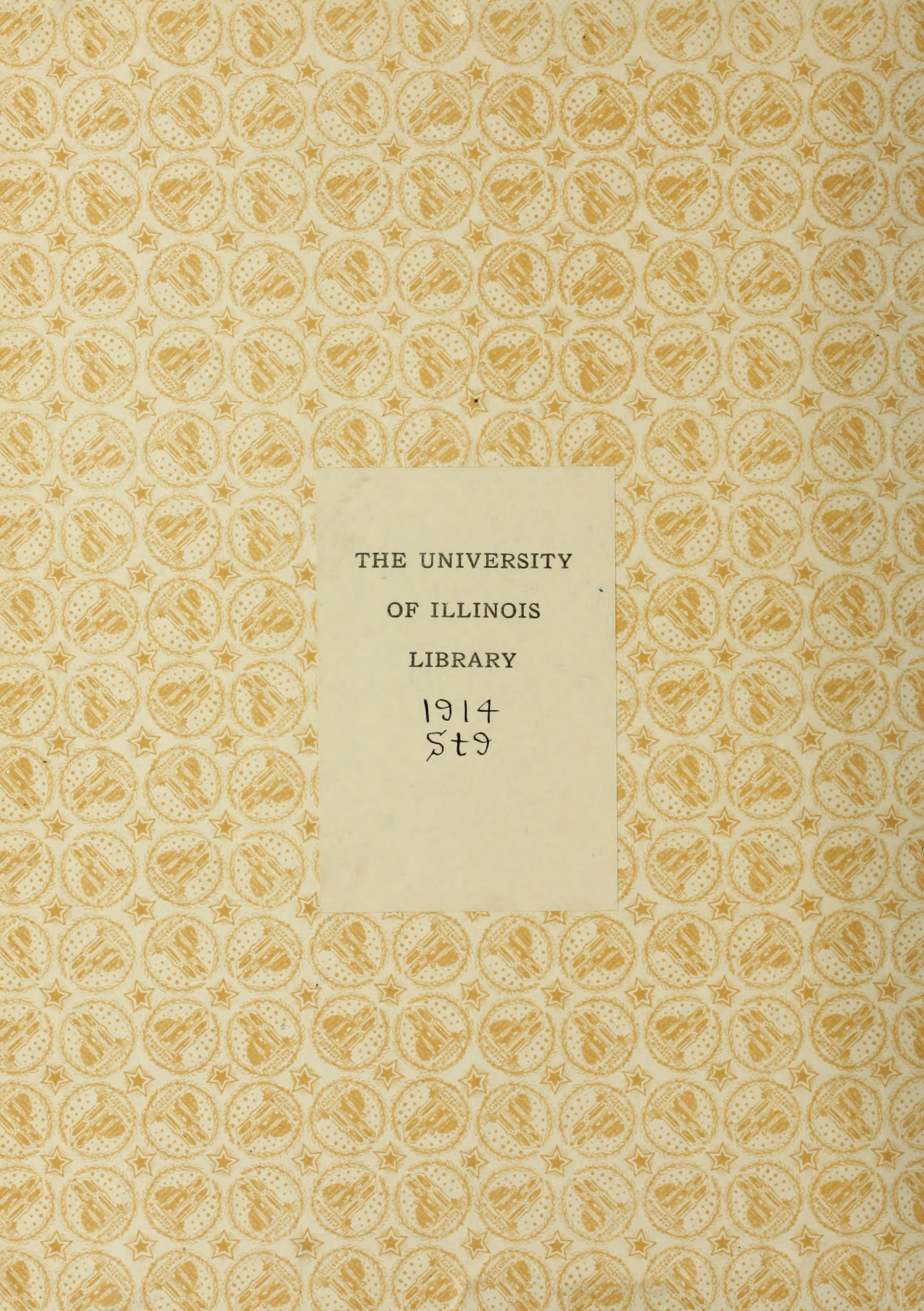
STUNKARD

Descriptions of some new and  
little known Trematodes of Turtles

Zoology

A. M.

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DESCRIPTIONS OF SOME NEW AND LITTLE  
KNOWN TREMATODES OF TURTLES

BY

HORACE WESLEY STUNKARD

B. S. Coe College, 1912

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THESIS

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the

Degree of

MASTER OF ARTS

IN ZOOLOGY

IN

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

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I HEREBY RECOMMEND THAT THE THESIS PREPARED UNDER MY SUPERVISION BY

**HORACE WESLEY STUNKARD**

ENTITLED **DESCRIPTIONS OF SOME NEW AND LITTLE KNOWN**

**TREMATODES OF TURTLES**

BE ACCEPTED AS FULFILLING THIS PART OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE

DEGREE OF **MASTER OF ARTS**


*Henry B. Ward*  
In Charge of Major Work  
*Henry B. Ward*  
Head of Department

Recommendation concurred in:

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Committee  
on  
Final Examination

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INTRODUCTION

While considerable attention has been paid to the study of the parasites of man and domestic animals, less work has been done on those organisms which infest animals of little economic importance. From a purely scientific point of view, a knowledge of these forms is essential, since it affords a more complete morphological basis for the determination of relationships and contributes to the solution of taxonomic problems.

During the year 1913-14, I collected parasites of turtles, and the present paper contains descriptions of some of the trematodes found. The material was obtained from seventy specimens collected from a wide extent of territory. The number of individuals of each species examined, the locality from which they were procured, and the parasites found are listed in the following table. For assistance in securing the turtles, grateful acknowledgments are due to Dr. N.A.Cobb of Washington, D.C., Professor A.W.Orcutt of Denison University, Professor J.E.Ackert of Kansas State Agricultural College, and Professor W.E.Burge of the University of Illinois. The work was done under the direction of Professor Henry B. Ward, to whom the author is indebted for inspiration and suggestions.



Name of turtle	Number examined	Locality	Organ infected	Trematoda	
				Polystoma P. has-sali	P.orbic-ulare
Chrysemys marginata	1	Walker, Ia.	lung		
"	4	Urbana, Ill.	intestine		
"	15	Chicago, Ill.	lung		
Chelydra serpentina	1	Granville, O.	lung		
"	1	Urbana, Ill.	none		
Chrysemys elegans	22	Havana, Ill.	(lung (esophagus (intestine		
"	1	Newton, Tex.	"		
Pseudemys troosti	2	Havana, Ill.	intestine		
Malacoclemmys geographicus	2	" "	"		
Cistudo carolina	1	Falls Church, Va.	none		
Aromochelys carinatus	7	Newton, Tex.	Urinary bladder	1	
Chrysemys concinna	2	" "	intestine		
Trionyx ferox	1	" "	(esophagus (intestine		2
Malacoclemmys leseurii	10	" "	(esophagus (intestine		1



Trematoda (cont'd)		Nematoda			Acanthocephala
Aspidocotylea	Distoma	Monostoma			
C. rhadina n.sp.	T. corti n.sp.	1x	2x	3x	
		2			25
					13
		13			9
			6		
				5	
			2		
			1		493
1					25
					613
					40
			1		50
					26
					13
					512
					3
					5
					47
					10
60			1		
	75				13
					500



Methods. The parasites were studied alive, in toto mounts, and in serial sections. For the live study, the worm was placed on a slide in a drop of water or normal saline solution and examined with the low powers of the microscope. The water supports the cover-glass sufficiently to permit the animal to move freely. The importance of the live study can not be over-emphasized as it is the best method of tracing the excretory system, and the only way to observe the movements of the animal. The material was fixed in Gilson's, Zenker's, Vom Rath's, Tellyesniczky's, and Kleinenberg's fluids, as well as in a saturated solution of corrosive sublimate to which 2% of glacial acetic acid had been added. Sections were cut in transverse, sagittal, and frontal planes from specimens stained in toto in an aqueous solution of Ehrlich's acid haematoxylin, destained in 70% alcohol, and counterstained with eosin. Balsam mounts were made of toto specimens stained with Mayer's haem-alum, Conklin's picro-haematoxylin, Ehrlich's acid haematoxylin, and Mayer's paracarmine. Other stains were tried but the results were less satisfactory.





*Cotyloaspis rhadina*, sp. nov.

In seven of the ten specimens of *Malacoclemmys leseurii* from Newton, Texas, were found specimens of an undescribed aspidocotylean, the numbers present in each turtle varying from four to twenty five.

**Description.** The worm (Figs.1,3) is about 1.5 mm in length by 0.7 mm in width, and consists of two distinct parts, an anterior forebody and a posterior, ventral adhesive disc. The forebody has the shape of a cornucopia, the larger end being attached obliquely to the central two-thirds of the dorsal surface of the adhesive disc. When extended (Fig.1) it manifests an elongate form, projecting beyond the adhesive disc a distance equal to the length of that structure; when in a retracted, compact condition, it may not project beyond the disc. The total length of the worm varies therefore with the state of extension of the forebody, from the length of the adhesive disc to twice that distance.

The adhesive disc is a muscular organ, used for attachment and locomotion. It has a crenulate oval outline, the dorsal surface is arched and the ventral surface is flattened. There is a limiting membrane separating the musculature of the disc from the parenchyma of the body. The ventral surface is divided by two longitudinal and eleven cross ridges into thirty two acetabula, which are arranged in three rows, there being ten median and twenty two peripheral alveoli. These compartments change in shape with the movements of the animal, becoming circular, oval or quadrangular. The size and shape of the disc are relatively constant, a series of measurements of



twenty mounted toto specimens show that it varies only from 1.2 mm to 1.4mm in length, and from 0.58 mm to 0.78 mm in width. Since in functional capacity and superficial form, this structure recalls the molluscan foot, it has often been termed the foot, altho the morphological comparison is not precise.

Movement consists of extension and retraction of the forebody, which may be turned in any direction, and in the less striking and more restricted movement of the disc. The disc has a tendency to turn up at the edges, especially at the anterior and posterior ends. In adhesion the organ may act as a unit or the different alveoli may function separately. In locomotion there is a regular series of movements, the forebody is extended and attached by the sucking action of the mouth funnel, then the disc is loosed and the forebody contracted, bringing the anterior part of the disc near the mouth, when the disc is attached and the series of movements repeated. The worm moves rapidly across the stage of the microscope.

Details of Structure. Externally the worm is covered by a non-cellular cuticula, which is thickest on the dorsal side of the body, and thinnest on the ventral surface of the adhesive disc. It is without hooks or spines, and on the dorsal side reaches five micra in thickness, while on the disc it is only one micron in thickness. This cuticula is deflected inward at the external openings. Its outer part is darker colored and appears more dense than that near the dermomuscular wall, altho there is no line of separation. Immediately inside the cuticula is the three layered dermomuscular wall, the circular, longitudinal and oblique muscles occurring in the order mentioned, the



circular lying next to the cuticula, and in all parts of the body being better developed than the others. In some places the longitudinal and oblique muscles are very scanty, however those of the ventral side of the forebody are continued caudad in a thin sheet, the so called septum, (Fig.8), which lies just above the limiting membrane of the musculature of the disc and extends posteriad as far as the hinder end of the cirrus sac.

The parenchymous muscles of the forebody are long, often much branched, and most abundant in locations where they connect different parts of the body wall with each other or with adjacent internal structures. In the anterior part are many well developed muscles, used in the movement of that region. Running longitudinally among the vitellaria also, there are many muscle fibers. Sphincters and dilators occur at the genital pore, excretory pore and at the opening between the pharynx and intestine.

As previously mentioned, the adhesive disc is separated from the forebody by limiting membrane, (Figs.3,4). This membrane runs parallel to the general course of the external, ventral surface, projecting ventrad at each ridge. Extending between the membrane and the ventral wall, there are vertical muscles, often branched, especially at the ends. The ventral projection of the limiting membrane into the ridges of the disc form two sides of long triangular prisms, which extend longitudinally and transversely above the musculature of the disc. One face of this prism is dorsal and the opposite angle extends ventrad, increasing the size and prominence of the ridges which separate the disc into fossettes.



The Alimentary Tract. The mouth funnel (Fig.10) is a cup shaped muscular structure, which functions as an organ of attachment, there being no oral sucker. It is 0.08 mm to 0.1 mm in diameter, sub-terminal in position. There is no prepharynx, the mouth funnel opening directly into the lumen of the pharynx. The latter is a spherical muscular organ 0.09 mm to 0.1 mm in diameter. It is followed by a short esophagus, an anterior section of the digestive tube, differing only in that it is lined with flattened epithelial cells. The intestine is of the rhabdocolle type, extending on the dorsal side of the body 0.1 to 0.2 mm posterior to the hinder end of the testis. It varies but slightly in caliber, averaging about 0.075 mm in diameter. The wall consists of two layers, a muscular layer composed of outer longitudinal and inner circular fibers, and inside this a single layer of large epithelial cells. A portion of the wall of the intestine is shown in Fig. 9, and represents the large deeply staining nuclei of the epithelial cells lying in the proximal, basal part of the cell, while many delicate, elongate processes extend out into the lumen of the canal.

The Excretory System. (Fig.4) Most of the observations on this system were made on the living animal. As the water evaporated from the mount, the worm was flattened, and the larger excretory tubules could be easily followed. The pore is dorsal, at the posterior end of the forebody. There is a single excretory vesicle, which is situated between the large flask like ends of the collecting ducts and the pore. In the pulsations of this organ, the anterior part contracted and the constriction passed





posteriad, expelling the fluid thru the pore. Two collecting ducts extend cephalad from the excretory vesicle, one on either side of the forebody, median to the vitellaria. Just posterior to the pharynx, each vessel divides, sending a branch cephalad on either side of the digestive tube, and a median branch which turns caudad, sub-dividing into a branch extending to the region of the genital pore, and a larger, longer branch which passes posteriorly to the region of the testis and <sup>receives</sup> smaller side branches. Cross sections show the collecting ducts to be dorsal in position, but the smaller tubes do not show in sections.

**Female Reproductive Organs.** The ovary (Figs. 5, 7) is a small organ, triangularly ovoid in shape, 0.16 mm in length by 0.1 mm in width, and 0.5 mm in thickness. It is located at the right of the median line, about midway between the cephalic and caudal ends of the forebody. In well extended specimens, it is nearer the posterior end, and in much contracted ones nearer the anterior end. Cells in various stages of mitotic division were observed in sections. The duct arises at the posterior, lateral margin of the ovary and passes posteriorly, receiving a common vitelline duct, and then expanding into several enlargements. It continues posteriorly on the lateral side of the collecting duct of the excretory system, as far as the hinder part of the testis, where it turns to the median line. Here it passes ventrally and anteriorly beneath the testis; in front of the testis it turns dorsad and toward the ovary, but just before reaching the ovary it turns squarely across to the opposite side of the body and passes with little deviation directly to the pore. Eggs with shells were found as far from the pore as the region below the



testis, and when the worms were placed in tap water, the eggs near the pore were extruded. The eggs are few in number, not more than six were found in any one specimen. In size they ranged from 0.071 mm to 0.086 mm in width and from 0.137 mm to 0.145 mm length. The average of twenty five eggs measured was 0.141 mm in length by 0.075 mm in width. The vitellaria (Figs.1,3) are arranged along the sides of the forebody, extending from the posterior end to the cirrus sac. They are more numerous and closer together in the hinder region, gradually becoming fewer in the anterior part of the vitelline zone. They lie just above the limiting membrane which forms the dorsal boundry of the musculature of the adhesive disc, and number up to forty on each side. In size they vary from small follicles 0.01 mm in diameter to lobes 0.03 or 0.04 mm in diameter.

Male Reproductive Organs. The testis (Figs.1,3,9) is a large, single, median organ situated 0.25 mm to 0.35 mm from the posterior end of the forebody, and in the anterior third of the posterior half of the region of the adhesive disc. It is almost spherical and measures from 0.25 to 0.35 mm in diameter. Cells in all stages of division and mature spermatozoa are to be seen in sections. The sperm duct arises at the anterior, ventral part of the testis and turns to the left, entering the side of a long, much coiled seminal vesicle. The seminal vesicle is a large tube, 0.1 mm to 0.175 mm in diameter, extending from the testis to the cirrus sac. It is coiled eight to sixteen times and filled with masses of spermatozoa. Near the pore it enters a large muscular walled cirrus sac, 0.2 mm long and 0.145 mm wide, which is filled with large unicellular, prostate glands. These gland cells are



pyriform, measuring on the average 0.026mm long by 0.017 mm in width. Inside the cirrus sac there is a dilated curved portion of the duct, which has muscular walls and is lined with large nucleated epithelial cells, (Figs.7,8). The cirrus was observed in the extruded condition.

The common genital pore (Fig.11) is in the median line, on the ventral side of the forebody, above the point of attachment of the adhesive disc. The opening of the cirrus is on the right side while the metraterm opens on the left.

**Sensory Structures.** There is a dorsal nerve commissure crossing the anterior part of the pharynx, and lateral nerves were traced running cephalad and caudad from it. In about one third of the specimens, a pair of black eye spots were present on the dorsal commissure, situated just dorsad of the lateral walls of the pharynx.

At the ends of the cross partitions of the adhesive disc are the "Marginal Organs", (Randkörper, Looss). These structures (Figs.2,8) occur in the angles where the transverse ridges meet the musculature of the margin of the disc. Leading to the exterior, there is a narrow canal, which is surrounded by strong muscles, and above this a large circular cavity, which was empty in the specimens sectioned. In the study of the living animals, these organs were everted and retracted as the animal moved. They were moved rapidly and when extended looked like membranous sacs. The rapid, connected and accurate movement would suggest a good nerve supply, altho nerve fibers were not demonstrated. Most workers regard them as sensory, while many believe them to be glandular as well.



Comparisons. This is the third aspidocotylean described from turtles, the two previously reported forms being *Cotylaspis lenoiri* Poirier (1886), and *Lophotaspis vallei* Stossich (1899), both African forms. Poirier described *C. lenoiri* from the intestine of *Tetrathyra vaillanti* of Senegal, and Looss (1902) reports it as occurring also in *Trionyx notilica* of the Nile. *Lophotaspis vallei* lives in the stomach of *Thalassochelys corticata*, a turtle of Egypt. The species describes in this paper is very different from *Lophotaspis*, but shows considerable resemblance to *C. lenoiri* and exact agreement with the generic description as given by Leidy for *Cotylaspis*, at once places it in that genus.

The characters of the genus *Cotylaspis* as given by Leidy (1858) are "Body curved infundibuliform, anteriorly cylindrical-conical, posteriorly expanding into a subcircular or oval ventral disc with numerous acetabula arranged in a triple series. Mouth infero-terminal, with prominent upper lip, and protractile into a cup or disc like acetabulum. Intestinal apparatus as in *Aspidogaster*, eyes two, distinct, black, situated on either side of the head. Generative apertures inferior, between the head and ventral disc."

Leidy's type species, *insignis*, is described by him as "Translucent white or pink white, upper lip snout like, conical, ventral disc crenate at the margin; acetabula 29, oblong quadrate, the outer rows continuous in front and behind forming a circle. Length one half to one line, ventral disc one fourth to one half line. Adheres to the outer surface of the renal organ and upper margin of the foot, within the cleft of the upper branchial cavity of *Anadonta fluviatilis* and *A. lacustris*." Further information



























































Hooks between posterior bothria	3 pairs	2 pairs of rods
Largest pair	0.143 mm long	0.075 mm long
median pair	0.074 " "	0.046 " "
posterior pair	0.023 " "	

The shape and armature of the posterior disc of *P. coronatum* are similar to those features in all previously figured polystomes, *P. integerrimum*, *P. oblongum*, and *P. hassali*, but the shape of the adhesive disc and character of the armature of the Texas specimens is very different. Fig.17 shows the close proximity of the anterior bothria, and the difference in shape, together with the departure from the usual arrangement of hooks at once mark the Texas worms as belonging to a new species. Because of the shape of the adhesive disc, the name *orbiculare* is proposed for this new form.

The simple triclad digestive tract and the reproductive organs as described for *P. orbiculare* are similar to the corresponding structures in all other polystomes, with the exception of the endoparasitic form of *P. integerrimum*. The single egg in the uterus is common for all American forms of this genus whose anatomy is known. There are no prominent "Seitenwülste" at the external openings of the vaginae, such as are described for *P. integerrimum*, but beneath the surface of the body at these points are spongy masses which may correspond to those structures. The vitellaria are more numerous than in any described American form, and in this respect correspond only to *P. ocellatum*.



*Polystoma hassali* Goto, 1899

A single polystome (Fig.21) was found in the washings of the intestine and urinary bladder of *Aromochelys carinatus* from Newton, Texas. Unfortunately these organs were examined in the same dish, and the present specimen, which was found in the washings, may be from either, but since Goto described the form from the urinary bladder, it is probable that the present specimen is from that organ. Upon staining and mounting the specimen it proved to be *P.hassali*, a species that Goto (1899) described from the urinary bladder of *Kinosternum pennsylvanicum* from Maryland.

The worm is 1.35 mm in length, with an adhesive disc the same size and shape as that described for *P.hassali*. It is armed in the same manner as that figured by Goto. However he reports the smaller hooks that occur in the bases of the bothria and at the anterior and posterior margins of the disc as being 0.33 mm in length, and the larger hooks with bifid bases, and that are between the posterior bothria as being 0.125 mm in length. This is evidently an error, since he figures the posterior hooks as about four times the size of the smaller ones. In the present specimen, the larger hooks are 1.25 mm in length and the smaller ones 0.033, which figure agrees with that of Goto by a change of one place in the decimal point. Goto makes no mention of the number or size of eggs. The Texas specimen has a single large egg in the uterus, the usual condition for polystomes. The egg is badly collapsed but measures 0.255mm by 0.11 mm.



The genus *Polystoma* Zeder 1800, is described by Braun (1890), "Body long egg shaped, anteriorly tapering to a point, posteriorly extending as a broad adhesive disc, upon which are two longitudinal rows of outward springing bothria. Between those at the posterior end are large chitinous hooks. The vagina is double opening at the right and left sides of the body; eggs oval, without filaments. Occurs on the gills and in the urinary bladder of Amphibia and in the esophagus of turtles".

The genus contains seven species, among which *P. integerrimum* is the most common and best known species. The adults occur in the gill chamber and urinary bladder of frogs and toads in Europe; larvae occur on the gills of tadpoles and migrate to the urinary bladder when metamorphosis takes place. Zeller (1876) showed that if sexual maturity is attained on the gills of the tadpole, the structure of the worm resulting is very different from that of the adult which matures in the urinary bladder. The form found in the urinary bladder has a lobulated testis, two vaginae, many eggs in a long coiled uterus, and a much branched intestine, while the ectoparasitic form has a single testis, no vaginae, single egg in the uterus, and a simple triclad intestine. *P. integerrimum* is about 12 mm long, with the surface cross wrinkled. There are eight spines in the coronet surrounding the common genital pore.

*P. ocellatum* Rudolphi 1819 is parasitic in the esophagus of *Emys europa*, *Cistudo europa*, and *Halichelys atra*, all European species. It is flesh red in color and from 3 to 5 mm in length. Eyes are present in young animals but later disappear. The pharynx is pyriform and there is a simple forked intestine. The testis



is a lobed structure; the ovary is a large quadrate organ, in about the middle of the body. The large lobed yolk glands are dorsal and fill the region from the mouth sucker to the posterior disc. Their ducts unite to form a common duct which opens into the oviduct. A shell gland and ootype are present. The uterus opens at the posterior part of the genital pore. There is no internal vas deferens. The genital pore is in the median ventral line of the body, posterior to the acetabulum, and is surrounded by a circle of about 40 hooks. the vaginae are anterior, about one third of the length of the body from the cephalic end.

*P. oblongum* Wright 1879, was described from four specimens obtained in the urinary bladder of the musk turtle, *Aromochelys odoratus* of Canada. Stafford (1902) also reports it from *Chelydra serpentina* in the <sup>same</sup> locality. "The body is oblong, the mouth being on the ventral surface of the rounded anterior end. The pharynx is bowl shaped, The intestinal caeca without branchings, cirrus coronet composed of 16 alternately large and small hooks, which are sabre shaped. Length up to 2.5 mm; breadth 1.5 mm. Viviparous. Egg greenish, 0.235 mm by 0.195 mm. The larva is ocellate, 0.5mm in length. The testis is a solid structure in the posterior third of the body. Vitellaria scattered, but not numerous; hooks as in *P. integerrimum*."

The single specimen reported by Leidy from the urinary bladder of *Pseudemys rugosa* of Maryland, and assigned by him to the species *oblongum* Wright, has been examined by Goto (1899) and his observations show that it is not *P. oblongum*. It had 16 cirrus spines, all the same size and shape, measuring 0.36 mm in length.





Each spine consists of <sup>two</sup> portions, a distal awl shaped part with an expanded base, and <sup>a</sup> handle like part, consisting of two slender filaments. In oblongum Wright, the spines are alternately large and small, hence Leidy's specimen is not oblongum Wright, but must be a new species. The material was in such poor condition, however Goto did not attempt a description and for the present it remains unknown.

*P. uncinatum* Macé 1880, is about 5 mm long and was reported from the gall bladder of *Rana temporaria* from France.

*P. coronatum* Leidy 1888, was described from four specimens of *Pseudemys rugosa*, three from the throat and one from the nasal cavity. Leidy's original description is, "Body when elongated lanceolate; caudal disc wider than the body, cordiform, three pairs of bothria, the body being attached between the anterior two pairs; changeable in form to oblong, circular or quadrate; with three pairs of minute hooks between the anterior pair of bothria, and one larger and two smaller pairs of hooks between the last pair of bothria, genital aperture with circular or transverse oval coronet of 32 hooks of equal length. No eyes visible. Length elongated 4-6 mm, contracting to one half that length and widening proportionately "

*P. hassali* Goto 1899, was described from the urinary bladder of *Kinosternum pennsylvanicum* from Maryland. Total length of body 1.5 mm; body ovate; adhesive disc hexagonal; suckers at the angles, each with a minute hook in the center; Three pairs of hooks between the anterior pair of suckers; three pairs between the posterior bothria, a large pair, 0.125 mm long, bifid at the



base, and two smaller pairs, the same size and shape as those that occur in the suckers, possessing lateral processes and measuring 0.033 mm in length. There is a bifurcated, unbranched intestine. The genital coronet contains 15-16 spines, 0.028 mm in length, straight with wing like processes in the middle. The testis is a large ovoid organ, with a lobulated margin, and situated in the posterior half of the body. The ovary is comma shaped, anterior to the testis, on either the right or left side; the oviduct proceeds obliquely forward, and expanding into the uterus, which is just posterior to the genital pore. The vaginal openings are lateral, without papillae, midway between the cephalic and caudal ends of the body proper, the two vaginal canals directed almost straight across the body and meeting in the median line. Genito-intestinal canal slightly behind the vagina on the same side of the body as the ovary. Vitelline lobes not very numerous, separated from one another, mostly confined to the lateral portion of the body, but present in the median portion behind the testis.



*Telorchis corti*, sp. nov.

In the intestine of seven of the ten specimens of *Malacoclemyx leseurii* from Newton, Texas, there were found some fifty distomes, most of them immature worms; and another adult of the same kind was obtained from the intestine of a single individual of *Chrysemys elegans* from the same region.

These worms proved to be of a single species and later were found to be identical with others Dr. H.J. VanCleave had collected in June 1910 at Havana, Ill. from the intestine of *Malacoclemyx geographicus*. Dr. W.W. Cort, to whom this latter material had been given, turned it over to me, together with specimens of *Telorchis aculeatus* and *T. robustus*, and in appreciation of his kindness, the worms which proved to be a new species, I shall name *Telorchis corti*.

The largest specimens (Fig 24) measured 7.15 mm in length, by 0.5 mm in width at the widest part, and the smallest sexually mature forms i.e. those with eggs in the uterus, were about 4 mm long and 0.35 mm wide at the widest part. In the adult the greatest width is at the region of the acetabulum, the worm tapering slightly toward either end, being narrower at the caudal end of the body. In immature specimens the section of greatest width is further anterior, being in the pharyngeal region. The worm is flattened dorsoventrally, being thickest at the median line and becoming thinner toward the lateral edges.

The body is covered by a heavy cuticula, 0.004 to 0.008 mm in thickness, and in the living worms it was armed with a covering of minute spines arranged in rows. These spines were



lost in the process of technique, and do not show in the mounted specimens. A few were found in sections and measured 0.014 mm in length.

The acetabulum is in the median line, one sixth to one seventh of the length of the body from the anterior end. It is circular, 0.14 mm in diameter. The oral sucker is sub-terminal in position and measures 0.14 mm in diameter, being the same size and shape as the oral sucker. Here as in all distomes, there is a true oral sucker and not a mere sucking mouth funnel such as occurs in the Aspidocotylea.

The oral sucker is followed by the pharynx, a spherical muscular structure 0.07 to 0.08 mm in diameter. The esophagus is a short tube, 0.05 mm long and 0.025 mm in diameter, leading from the pharynx to the diverticula of the intestine. The esophagus is longer proportionately in immature worms than in the adult condition. The intestine is bifurcate, the diverticula meeting anteriorly at an acute angle, and extending to the posterior end of the body. There are only slight variations in caliber, and these are probably due to pressure from the genital organs, or the contraction of the musculature of the body. On either side of the body the branches of the intestine lie between the uterus and the vitellaria, forming lines of separation between these organs. The wall of the intestine is composed of scant longitudinal and circular fibers, while the lumen is lined with the usual digestive epithelium. The caeca were empty with the exception of a few partly decomposed fragments.





Reproductive Organs. (Figs. 22, 24) The ovary is a broadly oval structure, slightly left of the median line, about three eighths of the length of the body from the anterior end. It is 0.147 mm by 0.117 mm in the smaller specimena and 0.176 by 0.147 mm in the largest ones. The long axis is parallel to that of the body. The oviduct arises from the median, dorsal, posterior part of the ovary and soon expands into the fertilization space. Then on turning ventrad, it receives the common vitelline duct, and this entire region is surrounded by the large secretive cells of the shell gland. After receiving the efferent ducts of the shell gland, Laurer's canal is given off. It turns posteriad and dorsad, opening to the surface 0.15 mm caudad of the ovary. This canal is 0.004 mm in diameter and was empty in the sectioned worms.

The uterus is a much coiled tube extending caudad as far as the anterior testis, where it turns cephalad and continues as a convoluted tube to the genital pore. In most of the specimens, it extends caudad on the left side of the body, returning on the right side. In several specimens however, after extending about one third of the distance to the testis, it crosses to the opposite side of the body, passing posteriorly on the right side, and after returning on the left side to the point of crossing winds anteriorly on the right side of the body to the common genital pore. The uterus lies almost entirely between the intestinal caeca, but in specimens that are very much congested with eggs, the coils of the uterus may overly the intestine half the distance from the ovary to the anterior testis on one or both sides.

The vitellaria are arranged in nine lobes on the right, and twelve lobes on the left side of the body, laterad of the



intestinal caeca. Often the separate lobes are not distinct, but are massed together and overlap. Anteriorly they extend about one third of the distance from the ovary to the acetabulum, terminating just cephalad of the posterior end of the cirrus sac, and posteriorly they extend about five sixths of the distance from the ovary to the anterior testis. There are 20 to 40 follicles in each lobe, and in stained material, the nuclei of the cells are conspicuous among the yellow vitelline globules.

The genital pore (Fig.28) is on the ventral surface, just anterior to, and slightly left of the acetabulum. The opening of the uterus is anterior and slightly at the left of that of the cirrus sac.

The eggs occur in enormous numbers, filling the uterus. They average 0.031 by 0.015 mm in size, but those near the ovary are more spherical, being 0.031 by 0.019 mm. In most of the eggs the reagents had caused the shell to collapse, and in many cases the cap had come off. The contents were granular in appearance.

There are two testes; They lie one behind the other at the posterior part of the body, altho in some cases they are slightly on opposite sides of the median line. They are close together being only only 0.05 to 0.1 mm apart, but did not overlap in any case. The testes are about the same size and vary from 0.2 to 0.29 mm in length by 0.16 to 0.24 mm in width. In one immature worm there were three testes (Fig.25), the posterior one being of normal size and in the usual position, while there were two anterior testes, slightly smaller than normal, one on either side of the median line.



The duct from the anterior testes arises at the anterior ventral margin and runs cephalad ventrad of the caecum of the left side. The duct from the posterior testes arises at the anterior lateral margin and passes cephalad ventrad of the caecum of the right side. The sperm ducts pass cephalad on the median sides of the diverticula, becoming more median and dorsal as they pass forward; at the region of the ovary they cross dorsal to the excretory tubes and then pass on the median side of these tubes to the posterior end of the cirrus sac, where they unite to form the seminal vesicle. The cirrus sac (Fig.26) is 1.18 to 1.295 mm in length and 0.088 mm wide at the widest part. It extends caudad from the genital pore about three fourths of the distance to the ovary. The two sperm ducts unite at the posterior end and form a large, dilated seminal vesicle which lies entirely within the cirrus sac. This seminal vesicle stains heavily, due to the masses of spermatozoa it contains. Anteriorly the tube is reduced in diameter and passes thru the region of the prostate gland, being surrounded by the large cells of that organ. Then after a much coiled portion it passes as a straight tube to the pore

The posterior tip of the body is often slightly invaginated, the excretory pore being situated at the base of this shallow invagination. There is a single large median collecting duct, which extends cephalad to the region of the ovary where it divides into two branches, extending one on either side to the region of the genital pore. From these, smaller branches were traced anteriorly but the smaller ducts of the excretory system were not followed.



In the material of this species there were many immature forms. The smallest mounted (Fig.23) is 0.65 mm in length and 0.16 mm in width, the younger worms are wider proportionately than the adults. In this specimen the oral sucker is 0.025 mm in diameter and is followed by an esophagus of equal length, the esophagus being more prominent and distinct than in the adult. The caeca of the intestine extend to the posterior end of the body. The excretory system is well developed and similar to that of the adult. The acetabulum is very small, 0.03 mm in diameter, and the anlage of the cirrus sac and those of the ovary and testes are merely masses of heavily staining cells, those which are to form the testes not yet having become separated into two parts.

In a larger specimen (Fig.27) 1.7 mm long, the body has become more elongate. It is 0.2 mm wide at the widest part. The suckers have increased in size, the oral to 0.09 mm and the acetabulum to 0.63 mm in diameter. Simultaneous with these changes, the anterior part of the intestine has taken on the characteristic shape of the adult. The ovary has assumed definite shape, the testes have now become separates as two circular structures and the cirrus sac is well defined at the anterior end altho the posterior end is extended as line of deeply staining cells, reaching to and apparently connected with the ovary. No traces of uterus or vitellaria could be distinguished.





A brief specific diagnosis of *T.corti*.

Size; 4 to 7 mm long, greatest width 0.5 mm.

Shape; elongate, flattened dorsoventrally.

Cuticula; spined.

Oral sucker; sub-terminal, 0.14 mm in diameter.

Acetabulum; one sixth to one seventh of length from anterior end.

Esophagus; present.

Ovary; 0.15 mm in diameter, three eighths of length from anterior end.

Laurer's canal; present.

Uterus; coils usually between caeca, crossing in some cases.

Cirrus sac; extends  $\frac{3}{4}$  of distance from acetabulum to ovary.

Vitellaria; 9 lobes on the right, 12 on the left side of body.

Genital pore; anterior and left of the acetabulum.

Eggs; numerous, 0.031 mm by 0.015 mm.

Stossich (1904), Goldberger (1911), and Barker and Covey (1911) have compiled careful and detailed keys for the identification of the species of the genus *Telorchis*. Their work is so complete that further comparisons in this paper are unnecessary.

*T.corti* agrees closely only with *T.aculeatus* von Linstow and *T.solivagus* Odhner, the nearest resemblance being with *T.aculeatus*. However it can not be assigned to either of these species because of certain specific differences.

A comparison of the species can best be made in a tabulated form.



Characters	<i>T.aculeatus</i>	<i>T.solivagus</i>	<i>T.corti</i>
Length	5 to 7 mm	4 to 7 mm	4 to 7 mm.
Width	1 mm	0.8 to 0.9 mm	0.4 to 0.5 mm.
Oral sucker	0.16 to 0.24mm	0.19 to 0.24mm	0.14 mm in dia.
Acetabulum	0.14 to 0.18mm	0.28 mm	0.14 mm " " .
Pharynx	0.11 mm	0.146 mm	0.7 to 0.8mm "".
Esophagus	0.13-17 mm	0.35 mm	0.5 mm long.
Ovary	0.17 mm in dia. at posterior end of cirrus in median line	0.27 mm in dia. under posterior end of cirrus left of median	0.15mm in dia. 0.3mm behind post. end of cirrus. left of median.
Laurer's canal	?	?	present.
Uterus	right limb descen ding, left limb ascending.	crosses	crosses
Testes	0.27-0.36mm separated	0.5-0.42mm contiguous	0.2-0.25mm separated
Cirrus sac	reaches to ovary	/extends posterior to ovary	/extends $\frac{3}{4}$ of length to ovary.
Genital pore	anterior to acetabulum	anterior to acetabulum	anterior and left of acetabulum.
Vitellaria	8-9 on right 12-13 on left	indefinitely arranged	9 on right side 12 on left side.
Eggs	0.046-0.019mm	0.03-0.015mm	0.031-0.015.
Host	<i>Testudo graeca</i> Europe	<i>Clemmys caspia</i> Europe	<i>M. leseurii</i> N. A.

The forms are about the same length, *T.corti* being narrower and thicker than the others; the oral sucker and pharynx are smaller in *T.corti* and the esophagus is shorter. The crossing or absence of crossing of the uterus has been used as a specific character, but both conditions are found in *T.corti*. The structure of the ootype is unknown in *T.aculeatus* and *T.solivagus*. The cirrus sac is shorter in *T.corti*, extending only three fourths



of the distance from the genital pore to the ovary, while in the other forms it reaches to the ovary. The arrangement of the vitellaria is similar to that in *T. aculeatus* but different from *T. solivagus*. The eggs of *T. corti* are about the same size as those of *solivagus*, but are smaller than those of *T. aculeatus*.

**Classification.** In 1899, Luehe and Looss, working independently, each created a new genus, *Telorchis*, to contain a certain group of distomes from reptiles, which seemed to have common characters, so constant and unique as to warrant their separation into a new genus.

Luehe took *Distoma clava* as a type, and included the species, *poirieri* (*gelatinosum*), *linstowi* (*aculeatus*), *ercolanii* (*nematoides*), *bifurcus* and *pleriticum*. As generic characters he gave, "Testes median, one behind the other, at the posterior end of the body, cirrus sac very long, opens anteriorly and at the left of the acetabulum. Ovary immediately behind the cirrus sac, uterus coils in the body anterior to the testes, vitellaria of many follicles occupy sides of the body, caeca extend to the posterior end of body; with the exception of *T. poirieri*, body is spined; excretory bladder long, branching anteriorly; oral sucker larger than acetabulum in *ercolanii*, usually about equal size".

Looss took *D. linstowi* (*aculeatus*) as a type, and included the species *poirier*, *nematoides* and *arrectum*. As generic characters he designates the following, "Body long, smaller anteriorly; spines present or absent; short esophagus, diverticula extending to the posterior end of the body; genital opening anterior to the acetabulum; cirrus present, long, extending far posteriorly; testes behind one another, at the posterior end of the body;



ovary far distant, somewhat lateral, lying in the region at the end of the cirrus sac; Laurer's canal present."

Because of the difference of *T.clava* from the other members of his genus *Telorchis*, Luehe (1900) divided the genus into two sub-genera, *Telorchis*, with *T.clava* as a type, and *Cercorchis*, with *T.linstowi* as a type. To the sub-genus *Telorchis* he ascribes those forms with no esophagus and with uterine coils not confined between the caeca, while to *Cercorchis* the forms with an esophagus and with the coils of the uterus confined between the intestinal diverticula. Regarding these identifying characters, he says the presence or absence of an esophagus is of major importance.

Looss (1902) characterized Luehe's genus *Telorchis* as an unnatural group, but fails to find adequate ground to justify the division into two sub-genera. Luehe certainly was unfortunate in the selection of identifying characters for his sub-genera, for an intracaecal coiling of the uterus is not necessarily associated with the presence of an esophagus, since in *T.pleroticus* and *T.bifurcus* the coils of the uterus are confined between the <sup>caeca</sup> and the esophagus is absent. In his separation into sub-genera Luehe's sub-genus *Cercorchis* corresponds identically with Looss genus *Telorchis*, except that Looss did not make the error of associating the presence or absence of an esophagus, which itself is a variable condition, with an indefinite character like the extent of the coiling of the uterus. The extent of coiling depends to a large extent on the fecundity of the worm; in *T.corti*, in which the uterine coils are usually contained within the diverticula, in specimens that are very much congested with eggs, the coils of the uterus overly the intestine.





Luehe's description of *Telorchis* was published in the *Zool. Anz.* of Dec. 28, 1899, and Looss' account was printed in the *Zool. Jahrb.* of the same date. Most workers have credited the genus to Luehe, altho Odhner (1902) in his description of *T. solivagus* ascribes the genus *Telorchis* to Looss.

As regards the two sub-genera of Luehe, since the extent of the coiling of the uterus is not associated with the presence or absence of an esophagus, the coiling of the uterus must be abandoned as a diagnosing character, and the only difference between the sub-genera becomes that of the presence or absence of an esophagus. Such a variable and uncertain character as the presence or absence of an esophagus certainly does not warrant the separation of a genus into two sub-genera.



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## Abbreviations used in Plates.

a	acetabulum
e	esophagus
f	fertilization space
g	genital pore
i	intestine
l	Laurer's canal
lm	limiting membrane
m	mouth
mt	metraterm
mo	marginal organ
os	oral sucker
o	ovary
oc	eye
od	oviduct
p	prostate gland
sv	seminal vesicle
sp	septum
t	testis
ut	uterus
v	vitellaria
vd	vas deferens

## Explanation of Plates.

## Plate I

Fig.1. *Cotylaspis rhadina* somewhat extended, dorsal view.x40.

Fig.2. *Cotylaspis rhadina*, ventral view, showing the position of the marginal organs and the divisions of the adhesive disc. x40.

Fig.3. Contracted specimen of *C. rhadina*, dorsal view. x 40.

Fig.4. Diagrammatic representation of the excretory system in *C. rhadina*, dorsal view. x 40.

Fig.5. Cross section thru the region of the ovary of *C. rhadina*, showing a section of an egg in the uterus. x 85.

Fig. 6. Frontal section thru the adhesive disc of *C. rhadina*, showing the musculature. x 95.

Fig.7. Reconstruction of the reproductive organs of *C. rhadina*, from frontal sections. x 80.





## Plate II

Fig.8. Sagittal section thru the anterior end of *C. rhadina*, showing musculature, digestive, reproductive, and marginal organs. The section is at the right of the median line. x 200.

Fig.9. Sagittal section thru the dorsal body wall, showing the cuticula, the muscle layers, a section of body parenchyma, and the wall of the digestive tube. x 550.

Fig.10. Frontal section thru the mouth funnel of *C. rhadina*, showing the absence of an oral sucker. x 300.

Fig.11. Frontal section thru the genital pore, showing the relations of the cirrus sac and metraterm. x 180.

## Plate III

Fig.12. *Polystoma orbiculare*, ventral view. x 20.

Fig.13. Frontal section thru the dorsal commissure, showing the large ganglion cells, x 60.

Fig.14. Frontal section thru the pharynx and mouth funnel. The esophageal nerve ring and anterior vitellaria are shown. x 60.

Fig.15. Cross section *P. orbiculare*, at the region of the genital pore. x 60.

Fig.16. Cross section thru the testes. x 60.

Fig.17. Cross section thru the anterior bothria. x 60.

Fig.18. Hook from the genital coronet. x 550.

Fig.19. Hook from the base of a bothrium. x 550.

Fig.20. Reconstruction of the reproductive organs of *P. orbiculare*, ventral view from frontal sections. x 40.

Fig.21. *Polystoma hassali*, ventral view. x 40.



## Plate IV

Fig.22. *Telorchis corti*, reconstruction of the female organs at the region of the ovary, from sagittal sections. x 120.

Fig.23. Immature worm, 0.65 mm long. x 100.

Fig.24. *Telorchis corti*, ventral view. x 15.

Fig.25. Abnormal specimen, three testes. x 65.

Fig.26. Cirrus sac. x 45.

Fig.27. Immature worm, 1.7 mm long. x 45.

Fig.28. Cross section thru the genital pore. x 100.

Fig.29. Cross section thru the posterior part of the ovary, showing the shell gland, the anterior part of the uterus on the right and the coils returning on the left, the excretory tubes are median and the digestive caeca are at the sides of the body.



Plate I

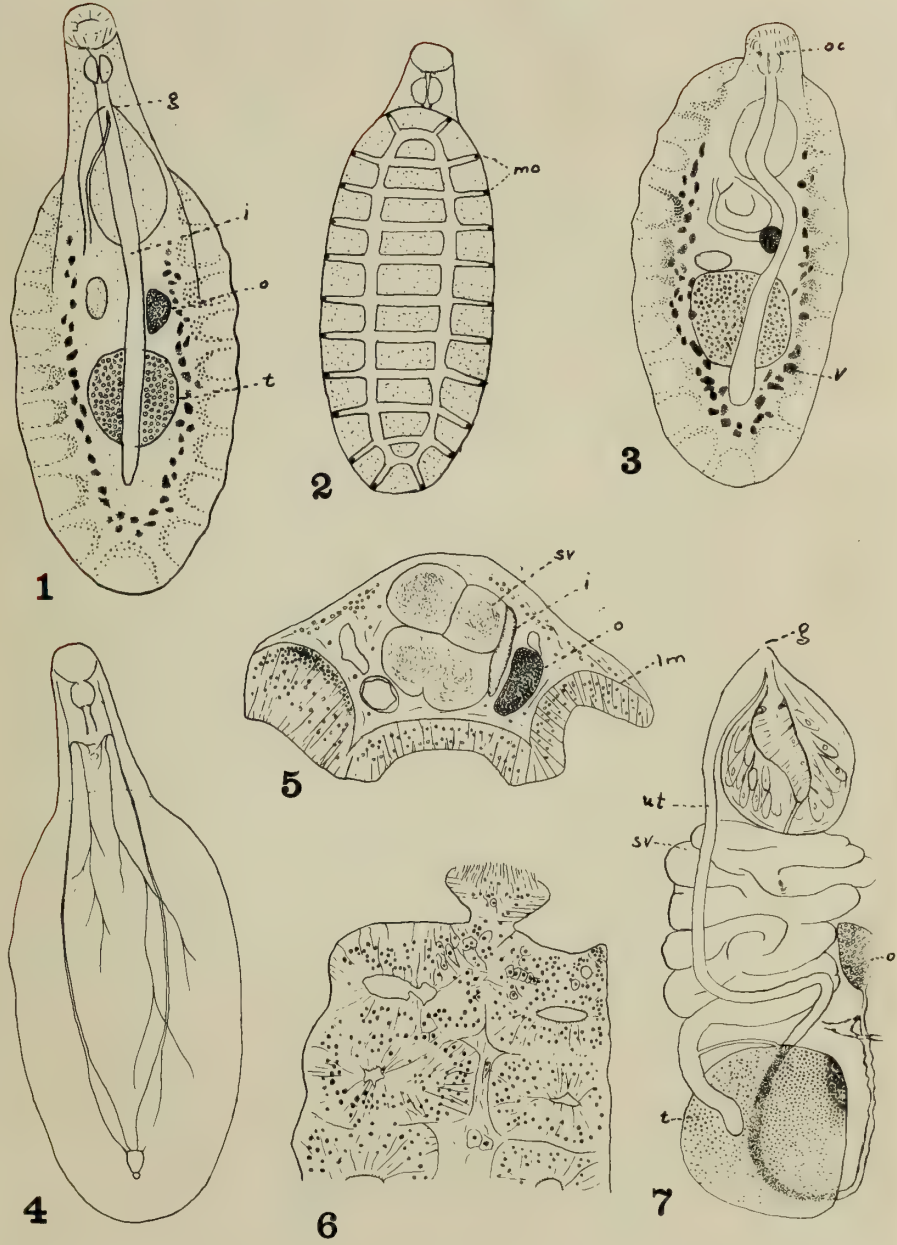




plate II

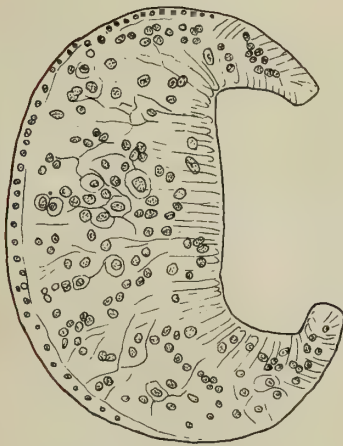
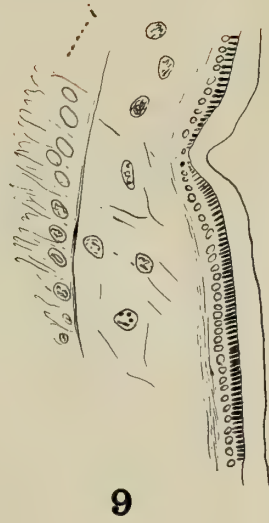
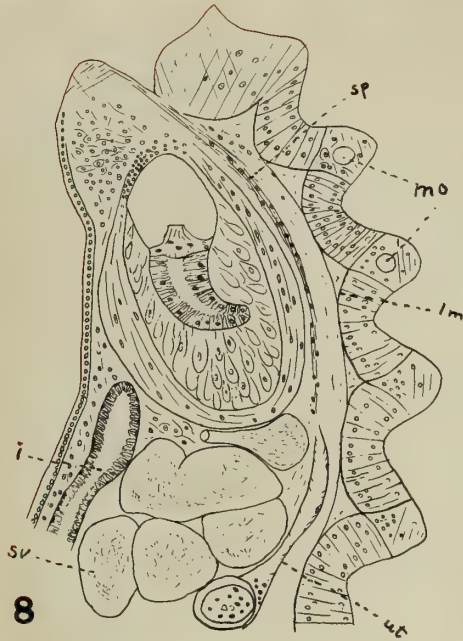
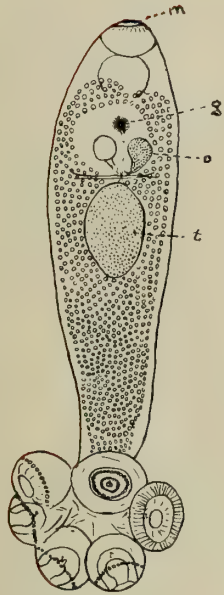






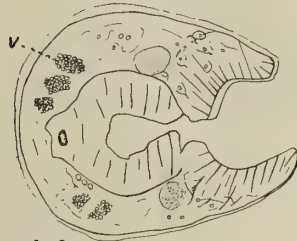
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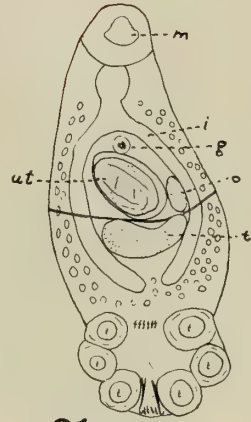
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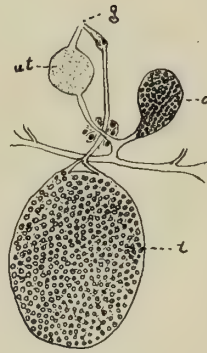
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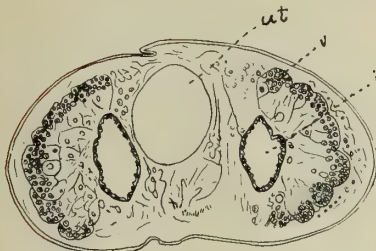
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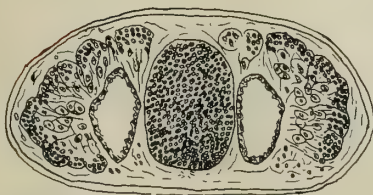


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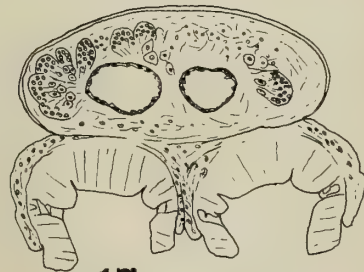


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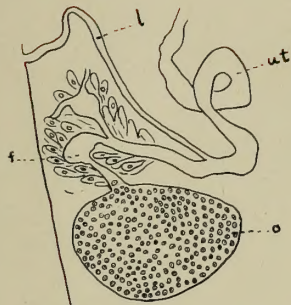
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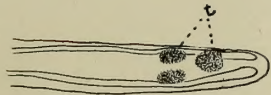
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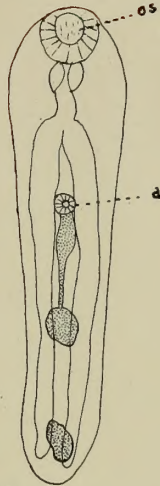
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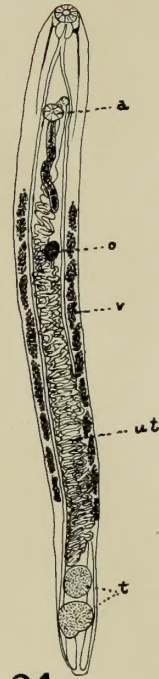
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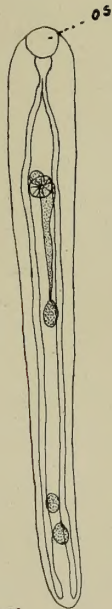
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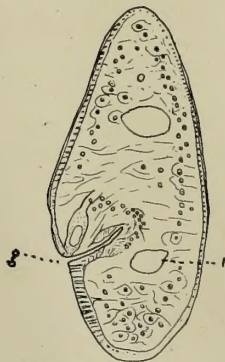
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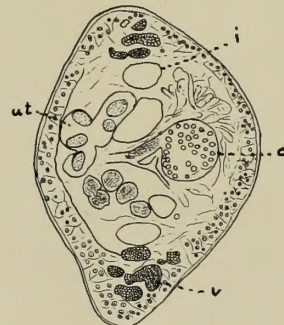
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