

Castronodus strassenii, G. et sp. n.*

A New Nematode Parasite of *Crocidura caerula*—the Common Musk-shrew or as it is usually called Musk-rat (Vernacular: *Chachundar*.)

AMONGST the Musk-rats a very heavy infection of this new type of worms prevails in the Hyderabad State. In August 1933, 120 specimens were dissected by me in the Plague Department, Hyderabad City and out of these 37 were found to be infected. The worms occur in nodules in the wall of the stomach. When extracted out of these nodules they are blood-red in colour but turn white after fixation.

The mouth of the worm is surrounded by 6 cephalic papillæ and leads into a buccal capsule which measures 0.05 mm. in length. There are 6 well-developed tooth-like processes projecting into the buccal capsule (Fig. 1). The œsophagus consists of a short

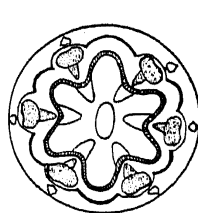


Fig. 1.

Diagrammatic representation of the mouth, surface view.

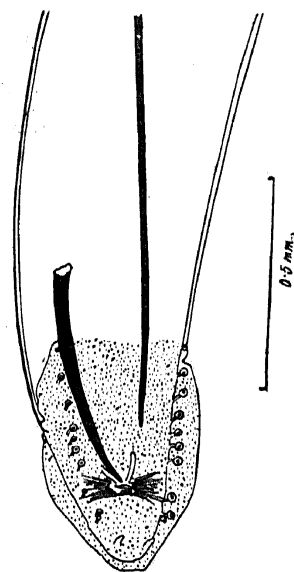


Fig. 2.

Posterior end of the male showing the right spicule, a part of the left spicule, a pair of spine-like process, caudal alæ and the papillæ.

narrow muscular portion and a long, wide glandular part. Its total length is 2.6 mm.

The females are 25 to 40 mm. in length. The vulva lies in front of the posterior end of the œsophagus and is situated at a distance of 1.5 mm. from the anterior end.

The males are 16 to 26 mm. long. They possess caudal alæ and in the mature males

* The Species is named after Geheimrat Prof. Dr. O. zur Strassen of the University of Frankfurt on-the-Main, Germany.

there are 7 pairs of pre-anal and 3 pairs of post-anal pedunculated papillæ. Near the tip of the posterior end there are two spine-like processes. The spicules are very unequal. The right spicule measures 0.45 mm. and the left 2.7 mm. in length.

These new nematodes belong to the family *Spiruridae* (Oerley, 1885), sub-family *Spirurinae* (Ralliet, 1915). They exhibit some affinities with the genus *Spirocera* (Ralliet and Henry, 1911) but differ from it markedly and necessitate the creation of a new genus.

The distinguishing characters are as follows:—

(1) Unlike the genus *Spirocera* in this new genus there are 6 well-developed tooth-like processes projecting into the buccal capsule.

(2) In the males instead of 4 pairs of pre-anal and 2 pairs of post-anal pedunculated papillæ there are 7 pairs of pre-anal and 3 pairs of post-anal papillæ to be found.

(3) The large medium papilla so characteristic of the genus *Spirocera* is absent here.

(4) Instead of 4 or 5 pairs of minute papillæ at the tip of the posterior end, a pair of spine-like process is present.

The anatomy and life-cycle of this new Nematode will be published elsewhere.

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The Melting Point of a Certain Aminodimethoxybenzoylpropionic Acid.

In connection with the note¹ on this topic recently communicated by Dr. J. N. Ray, it must be at once observed that further experience with the acid in question has shown that its behaviour on heating varies in a somewhat capricious fashion. It depends to some extent on the way in which the sample is dried, and also on the rate of heating. If rapidly heated, the m.p. appears to be approximately 120° in confirmation of Haq, Kapur and Ray (*J.C.S.*, 1933, p. 1087), but if the pure dry acid is heated slowly it

¹ *Curr. Sci.*, 2, 247, 1934.