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A NEW TREMATODE, *DIDYMOZOON BRAVOHOLLISAE SP. NOV.* (DIDYMOZOIDAE) FROM A MARINE FISH, *SPHYRAENA SP.*

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ABSTRACT

Didymozoon bravohollisae sp. nov. is described from the base of the gill archos of *Sphyraena* sp. a marine fish collected off Malabon, Rizal, Luzon Island, Philippines.

RESUMEN

Se describe a *Didymozoon bravohollisae* sp. nov. obtenida en la base de los arcos branquiales de *Sphyraena* sp., pez marino colectado mar adentro en Malabón, Rizal, Isla Luzón, Filipinas.

Herein described is a new species of trematode of the family Didymozoidae. The species is based on seven specimens (2 partly cut). The trematodes were found encysted in pairs at the base of the gill arches of *Sphyraena* sp. caught off Malabon, Rizal, Luzon Island, Philippines.

This parasite represents the first didymozoid to be described from the Philippines and is named for Miss Margarita Bravo-Hollis in recognition of her 38 years of services and contributions in the field of helminthology and parasitology.

Didymozoon bravohollisae sp. nov. (Fig. 1)

Description: Body divided into two parts. Forebody slender, dorsoventrally flattened, 0.99 to 3.34 mm long, maximum width, 0.10 to 0.24 mm and attached to hindbody at about 0.89 to 1.66 mm from anterior end. Latter, cylindrical in unflattened specimens, 5.12 to 17 mm long, 0.53 to 1.07 mm in maximum width, slightly pointed at anterior extremity and rounded at posterior end. Cuticle relatively thinner in forebody.

Mouth terminal. Oral sucker subterminal, subglobular, 80 to 140 microns by 60 to 210 microns, prepharynx absent, pharynx 20 to 30 microns by 40 to 50 microns. Esophagus 0.21 to 0.6 mm long, narrow, sinuous, bifurcating at anterior 1/3 of forebody. Ceca (in type) not clearly discernible in forebody, lying in lateral fields of hindbody, terminating at posterior extremity.

Testes paired, elongate, slightly sinuous, at sinistrolateral margin of hindbody, 50 to 150 microns in maximum width, narrow distal ends turning towards forebody. Vas efferens uniting slightly at anterior to esophageal bifurcation. Vas deferens markedly sinuous, almost parallel to metraterm, opening with the latter ventrolateral to oral sucker. Single tubular ovary, 30 to 50 microns in

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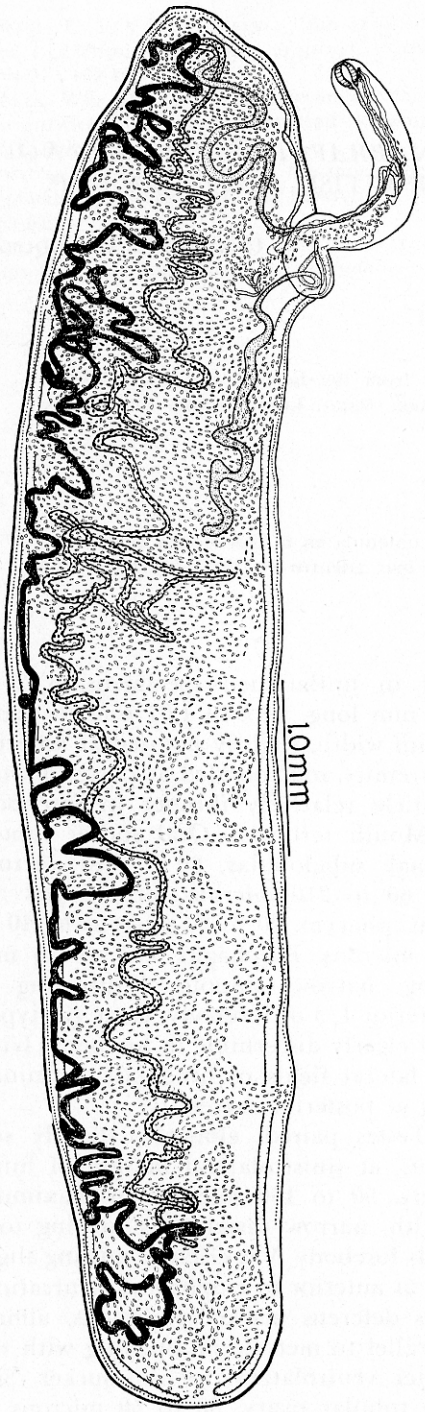

Fig. 1. *Didymozoon bravohollisae* sp. nov.; ventrolateral view.

maximum width, sinuous from shell gland complex extending from anterior to almost posterior extremity of hindbody. Receptaculum seminis oval, hardly discernible (in type). Shell gland complex at anterior 1/5 of hindbody, adjacent to forebody-hindbody junction. Vitellarium single, sparsely branched, tubular, winding at dextrolateral margin of hindbody, alongside ovary, extending from anterior to almost posterior end. Uterus filling almost all available space in both extremities of hindbody, entering forebody just anterior to shell gland, becomes sinuous, more muscular, continuing alongside vas deferens as the metraterm.

Eggs lemon yellow, 8.8 by 4.4 microns. Excretory pore at posterior tip of hindbody.

Habitat: Base of gill arch of *Sphyraena* sp.

Locality: off Malabon, Rizal, Luzon Island, Philippines.

Holotype: to be deposited in the U. S. National Museum Helminthological Collection.

Paratypes: in Velásquez Helminthological Collection.

Discussion. This species is distinguished from the know members of the genus by the position of forebody, shape of the hindbody, extent of the testes, and egg size.

LITERATURE

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