

OPHISTHOLEBES TETRODONTIS (TREMATODA : DIGENEA) A NEW RECORD FROM WALTAIR COAST

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The host fish *Tetrodon lunaris* collected from Bay of Bengal of Visakhapatnam were examined for digenetic trematodes. A number of monogenetic and digenetic trematodes have been encountered. A digenetic trematode *Opistholebes tetrodontis* has been reported for the first time from Waltair coast.

Nearly 200 marine fish *Tetrodon lunaris* have been examined for trematode parasites. The host *T. lunaris* is dominating fish in the catch of Visakhapatnam harbour and it is good host for number of parasites like copepods, monogeneans, digeneans and nematodes. 15 species of copepods, 4 species of monogeneans, 3 species of nematodes have been collected besides the digeneans. Trematode *Opistholebes tetrodontis* is the new record from Waltair coast. Gupta (1968) reported *O. tetrodontis* from the host *Tetrodon viridipunctatus* alongwith 2 new species, *Opistholebes buckely* and *O. indicus*.

Body flattened, without spines. Oval in shape. The form measures 0.900 to 0.984 in length and 0.576 to 0.612 in maximum breadth in the middle of the body. Oral sucker globular. It measures 0.132 x 0.144 respectively. Acetabulum slightly larger than oral sucker, round, muscular. It is subterminal provided with puckered skirt of body wall it measures 0.192 x 0.168.

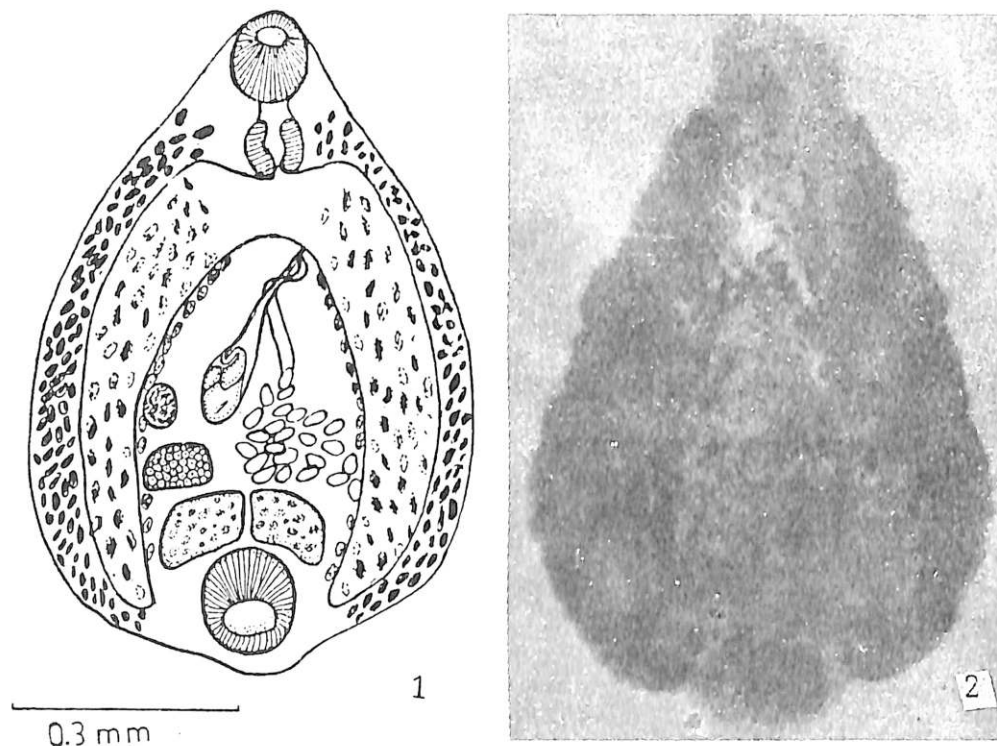
Mouth subterminal followed by prepharynx which leads into pharynx. Prepharynx short, oesophagus very short. The intestinal bifurcation occurs below the pharynx. Each caeca become wider before terminating on either side of acetabulum.

Testes diagonal close together anterior to acetabulum. It measures 0.096 to 0.120 in length and 0.120 to 0.144 width. Cirrus pouch claviform enclosing winding tubules, seminal vesicle, rather indistinct, prostatic complex and small ejaculatory duct placed in the middle of the body. Genital pore some distance from posterior to intestinal bifurcation.

Ovary submedium, pretesticular. It measures 0.096 x 0.096. Ovary anterior to right testis. Vitellaria extending from prepharynx to that of testis (or acetabulum). Uterus winding forward on left of ovary and cirrus pouch. Seminal receptacle present. Eggs are moderately large (Figs. 1 & 2).

The genus was first erected by Nicoll (1915) with the type species *Opistholebes amphicoiles* from the host *Siphonodonides lunaris*. Manter (1947) reported *Opistholebes adgotylophorus* from the host *Diodon solocanthus*. Gupta (1968) reported *Opistholebes buckely*, *O. indicus*, *O. tetrodontis* from the host *Tetrodon viridipunctatus*. Bilquees & Nighat (1982) reported *Opistholebes equicoylus*, *O. diodontis* from the stomach of *Diodon hytrix*. The present specimens are collected from the host *Tetrodon*

lunaris. They resemble *Opistholebes tetradontis* in all characters. It is a new host record from Waltair coast.



Figs. 1-2. 1. *Opistholebes tetradontis*; 2. *O. tetradontis* (microphotograph).

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