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CLINOSTOMOIDES PANDEYII N. SP., A RARE CLINOSTOME METACERCARIA FROM *HETEROPNEUSTES FOSSILIS* (BLOCH)

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The present communication deals with a new species of metacercaria, *Clinostomoides* Dollfus, 1950, from the body cavity of *H. fossilis* (Bloch). The present form is characterised by having spinose body, different positions of gonads, gonopore and difference in arrangement of uterus.

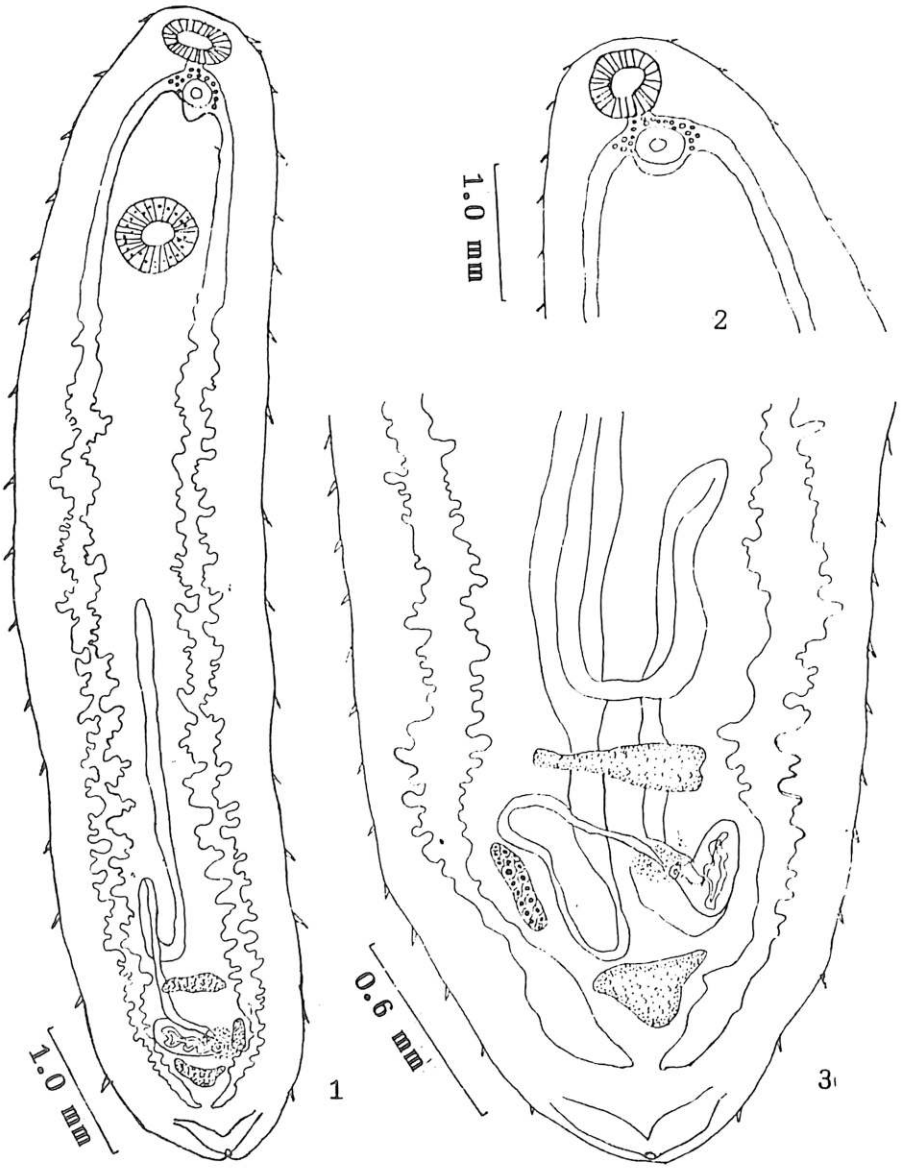
Clinostomoides pandeyii n. sp. (Figs. 1 - 3)

Host	:	*H. fossilis* Bloch
Locality	:	Meerut
Site of infection	:	Body cavity
No. of host examined	:	50
No. found infected	:	2
No. of worms recovered	:	5

During the course of study of helminth fauna of *Heteropneustes fossilis* (Bloch), in Meerut region, the authors came across, the body cavity of two specimens of *H. fossilis*, infected with 5 metacercarae. On detailed study, it was found that the larvae belongs to the genus *Clinostomoides* Dollfus, 1950 and is described herein as such.

Body elongated, spinose with blunt ends measuring 8.5 – 10.2 in length and 1.5 – 2.3 mm in width. These metacercariae were without cyst. Suckers, well developed present in anterior fifth of the body. Oral sucker sub-terminal, ventral in position and measures 0.25 × 0.32 × 0.04 – 0.5 mm. Ventral sucker, intercaecal in position, rounded in shape measuring 0.5 – 0.6 mm in diameter. Pharynx absent. Oesophagus short and measures 0.11 – 0.13 mm in length. Hind end of oesophagus is swollen and surrounded by large number of darkly stained glands. Bulbous end of oesophagus is called as pseudopharynx (by many workers including Pandey, 1971). Intestinal caeca simple, smooth in outline upto ventral sucker, but after ventral sucker they are provided with well developed diverticuli both at inner and outer sides and extend upto hind region of the body.

Gonads, well developed located in posterior 1/6th of the body. Testes two in number, transversely elongated. Anterior testes measures 0.35 – 0.44 × 0.15 – 0.22 mm while the posterior testis measures 0.21 – 0.23 × 0.35 – 0.44 mm. Cirrus sac well developed, club shaped, located between the two testes, opposite to the ovary and measures 0.5 – 0.6 × 0.2 – 0.3 mm. Vesicula seminalis interna well developed coiled and tubular. Cirrus sac opens at the genital atrium. Ovary small, elongate oval in shape, intercaecal in position at the opposite side of the cirrus measuring 0.22 – 0.26 × 0.11 – 0.13 mm. Uterus simple, makes one coil just anterior to the testes in pretesticular field of the body, descend downwardly, after reaching at about the anterior border of the anterior testes; once again turn and extend anteriorly upto 1/2 of the body and open at the genital atrium.



Figs. 1-3. 1. *Clinostomoides pandeyii* n.sp.; 2. Anterior end enlarged; 3. Posterior end enlarged.

Excretory bladder small, V-shaped located at posterior extremity of the body and opens to exterior by means of a terminal excretory pore.

Dollfus (1950) erected the genus *Clinostomoides*. To the best of our knowledge, in all 3 species of this metacercarae are reported under the genus *Clinostomoides* from India and abroad *viz. C. ophiocephali* (Tubangui & Masilungan, 1944) Agrawal, 1958; *C. dollfusi* Agrawal, 1958 and *C. chauhani* Pandey, 1971. The present form differs from *C. ophiocephali* in having spinose body. From *C. dollfusi* in having different disposition of gonads in the body. However, it differs from *C. chauhani*

in having anteriorly located gonopore and less contorted uterus. The present form is, therefore, regarded as new species and described as *Clinostomoides pandeyii* n.sp., named in honour of Prof. K.C. Pandey.

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