

**A NEW TREMATODE,
POIKILORCHIS CONGOLENSIS,
N.G., N.SP., LIVING IN
SUBCUTANEOUS
RETROAURICULAR CYSTS IN
MAN FROM THE
BELGIAN CONGO**

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A New Trematode, *Poikilorchis congolensis*, n.g., n.sp., living in Subcutaneous Retroauricular Cysts in Man from the Belgian Congo

Yarwood and Elmes¹ observed a cyst in the retroauricular region of a native in Nigeria, containing operculated eggs having the same form as the eggs of *Paragonimus*. Recently, one of us discovered, in natives of the Kasai Province, four cases of cysts or abscesses, similarly situated and containing eggs resembling those of *Paragonimus westermani* but slightly smaller in size². Examination of an adult worm extracted from one of these cysts showed that it did not belong to the Troglotrematidae (although it had some of the characteristics of this family) but to the Achillurbainiidae Dollfus³. At the present time this family is represented by only one genus containing one species *Achillurbainia nouveli* Dollfus, which was discovered in an abscess of the upper eyelid in a Malayan leopard. Our specimen has certain differences from the genus *Achillurbainia* and we propose to place it in a new genus and in a new species: *Poikilorchis congolensis* n.g., n.sp.

The worm is brown (in formalin), flattened, 7.6 mm. long and 3.9 mm. wide; oral sucker terminoventral and smaller than the acetabulum, which is situated about one-third of the distance along the body; cuticle non-spinous and non-scaly. The prepharynx is absent, pharynx well developed, cesophagus dorsoventral and very short; the cæca reach about the end of the body and have very numerous folds. The excretory vesicle is I-shaped and slightly widened anteriorly. The ovary is ovoid, regular in shape and not lobate, situated to the left of the median line, a little behind the acetabulum; uterus contains numerous eggs, lying between the two cæca, the posterior border of the ovary and the acetabulum; receptaculum seminis small, bilobate, situated medially; testes very numerous (about two hundred) and very irregular in shape, situated in the posterior two-thirds of the body; seminal vesicle large, situated in front of the acetabulum; cirrus pouch and copulatory organ absent; genital pore situated in front of the acetabulum a little to the right of the median line; vitellaria very numerous filling almost all the body; eggs operculated, without a spine opposite the operculum, 0.063 mm. long and 0.04 mm. wide (Fig. 1).

This new genus is distinguished from the genus *Achillurbainia* by the following characters: testes

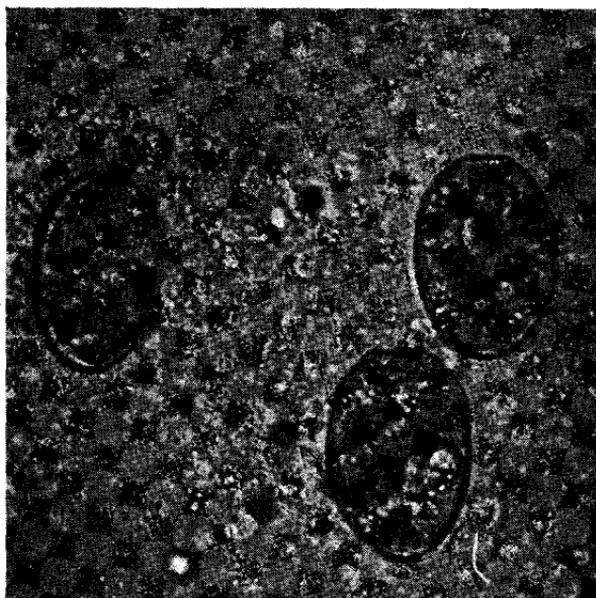


Fig. 1. Eggs of *Potkilorchis congolensis* n.g., n.sp., found in a retroauricular cyst

very irregular in shape, caeca having very numerous and short folds, receptaculum testis small, bilobate and median, genital pore paramedian, ovary ovoid.

It is notable that none of the four patients from Kasai suffered from pulmonary paragonimiasis and did not have eggs in the sputum. However, two of these patients were inhabitants of villages where so-called pulmonary paragonimiasis had been previously observed. Considering the dimensions of the eggs found in a case reported by Libert in the Cameroons⁴, we think that it is probable that some of the cases reported as pulmonary paragonimiasis in Africa are in fact caused by this new parasite.

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¹ Yarwood, G. B., and Elmes, B. G., *Trans. Roy. Soc. Trop. Med. Hyg.*, 36, 347 (1943).

² Vandepitte, J., *et al.* (in the press).

³ Fain, A., and Vandepitte, J., (in the press).

⁴ Libert, C., *West African Med. J.*, 5, 51 (1932).