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OCHETOSOMATID FLUKES OF COLUBRID SNAKES FROM ILLINOIS AND CENTRAL AMERICA

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Abstract. - Heterodon platyrhinos and Lampropeltus getulus collected in southern Illinois were found to harbor Ochetosoma elongatum and O. kansense, respectively. The finding of O. kansense in L. getulus represents a new host record. Dendrophidion percarinatus collected in the Panama Canal Zone, Central America was infected with O. kansense. Its recovery from this host in the Panama Canal Zone constitutes a new host and locality record.

In the course of parasitological examination of amphibians and reptiles from different habitats in southern Illinois, two species of ochetosomatid flukes were found in colubrid snakes collected during the summer of 1973 in southern Illinois by Richard L. Crowell. Measurements of 42 sexually mature specimens from the mouth, esophagus, stomach, and intestine of an eastern hognose snake, Heterodon platyrhinos Latreille, collected in Jackson County, fall within the range of measurements of Ochetosoma elongatum (Pratt, 1903) Goodman, 1952, as given by Dubois and Mahon (1959). Ochetosoma elongatum has been reported previously from several snake hosts including Coluber constrictor, Drymarchon corais couperi, Heterodon contortris, H. platyrhinos, and Lampropeltus getulus. This report constitutes the second record of the occurrence of O. elongatum in H. platyrhinos from Illinois.

Twenty-five sexually mature flukes from the mouth of a kingsnake, Lampropeltus getulus (Linnaeus), collected in Jackson county, were identified as Ochetosoma kansense (Crow, 1913) Skrjabin and Antipin, 1957. Previous reports on snake hosts parasitized by this species include Ancistrodon contortrix, A. mokasen, A. piscivorus, Diadophis punctatus stictogenys, Elaphe obsoleta spiloides, Heterodon platyrhinos, and Lampropeltus sp. This is the second report of this trematode from snakes in Illinois. The host, L. getulus, represents a new host record for O. kansense.

The parasitological collection of Dr. George Garoian, Department of Zoology, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, contains numerous specimens collected from various hosts in the Panama Canal Zone, Central America. Among other helminths in the collection are several specimens of an ochetosomatid trematode taken from the mouth of Dendrophidion percarinatus (Cope), collected during July, 1959. These specimens were

identified as Ochetosoma kansense and were slightly larger than the Illinois specimens. Its recovery from D. percarinatus in the Panama Canal Zone represents a new host and locality record.

Literature Cited

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