

FALCAUSTRA ELONGATA (RUDOLPHI 1819) (NEMATODA: KATHLANIIDAE) IN AMBYSTOMA SP. FROM MEXICO

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ABSTRACT

Falcaustra elongata is reported in *Ambystoma* sp. from Laguna Atexcac, Laguna Quecholac, and Laguna de la Mina Preciosa, Puebla, Mexico.

INTRODUCTION

The majority of reports on the helminths of amphibians from Mexico are confined primarily to the parasites of anurans. There exists a paucity of information on the helminth fauna of salamanders from this region. The present report is an account of a nematode parasite detected in *Ambystoma* sp. from three lakes in the Mexican state of Puebla.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Eighteen female and seven male *Falcaustra elongata* were found in eighty-five *Ambystoma* sp collected by Dr. Ronald A. Brandon, Southern Illinois University, during July 1981 from Laguna Quecholac, Laguna Atexcac, and Laguna de la Mina Preciosa, Puebla, Mexico. This nematode was first described from *Ambystoma mexicanum* by Baird (1858) and assigned to the genus *Leptodera* Dujardin 1845. Walton (1932) redescribed it from the type material and transferred it to the genus *Spironoura* Leidy 1856. Although the original label documents Baird's identification of the type host as *A. mexicanum* "*Leptodera elongata*. Baird, 1858, ex ints., *Siredonis mexicani*. Sir W. Jardin, Bart."; fide Walton, 1932), Walton followed the general opinion of earlier workers that *A. mexicanum* and *A. tigrinum* were the same species, and listed the type host as *A. tigrinum*. Caballero and Bravo Hollis (1938) did likewise in their redescription of *Spironoura* (= *Falcaustra*) *elongata* based on four male and five female worms taken from the large intestine of hosts from

Lake Xochimilco. Freitas and Lent (1941), in a revision of the subfamily Kathlaniinae, transferred *S. elongata* to the genus *Falcaustra* Lane 1915.

Our specimens are longer than those studied by Walton (1932), but they agree very closely with the description of *F. elongata* as given by Caballero and Bravo Hollis (1938) with some slight variability in the position of the male postanal papillae. Dyer and Brandon (1973) reported this nematode in *A. tigrinum* from Nopaltepec and Xochimilco, Mexico, in *A. subsalsum* from Laguna Alchichica, Puebla, in *A. lacustria* from Laguna Zumpango, México, and *A. sp.* from Zacapu, Michoacán. This constitutes the second report of *F. elongata* from *Ambystoma* in the Mexican state of Puebla and the first from the specific localities of Laguna Quecholac, Laguna Atexcac, and Laguna de la Mina Preciosa within that state.

LITERATURE CITED

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