

A new *Thelastomatidae*, *Oryctophila bonaerensis* sp. nov. (Nematoda) parasite of curculionid beetle larvae of *Prosalbus rufus* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) from Argentina

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ABSTRACT. *Oryctophila bonaerensis* sp. nov. parasitizing curculionid beetle larvae from Argentina, is described and illustrated. The species is characterized by a prominent genital cone and a short and filiform tail appendage. Female with vulva at midlength of body, vagina long, S-shaped, monodelphic, opistodelphic. Male with one club-shaped spicule. Genital papillae arranged as follows: one pair of large preanal papillae and three pairs of postanal papillae of various sizes: a pair of medium sized papillae is immediately posterior to the anus, followed by a pair of large papillae, and one pair of small papillae at the base of the caudal appendage.

KEY WORDS. Nematodes; Entomoparasitic; Insect; taxonomy.

All species currently included in *Johnstonia* Basir, 1956, had been at some point included in either *Oxyuris* Rudolphi, 1803, or in *Thelastoma* Leidy, 1849, based on the overall shape of the esophageal bulb. *Johnstonia* has been separated from the latter on the basis of the number of uterine branches: *Thelastoma* is didelphic and *Johnstonia* is monodelphic (BASIR 1956). Thus, BASIR (1956) proposed *Johnstonia* to group Pinworms (Nematoda: Oxyurida), parasites of beetle (Coleoptera) in Australia. Because the type species was insufficiently described, JARRY & JARRY (1968) suggested that the entire genus was based on a misinterpretation of the morphology of the female reproductive system. However, JOHNSON'S (1914) illustration of the female clearly shows a monodelphic worm which bears close resemblance to VAN WAEREBEKE'S (1973) *Oryctophyla*; both are from scarabaeid larvae and have the anterior lip of the vulva protruding. ADAMSON & VAN WAEREBEKE (1992) reviewed *Thelastomatoidea*. They recognized *Johnstonia* as a valid genus based on the fact the female is monodelphic. ADAMSON & VAN WAEREBEKE (1994) considered *Oryctophila* van Waerebeke, 1973 to be a synonym of *Johnstonia* Basir, 1956 because both are parasites of scarabaeid larvae and both have the anterior lip of the vulva protruding. These authors also detected that Basir's genus is homonymous with *Johnstonia* Quatrefages, 1866 (Polychaeta), a "nomen dubium" which the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature decided to retain with the suppression of *Johnstonia* Basir, 1956. ADAMSON & VAN WAEREBEKE (1994) suggested that *Oryctophila* van Waerebeke, 1973 is used to accommodate species with monodelphic females formerly assigned to Basir's genus. We report a new species of the genus, *Oryctophila bonaerensis* sp. nov., a parasite of curculionid beetle larvae from Buenos Aires, Argentina.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

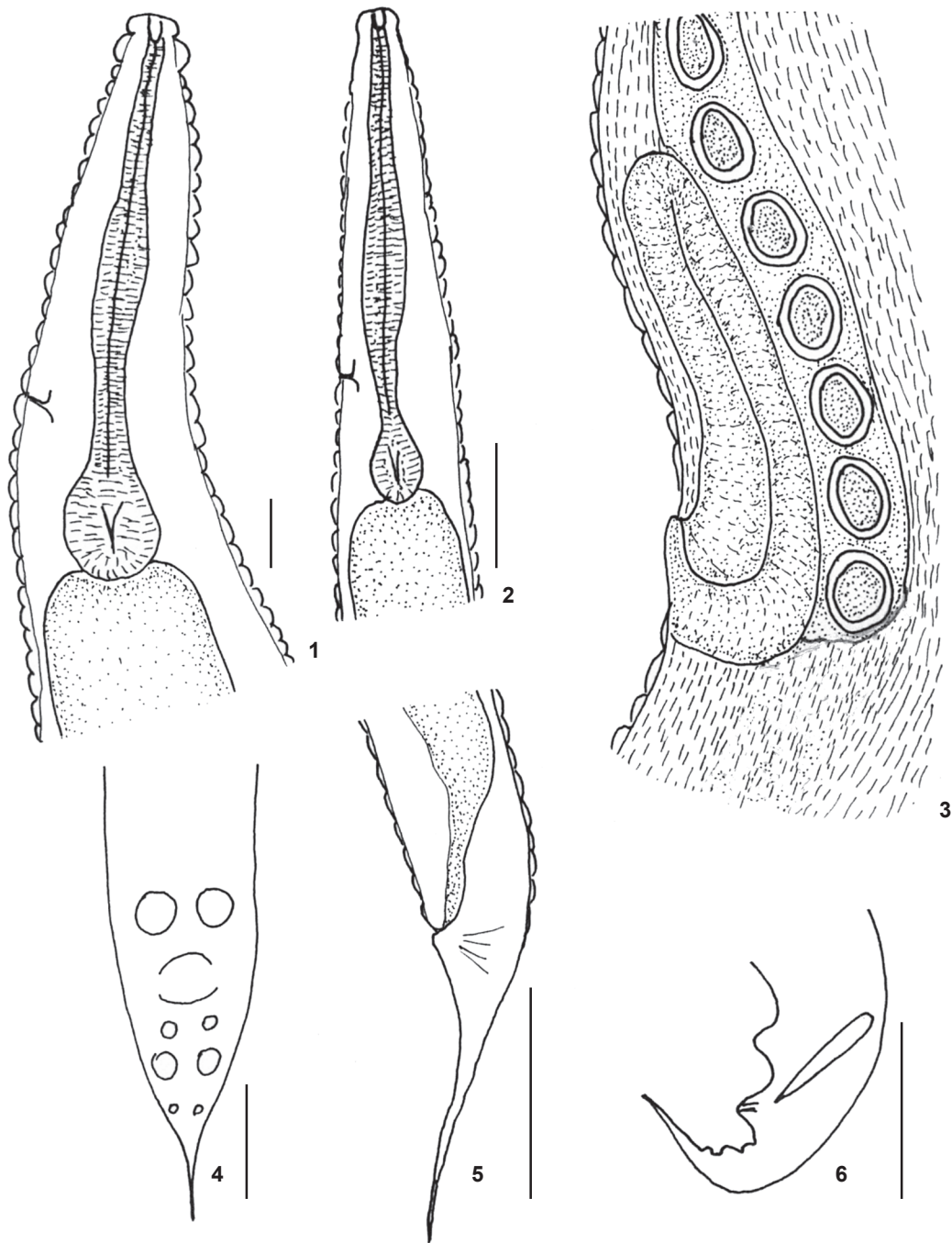
Larvae of *Prosalbus rufus* Oglobbin, 1930 (n = 12) from Gorina (34°58'S, 57°54'W), La Plata, Buenos Aires Province, Argentina, were collected by hand and placed in individual vials. We followed POINAR'S (1975) dissection protocol, keeping insects at 5°C for 10 minutes, and then dissecting them in Petri dishes filled with distilled water under a Zeiss stereoscope. The nematodes were euthanized in 60°C distilled water for two minutes. They were subsequently removed to 50% TAF solution in water for 48 hours, and then transferred into pure TAF. The nematodes were transferred from the fixative to glycerol for clearing. Fixed specimens were used for drawings using a camera lucida mounted on a Zeiss compound microscope. All measurements are in μm (holotype male and allotype female), with ranges in parenthesis (paratypes).

TAXONOMY

Oryctophila bonaerensis sp. nov.

Figs 1-6

Description: small nematodes; cuticle annulated throughout length of body. Female: cephalic extremity (Fig. 1) formed by circumoral annule (diameter 40 μm) and enlarged second annule (diameter 52 μm). Buccal cavity short, cylindrical with simple walls. Esophagus with a corpus, an isthmus and a basal bulb. Nerve ring located in the middle of the corpus. Excretory pore situated at mid-isthmus level. Female with vulva at mid-body, with posterior lip well developed (Fig. 3). Vagina long, S-shaped. Monodelphic, opistodelphic. Eggs broadly oval. Tail



Figures 1-6. *Oryctophila bonaerensis* sp. nov.: (1) anterior end of the female; (2) anterior end of the male; (3) vagina, uterus with eggs; (4) posterior end of the male, ventral view; (5) posterior end of the male; (6) lateral view posterior end of the female; Scale bars = 50 μ m.

long and filiform (Fig. 5). Male: cephalic extremity (Fig. 2) formed by simple annule (diameter 17 μ m). Stoma simple with thin walls. Nerve ring at midlevel of corpus. Excretory pore at mid-isthmus level. Genital cone prominent, with a short and

filiform tail appendage (Fig. 6). The male with testis extending to middle of the body. One club-shaped spicule, without gubernaculum. The genital papillae arranged with one large pair preanal papillae and three pairs postanal, of these, one pair

medium size just behind the anus, medial pair large and distal pair small at base of the caudal appendage (Fig. 4).

Male (n = 9) body length: 1200 µm (1050-1360); head width at mouth level: 16.2 µm (14.4-18); oesophagus length: 220 µm (188-292.4); distance from anterior end to excretory pore: 160 µm (142.8-182); greatest body diameter: 72.6 µm (71.2-76.2); spicules length: 38 µm (36.8-42.2); gubernaculum length: 20 µm (18.6-22); tail appendage length: 20 µm (19-25.4).

Female (n = 14) body length: 5300 µm (4630-5800); head width at mouth level: 40 µm (40-43.6); oesophagus length: 670 µm (660-696.5); distance from anterior end to excretory pore: 470 µm (402-520); width of body at level of vulva: 450 µm (420-455); greatest body diameter: 420 µm (396-445); vagina length: 260.5 µm (242-286.6); distance anterior end to vulva/total length x 100 (V): 59.43% (58.6-61.2); length and width of eggs: 68 µm (64-70.8) x 44 µm (41-46.2); tail appendage length: 55.7 µm (52.6-58.2).

Type host: larvae of *Prosalbus rufus* Oglobbin (Coleoptera: Curculionidae).

Type locality: Gorina (34°58'S, 57°54'W), La Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Site in host: intestine, midgut.

Etymology: the name refers to the geographical region where it is found.

Type material: holotype male and allotype female are deposited in the Helminthological collection of Museo de Ciencias Naturales de La Plata, n° 5483, paratypes in the Nematological collection of CEPAVE (Dr. Camino's laboratory).

DISCUSSION

Females of *Oryctophila bonaerensis* sp. nov. are similar to four other species of *Oryctophila*: *O. alatum* (Johnston, 1914) Basir, 1956, parasite of a cetoniid beetle larva from Australia; *O. crimense* (Skrjabin, 1927) Basir, 1956, from myriapods from Russia; *O. myriapodicola* (Skrjabin, 1916) Basir, 1956, from myriapods from Africa, and *O. sphaeropoli* (Parona, 1896) Basir, 1956, from millipedes from Indonesia. The female reproductive apparatus of these species is similar, including a monodelphic, opistodelphic condition. Two traits distinguish *O. alatum* from

O. bonaerensis: First, the latter has a pair of caudal papillae near the anus; second, the intestine of *O. bonaerensis* is dilated anteriorly to form a cardia. The males have not been described for the other three species; therefore, the comparisons below are based on females. *O. crimense* has larger eggs (113 x 85 µm vs in *O. bonaerensis* (64-70.8 x 41-46.2 µm) and a more anterior excretory pore (in the middle of the corpus). *Oryctophila myriapodicola* differs by having a shorter tail (about one-fifth of the body, 460-510 µm), and the intestine enlarged anteriorly forming a distinct cardia, which occupies almost the entire width of body. Finally, *J. sphaeropoli* is characterized by having a distinct sub-spherical swelling of the posterior end of the corpus in the shape of a pseudobulb and a spicate, filiform tail of about one-third the length of the body (980-1430 µm).

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