

# *Lamellodiscus* (Monogenea: Diplectanidae) parasites of *Dentex macrophthalmus* (Teleostei: Sparidae) from the North Atlantic coast of Africa, with a redescription of *L. dentexi* Aljoshkina, 1984, and description of three new species

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**Abstract:** *Lamellodiscus dentexi* Aljoshkina, 1984, a gill parasite of *Dentex macrophthalmus* (Bloch), is redescribed based on new material from the northwest coast of Africa (Senegal and Morocco). Three new species of *Lamellodiscus* Johnston et Tiegs, 1922 from *D. macrophthalmus* are described, *Lamellodiscus toguebayei* sp. n., *L. vicinus* sp. n., and *L. triacies* sp. n., all belonging to the “ignoratus” group. They can be distinguished from all other species of this group by the size and shape of male copulatory organ and sclerotised parts of the haptor. Considering the peculiar morphology of the male copulatory organ (long and thin tube) we propose to put together *L. dentexi*, *L. virgula* Euzet et Oliver, 1967 and *L. obeliae* Oliver, 1973 to form the “elongatus” type within the “elegans” group.

**Keywords:** Monogenea, Diplectanidae, *Lamellodiscus dentexi*, *Lamellodiscus toguebayei*, *Lamellodiscus vicinus*, *Lamellodiscus triacies*, *Dentex macrophthalmus*, Senegal, Morocco

*Lamellodiscus* Johnston et Tiegs, 1922 (Monogenea: Diplectanidae) is currently composed of 52 described species (Euzet and Oliver 1967, Kritsky et al. 2000, Amine and Euzet 2005, Amine et al. 2006, 2007, Neifar 2008, Boudaya et al. 2009, Justine and Briand 2010) that have been mainly studied in sparids. Sparid fishes consist of approximately 115 species in 33 genera that are broadly distributed in tropical and temperate coastal waters (Nelson 2006). Diplectanids often show strict host-specificity (Oliver 1992); thus, it is a safe prediction that many other species of *Lamellodiscus* are still undescribed (Poulin and Mouillot 2005, Justine 2007).

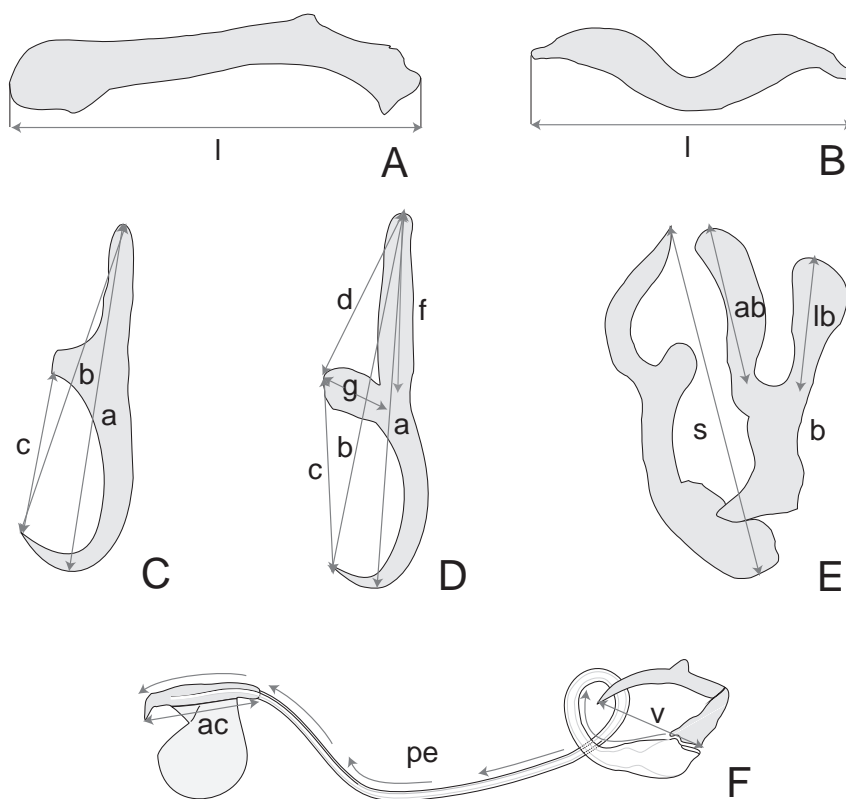
Along the Atlantic coast of Africa, 29 species of Sparidae are reported (Quéro et al. 1990) on which only seven *Lamellodiscus* species have been described: *L. dentexi* Aljoshkina, 1984 from the large-eye dentex *Dentex macrophthalmus* (Bloch) by Aljoshkina (1984); *L. elegans* Bychowsky, 1957, *L. ergensi* Euzet et Oliver, 1966 and *L. ignoratus* Palombi, 1949 reported from the white seabream *Diplodus sargus cadenati* de la Paz, Bauchot et Daget by Justine (1985); and *L. sarculus* and *L. sigillatus* from *Pagrus caeruleostictus* (Valenciennes) and *L. rastel-*

*lus* from *Pagrus auriga* (Valenciennes) described by Neifar et al. (2004).

Collections of *D. macrophthalmus* from the coast of Senegal near Dakar during February 2009, and from off Rabat, Morocco during April 2009, revealed, in addition to *L. dentexi*, three species of *Lamellodiscus* that are new to science. The purpose of this paper is to provide a redescription of *L. dentexi* and descriptions of three new species.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Specimen collection and preparation.** Specimens of *Dentex macrophthalmus*, 152 from Dakar, Senegal and 5 from off Rabat, Morocco, were identified using Blache et al. (1970) and Bellemans et al. (1988). Fish were dissected immediately or frozen until examination. Gill arches were removed and placed in separate Petri dishes containing seawater and examined for parasites under incident light, using stereomicroscope. Diplectanids were detached from the gills with a strong water current and transferred to a dish containing filtered seawater. Some parasites were partially compressed beneath slide and coverslip and examined using an optical microscope. Other parasites were



**Fig. 1.** Morphology of *Lamellogadus* Johnston et Tieg, 1922. Measurements of various sclerotised organs. **A** – dorsal bar: l – total length; **B** – ventral bar: l – total length; **C** – dorsal anchor: a – total length, b – shaft-point length, c – distance guard-point; **D** – ventral anchor: a – total length, b – distance shaft-point, c – distance guard-point, d – distance shaft-guard, f – shaft length, g – guard length; **E** – male copulatory complex (“lyre” type): s – simple piece length, b – bifurcated piece, ab – axial branch length, lb – lateral branch length; **F** – male copulatory complex (“elongatus” type): v – vectis, pe – penis length, ac – accessory piece.

transferred and mounted onto a slide in a drop of ammonium picrate-glycerol (Malmberg 1957). The preparation was then covered with a round coverslip and sealed with Glyceel (made after Bates 1997).

**Morphological analysis.** Drawings were made using a Leitz microscope equipped with a drawing tube, then scanned and redrawn with CorelDraw software. For male copulatory organ (MCO) of *L. dentexi* we use the terms “vectis” (see Boudaya et al. 2009) for the sclerotised piece articulated with the proximal part of the penis and “accessory pieces” for the sclerotised piece placed at the distal part of the penis. As proposed by Neifar et al. (2004) for the nomenclature of sclerotised piece, the “lyre”-shaped MCO is composed of a bifurcated and a simple piece. For the bifurcated piece of MCO we use the terms axial and lateral for internal and external branch, respectively. Terms and measures of the sclerotised structures are presented in Fig. 1. Measurements, made on specimens fixed in Malmberg’s fluid, taken using a DM2500 Leica microscope, a DFC320 Leica digital camera and Leica Application Software v 3.0, are given in micrometres followed in parentheses by the range and the number of observations (n). Voucher specimens of *L. dentexi* and the holotype and paratypes of the new species are deposited in the collections of the Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle, Paris (MNHN), with some paratypes also in the Parasitic Worm

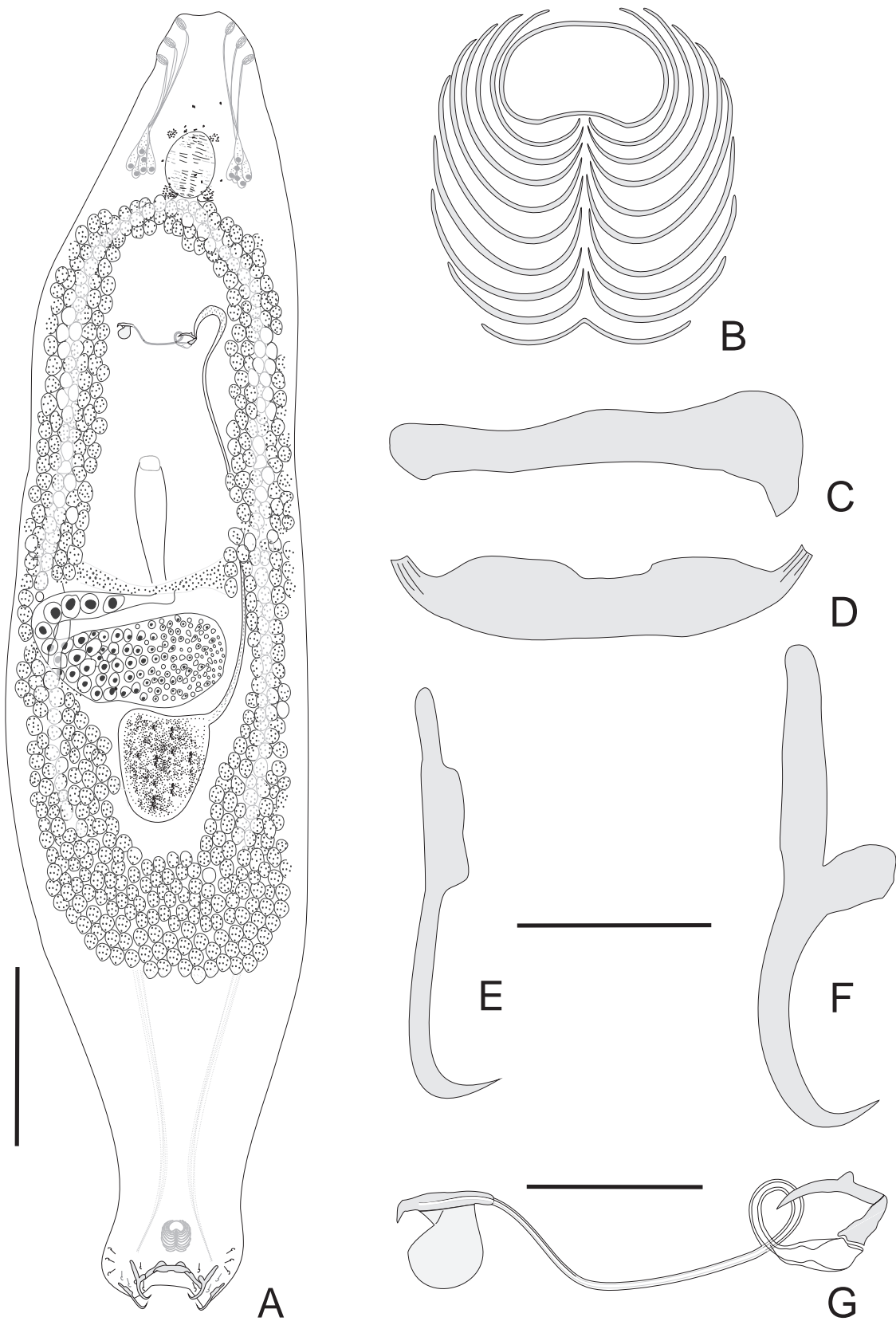
Collection at the Natural History Museum, London (BMNH) and the collection of the Institute of Parasitology, Biology Centre of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, České Budějovice (IPCAS).

We were not able to examine the holotype of *L. dentexi* (675-N 495/7: Atlantic Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography, Kaliningrad) which was lost (Dr. G. Rodjuk, pers. comm.).

## RESULTS

### *Lamellogadus dentexi* Aljoshkina, 1984 Fig. 2

**Morphological redescription.** Diplectanidae, Lamellogadinae. Adults 1760 (1581–1981, n = 10) long including haptor, maximum width 400 (387–420, n = 10) at level of ovary. Haptor 257 (176–333, n = 10) wide. Dorsal and ventral lamellogadus of “elegans” group (Oliver 1987), subequal, 42 (38–46, n = 20) in diameter, with 10 concentric lamellae; anterior lamella forming complete ring 18 (16–21, n = 6) maximum wide. Dorsal anchor with incipient guard, a: 59 (56–60, n = 20); b: 55 (53–58, n = 20); c: 29 (27–31, n = 20). Two lateral dorsal bars with rounded and curved distal end 57 (54–60, n = 20) long. Ventral



**Fig. 2.** *Lamellodiscus dentexi* Aljoshkina, 1984 from *Dentex macrophthalmus* off Dakar, Senegal. **A** – entire worm, ventral view, composite drawing of three live and five fixed specimens; **B** – lamellodisc (“elegans” type); **C** – dorsal bar; **D** – ventral bar; **E** – dorsal anchor; **F** – ventral anchor; **G** – male copulatory organ. Scale bars: A = 250  $\mu$ m; B–F = 25  $\mu$ m; G = 50  $\mu$ m.

anchor with developed handle, wide guard, long shaft and small point; a: 67 (64–69, n = 19); b: 64 (61–66, n = 19); c: 32 (29–36, n = 19); d: 34 (31–37, n = 19); f: 33 (31–35, n = 19); g: 12 (11–14, n = 19). Ventral median bar 60 (58–63, n = 10) long, with median constricted portion and anteriorly curved ends. Fourteen similar uncinuli (seven pairs) 11.7 (10–14, n = 25) long, with disposition as shown in Fig. 2A. Cephalic glands lateral to pharynx, with numerous ducts leading to three head organs on each sides of anterior margin. Four cluster of ocellar pigment granules, posterior pair more developed. Mouth anterior, subterminal ventral. Muscular pharynx spherical, 95 (77–124, n = 10) in diameter. Oesophagus short. Lateral oesophageal glands present. Two simple lateral intestinal caeca terminating blindly between testis and haptor. Genital aperture median ventral. Subspherical testis intercaecal in posterior quarter of body. Vas deferens originating on anterosinistral side of testis, runs anteriorly enlarging to form curved fusiform seminal vesicle anterior to MCO. Prostatic reservoir and prostatic duct not seen. MCO with basal vectis, sclerotised, V-shaped, v: 21 (19–25, n = 10) long, articulated with bulbous base of sclerotised penis. Penis elongated, pe: 143 (141–147, n = 10) long, flagelliform, hollow, forming one loop near base, distal part with sclerotised accessory piece, ac: 21 (17–25, n = 10) long, ending in a hook and with a thin rounded ventral plate. Ovary median, subequatorial, anterior to testis, looping dorso-ventrally around right intestinal caecum. Vagina not observed. Lateral vitelline follicles well developed, coextensive with intestinal caeca, contiguous anterior to MCO and posterior to testis. Transverse vitelloduct united medially anterior to ovary. Eggs not observed.

**Type host:** *Dentex macrophthalmus* (Bloch, 1791) (Sparidae, Perciformes).

**Type locality:** Northwest coast of Africa (after Aljoshkina 1984).

**Other localities:** Dakar (14°40'41"N, 17°27'34"W), Senegal; Rabat (34°1'47"N, 6°49'49"W), Morocco (present paper).

**Site of infection:** Gills, the extremity of the filament.

**Type material:** Neotype (mounted in ammonium picrate-glycerol): MNHN No. HEL 155 Tf 180; 5 vouchers specimens (mounted in ammonium picrate-glycerol): MNHN Nos. HEL 155 Tf 180, HEL 156 Tf 181, HEL 157 Tf 182, HEL 158 Tf 183.

**Prevalence:** 12 %, 19 infected of 157 fish examined.

**Remarks.** Here we give a redescription of *L. dentexi* because the original illustrations include some inaccuracies (e.g. distal accessory piece is drawn superposed with proximal rounded base of the penis and with the vectis, leading to confusion between these sclerotised pieces).

On the gills of *D. macrophthalmus*, *L. dentexi* is always attached at the extremity of the filament and can be easily distinguished from its congeners by having the largest body size.

Based on the structure of lamellocdisc, three morphological groups are recognised by Justine and Briand (2010): “ignoratus”, “elegans”, and “tubulicornis”. *Lamellocdiscus dentexi* belongs to the “elegans” group. Similarly, Oliver (1987) distinguished among *Lamellocdiscus* three different types based on the morphology of the MCO: “lyre”, “forked”, and “polymorphous”. Because of the morphology of its MCO with a long and thin penis articulated with a vectis (see Boudaya et al. 2009) and a true accessory piece (i.e. placed at the distal extremity of the penis), *L. dentexi* should be placed in the latter type. Two other species, *L. virgula* Euzet et Oliver, 1967 from *Pagellus acarne* (Risso) and *L. obeliae* Oliver, 1973 from *P. bogaraveo* (Brünnich), present the same MCO morphology, but have been placed by Oliver (1987) in the “forked” group. Considering the similarity and the special feature of these MCOs, we propose a new type of MCO morphology, herein named “elongatus”.

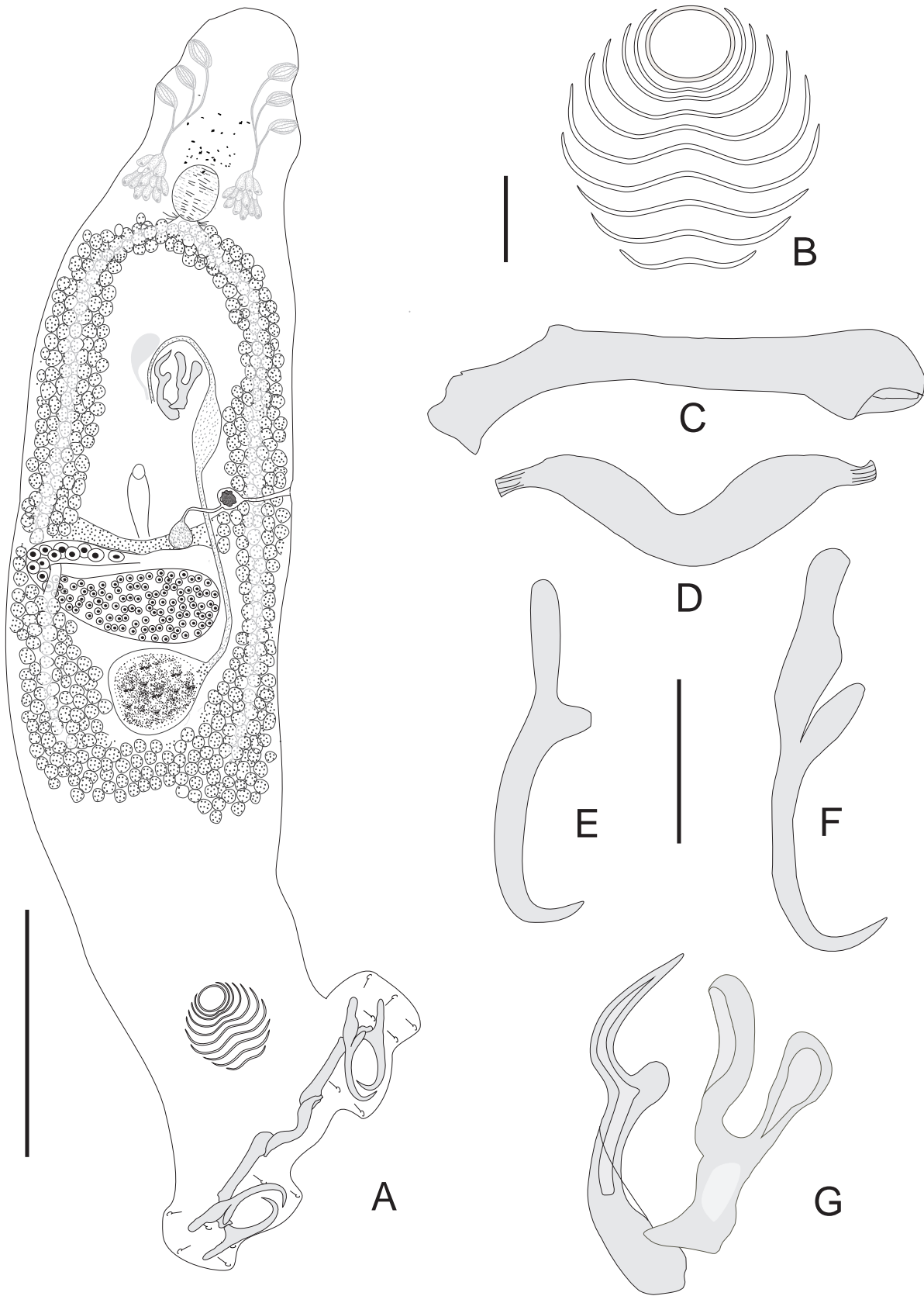
In conclusion, *L. dentexi*, as *L. virgula* and *L. obeliae*, belongs to the “elegans” group (based on lamellocdisc) and “elongatus” type (based on MCO). *Lamellocdiscus dentexi* can be distinguished from these two other species by the size of the accessory piece of the MCO (21 vs. 60 for *L. virgula*) and by the shape of its accessory piece (presence of a rounded ventral plate vs. absence in *L. obeliae*).

### *Lamellocdiscus toguebayei* sp. n.

Fig. 3

**Morphological description.** Diplectanidae, Lamellocdiscinae. Adults 589 (504–694, n = 26) long including haptor; maximum width 146 (121–179, n = 26) at level of ovary. Haptor 153 (135–165, n = 26) wide, bilaterally lobed. Dorsal and ventral lamellocdiscs of “ignoratus” group with 10 concentric rows of lamellae 41 (37–47, n = 52) in diameter; anterior row forming circular complete ring 19 (15–22, n = 52) in diameter. Dorsal anchor with incipient guard, a: 48 (43–52, n = 52) b: 45 (40–49, n = 52); c: 25 (20–29, n = 52). Two lateral dorsal bars with spatulate medial end and curved lateral end, 66 (60–72, n = 52) long. Ventral anchor with protuberant handle, narrow guard, bent shaft and short point; a: 59 (53–64, n = 52); b: 56 (50–61, n = 52); c: 34 (27–38, n = 52); d: 23 (16–27, n = 52); f: 30 (24–34, n = 50); g: 13 (9–16, n = 50). Ventral median bar “V-shaped” 57 (52–63, n = 26) long with constricted median part and curved ends. Fourteen similar uncinuli (seven pairs) 11 (10–13, n = 25) long, with diplectanid disposition (Fig. 3 A). Cephalic glands lateral to pharynx, with numerous ducts leading to three head organs on each sides of anterior margin. Ocellar pigment granules scarce, scattered in prepharyngeal part of body. Mouth anterior, subterminal, opening ventrally. Pharynx spherical, 47 (39–54; n = 15) in diameter. Oesophagus short. Lateral oesophageal glands present. Simple lateral intestinal caeca not united posteriorly. Subspherical testis intercaecal in posterior half of body. Vas deferens emerging from anterosinistral side of





**Fig. 3.** *Lamellodiscus toguebayei* sp. n. from *Dentex macrophthalmus* off Dakar, Senegal. **A** – entire worm, ventral view, composite drawing of five live specimens; **B** – lamellodisc (“ignoratus” group); **C** – dorsal bar; **D** – ventral bar; **E** – dorsal anchor; **F** – ventral anchor; **G** – male copulatory organ. Scale bars: A = 100 µm; B–G = 25 µm.

testis, not encircling left intestinal caecum, enlarging to form seminal vesicle. Vas deferens passing on right side, anterior to MCO. Prostatic reservoir pyriform, anterior to MCO. MCO of “lyre” morphology, with two sclerotised, articulated pieces. Simple piece with sickle-shaped distal third, s: 54 (49–59, n = 24) long. Bifurcated piece with lateral rounded-end branch lb: 21 (19–23, n = 26) shorter than axial branch ab: 28 (24–30, n = 26). Distal extremity of axial branch spoon-shaped. Ovary median, subequatorial, anterior to testis, looping dorsoventrally around right intestinal caecum. Mehlis’ glands not observed. Vaginal aperture sinistral, between MCO and ovary, with funnel-shaped opening, enlarged vaginal chamber often filled with sclerotised globular mass. Vaginal chamber connected with narrow duct to globular seminal receptacle, anterior to ovary. Vitelline follicles lateral, coextensive with intestinal caeca, contiguous anterior to MCO and posterior to testis. Eggs not seen.

**Type host:** *Dentex macrophthalmus* (Bloch, 1791) (Sparidae, Perciformes).

**Type locality:** Dakar (14°46'24"N, 17°25'29"W), Senegal.

**Other locality:** Rabat (34°1'47"N, 6°49'49"W), Morocco.

**Site of infection:** Gills between secondary gill lamellae.

**Type material:** Holotype (mounted in ammonium picrate-glycerol): MNHN No. HEL 159 Tf 184; 14 paratypes (mounted in ammonium picrate-glycerol): MNHN Nos. HEL 159 Tf 184, HEL 160 Tf 185, HEL 161 Tf 186; 9 paratypes (mounted in ammonium picrate-glycerol): BMNH 2010.8.11.1–3, 2010.8.11.4–9; and 7 paratypes (mounted in ammonium picrate-glycerol): IPCAS No. M-509.

**Prevalence:** 94%, 147 infected of 157 fish examined.

**Etymology:** The name *toguebayei* is given in honour of Professor Bhen Sikina Toguebaye from the University Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal.

**Remarks.** From the morphology of the squamodisc and male copulatory organ, this new species belongs to the “ignoratus” group (Oliver 1987). The presence of simple dorsal lateral bars enlarged at the axial end places this species in the “ignoratus” s. st. subgroup (Amine and Euzet 2005). This subgroup includes 13 species, *L. pagrosomi* Murray, 1931; *L. ignoratus* Palombi, 1949; *L. frater-nus* Bychowsky, 1957; *L. erythrini* Euzet et Oliver, 1967; *L. knoepffleri* Oliver, 1969; *L. acanthopagri* Roubal, 1981; *L. sarculus* Neifar, Euzet et Oliver, 2004; *L. sigillatus* Neifar, Euzet et Oliver, 2004; *L. rastelus* Neifar, Euzet et Oliver, 2004; *L. falcus* Amine, Euzet et Kechemir-Issad, 2006; *L. neifari* Amine, Euzet et Kechemir-Issad, 2006; *L. confusus* Amine, Euzet et Kechemir-Issad, 2007; and *L. crampus* Neifar, 2008. *Lamellodiscus toguebayei* can be easily distinguished from all of these species, except *L. sarculus*, by the sickle-shape of distal third of the simple piece of MCO. *Lamellodiscus toguebayei* differs from *L. sarculus* by the length of the lateral branch of the bifurcated piece of the MCO (21 vs. 12, respectively).

### *Lamellodiscus vicinus* sp. n.

Fig. 4

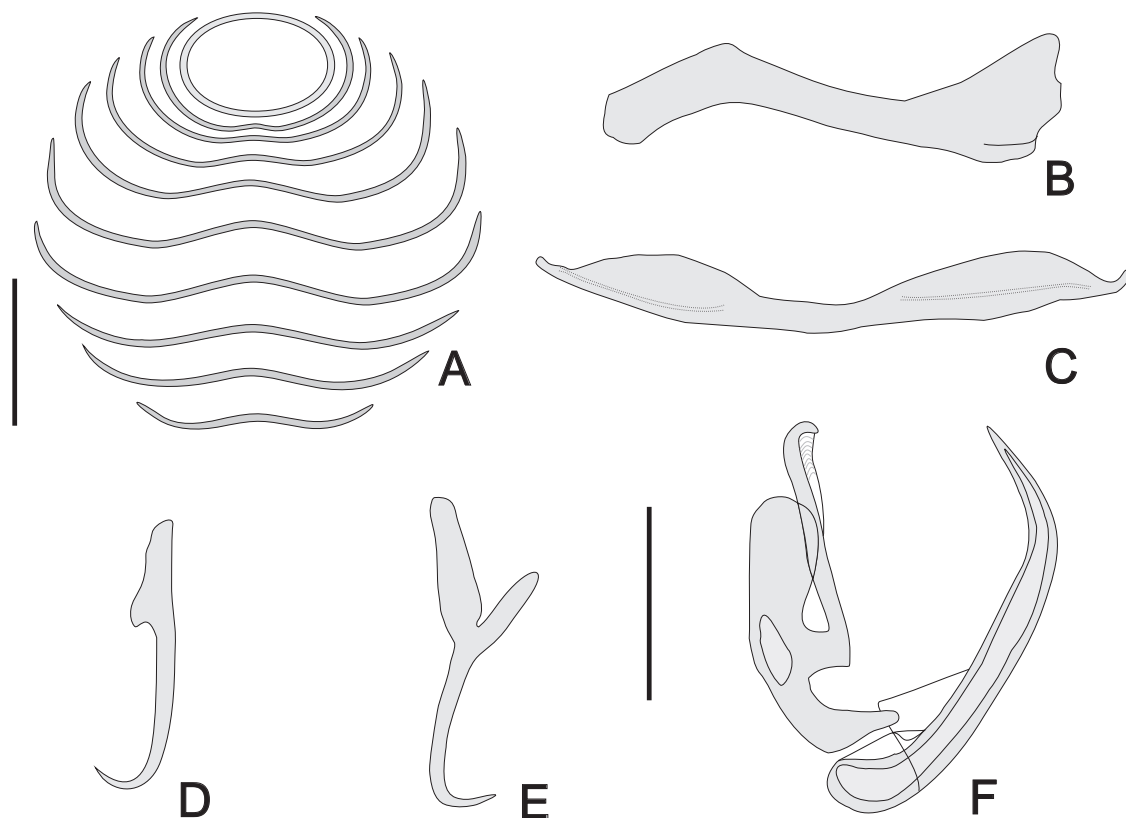
**Morphological description.** Diplectanidae, Lamellodiscinae. Adults 630 (523–902, n = 25) long including haptor; maximum width 143 (111–168, n = 25) at level of ovary. Haptor 160 (115–222, n = 25) wide, bilaterally lobed. Dorsal and ventral lamellodiscs of “ignoratus” group, 46 (40–50, n = 50) in diameter, with 10 concentric rows of lamellae; anterior row forming circular complete ring 25 (21–28, n = 50) in diameter. Dorsal anchor with incipient guard, a: 36 (33–39, n = 50); b: 34 (30–37, n = 50); c: 20 (18–22, n = 50). Two lateral dorsal bars with spatulate medial end and bent third lateral end, 62 (56–69, n = 50) long. Ventral anchor with developed handle, wide guard, bent shaft and short point; a: 41 (37–45, n = 50); b: 39 (35–43, n = 50); c: 24 (21–27, n = 50); d: 16 (14–18, n = 48); f: 19 (17–22, n = 50); g: 8.5 (6–10, n = 50). Ventral median bar 78 (66–88, n = 50) long, with constricted median part and tapered ends. Fourteen similar uncinuli (seven pairs) 11 (9–13, n = 25) long, with diplectanid disposition. Cephalic glands lateral to pharynx, with numerous ducts leading to three head organs on each sides of anterior margin. Ocellar pigment granules numerous, scattered in prepharyngeal part of body. Mouth anterior, subterminal, opening ventrally. Pharynx spherical, 45 (40–49, n = 10) in diameter. Oesophagus short. Lateral oesophageal glands present. Simple lateral intestinal caeca not united posteriorly. Subspherical testis intercaecal in posterior half of body. Vas deferens emerging from anterosinistral side of testis, not encircling left intestinal caecum, enlarging to form seminal vesicle. Vas deferens passing on right side, anterior to MCO. Prostatic reservoir pyriform, anterior to MCO. MCO of “lyre” morphology (sensu Oliver 1987), with two sclerotised, articulated pieces. Simple piece of MCO straight and slightly folded at distal quarter s: 50 (47–57, n = 25) long, base covered by a thin sclerotised skirt-like envelope. Bifurcated piece of MCO with lateral spatulate branch lb: 18 (16–21, n = 23) shorter than axial branch ab: 28 (25–31, n = 25). Distal extremity of axial branch of simple piece spoon-shaped with striped cavity. Ovary median, subequatorial, anterior to testis, looping dorso-ventrally around right intestinal caecum. Mehlis’ glands and ootype not observed. Vaginal aperture sinistral with funnel-shaped opening. Vaginal chamber often filled with slightly sclerotised globular mass. Vaginal chamber connected with narrow duct to globular seminal receptacle located anterior to ovary. Vitelline follicles lateral, coextensive with intestinal caeca, contiguous anterior to prostatic reservoir and posterior to testis. Eggs not observed.

**Type host:** *Dentex macrophthalmus* (Bloch, 1791) (Sparidae, Perciformes).

**Type locality:** Dakar (14°40'41"N, 17°27'34"W), Senegal.

**Other locality:** Rabat (34°1'47"N, 6°49'49"W), Morocco.

**Site of infection:** Gills between secondary gill lamellae.



**Fig. 4.** *Lamellodiscus vicinus* sp. n. from *Dentex macrophthalmus* off Dakar, Senegal. **A** – lamellodisc (“ignoratus” group); **B** – dorsal bar; **C** – ventral bar; **D** – dorsal anchor; **E** – ventral anchor; **F** – male copulatory organ. Scale bars = 25 µm.

**Type material:** Holotype (mounted in ammonium picrate-glycerol): MNHN No. HEL 162 Tf 187; 5 paratypes (mounted in ammonium picrate-glycerol): MNHN Nos. HEL 162 Tf 187, HEL 163 Tf 188, HEL 164 Tf 189; 1 paratypes (mounted in ammonium picrate-glycerol): BMNH 2010.8.11.10; and 2 paratypes (mounted in ammonium picrate-glycerol): IPCAS No. M-511.

**Prevalence:** 27%, 42 infected of 157 fish examined.

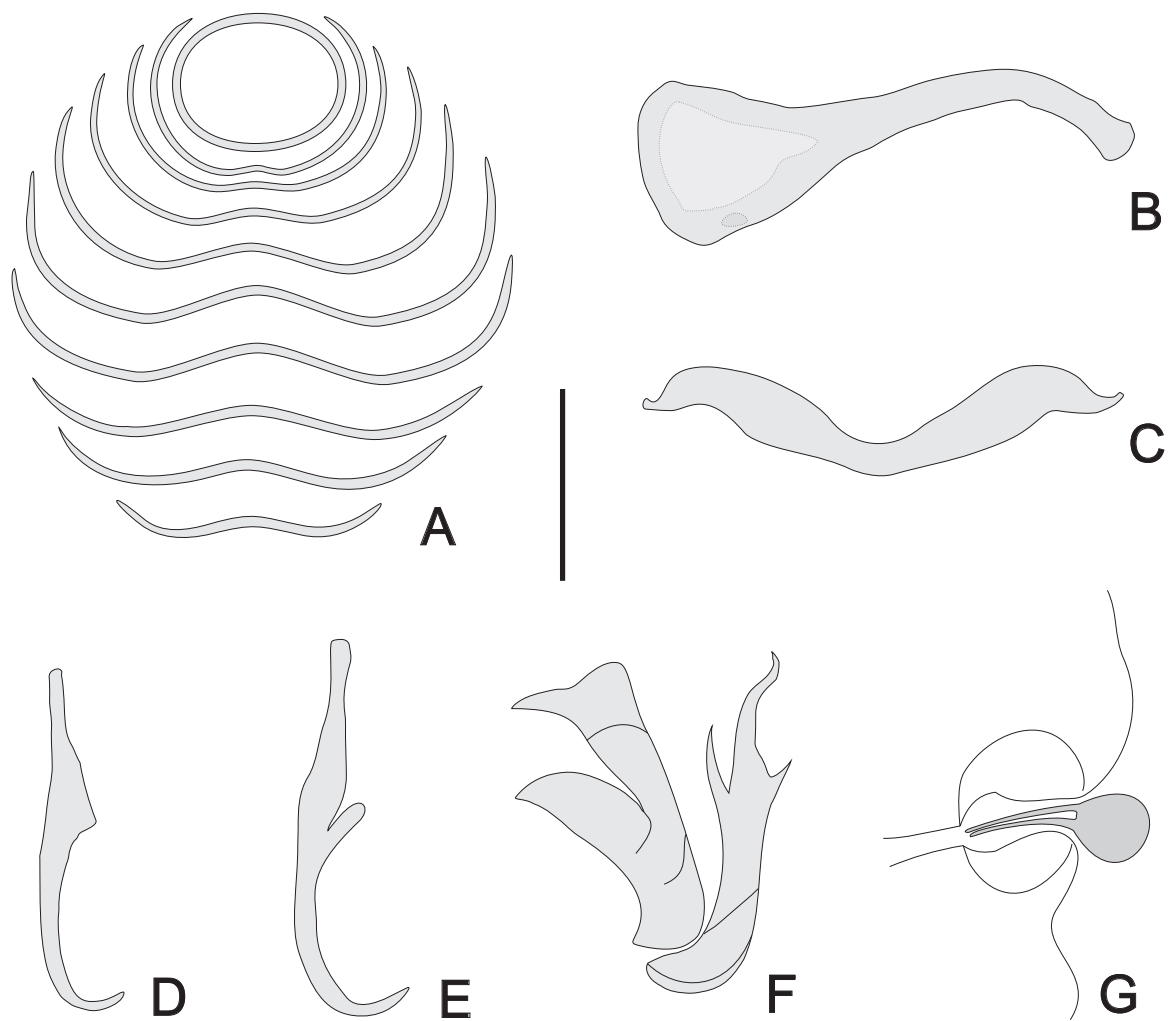
**Etymology:** From the Latin “vicinus” (= neighbour). The name reflects that *L. vicinus* is morphologically close to *L. crampus* Neifar, 2008.

**Remarks.** From the morphology of the squamodisc, dorsal lateral bars and MCO, this species belongs to the “ignoratus” group (Oliver 1987) and “ignoratus” s. st. subgroup (Amine and Euzet 2005). *Lamellodiscus vicinus* can be easily distinguished from all species of this subgroup, except *L. fraternus* and *L. crampus*, by the spoon-shape morphology of the axial branch of bifurcated piece. *Lamellodiscus vicinus* can be distinguished from *L. fraternus* by the size of the MCO (25 vs. 50, respectively) and the shape of the anchors. Morphology of the axial branch of bifurcated piece is the main characteristic on which *L. vicinus* and *L. crampus* are differentiated: the former has its extremity as a striped cavity whereas the latter has 5–6 spines.

#### *Lamellodiscus triacies* sp. n.

Fig. 5

**Morphological description.** Diplectanidae, Lamellodiscinae. Adults 630 (564–900,  $n = 27$ ) long including haptor; maximum width 135 (92–161,  $n = 27$ ) at level of ovary. Haptor 148 (118–183,  $n = 27$ ) wide, bilaterally lobed. Dorsal and ventral lamellodiscs of “ignoratus” group, 45 (39–55,  $n = 54$ ) in diameter, with 10 concentric rows of lamellae; anterior forming subcircular complete ring 23 (20–26,  $n = 54$ ) in diameter. Dorsal anchor with incipient guard, a: 40 (35–43,  $n = 54$ ); b: 38 (35–42,  $n = 54$ ); c: 19 (17–23,  $n = 52$ ). Two lateral dorsal bars with spatulate medial end and curved lateral end, 61 (57–65,  $n = 53$ ) long. Ventral anchor with developed handle, wide guard, bent shaft and short point; a: 49 (46–53,  $n = 54$ ); b: 47 (45–50,  $n = 54$ ); c: 25 (22–29,  $n = 54$ ); d: 22 (18–26,  $n = 54$ ); f: 27 (23–29,  $n = 54$ ); g: 9 (8–12,  $n = 53$ ). Ventral median bar 64 (61–68,  $n = 27$ ) long with constricted median part and curved ends. Fourteen similar uncinuli (seven pairs) 11 (10–12,  $n = 25$ ) long, with diplectanid disposition. Cephalic glands lateral to pharynx, with numerous ducts leading to three head organs on each sides of anterior margin. Ocellar pigment granules scattered in anterior part of body. Mouth anterior, subterminal, opening ventrally. Pharynx spherical, 52 (49–58,  $n = 11$ ) in diameter. Oesophagus very short. Lateral oesophageal glands



**Fig. 5.** *Lamellogadus triacies* sp. n. from *Dentex macrophthalmus* off Dakar, Senegal. **A** – lamellogadus disc (“ignoratus” type); **B** – dorsal bars; **C** – ventral bar; **D** – dorsal anchor; **E** – ventral anchor; **F** – male copulatory organ; **G** – vaginal aperture and small body. Scale bar = 25  $\mu$ m.

present. Two simple lateral intestinal caeca not united posteriorly. Subspherical testis, intercaecal in posterior half of body. Vas deferens emerging from antero-sinistral side of testis, not encircling left intestinal caecum, enlarging to form seminal vesicle. Vas deferens passing on right side, anterior to MCO. Prostatic reservoir pyriform, anterior to MCO. MCO of “lyre” morphology, with two sclerotised, articulated pieces. Simple piece J-shaped, s: 46 (41–49, n = 27) long, with three sharp spines, median biggest. Bifurcated piece with lateral tapered branch lb: 20 (18–22, n = 27) shorter than axial branch ab: 27 (25–30, n = 27). Distal part of axial branch enlarged. Ovary median, subequatorial, anterior to testis, looping dorso-ventrally around right intestinal caecum. Mehlis’ glands and ootype not observed. Vaginal aperture sinistral with funnel-shaped opening, enlarged on vaginal chamber often filled with a very small bulb (spermatophore?), diameter = 10  $\mu$ m (Fig. 5 G); connection with seminal receptacle not seen. Vitelline follicles lateral, coextensive with

intestinal caeca, contiguous anterior to prostatic reservoir and posterior to testis. Eggs not seen.

Type host: *Dentex macrophthalmus* (Bloch, 1791) (Sparidae, Perciformes).

Type locality: Dakar (14°40’41”N, 17°27’34”W), Senegal.

Other locality: Rabat (34°1’47”N, 6°49’49”W), Morocco.

Site of infection: Gills between secondary gill lamellae.

Type material: Holotype (mounted in ammonium picrate-glycerol): MNHN No. HEL 165 Tf 190; 9 paratypes (mounted in ammonium picrate-glycerol): MNHN Nos. HEL 165 Tf 190, HEL 166 Tf 191, HEL 167 Tf 192; 6 paratypes (mounted in ammonium picrate-glycerol): BMNH 2010.8.11.11–16 and 2 paratypes (mounted in ammonium picrate-glycerol): IPCAS No. M-510.

Prevalence: 56%; 88 infected of 157 fish examined.

Etymology: From the Latin “tria”, meaning three, and “acies”, meaning point, to describe the form of simple piece of MCO.



**Remarks.** From the morphology of the squamodisc, dorsal lateral bars and MCO, this new species belongs to the “ignoratus” group (Oliver 1987) and “ignoratus” s. st. subgroup (Amine and Euzet 2005). *Lamellodiscus triacies* can be easily distinguished from all species of this subgroup by the morphology of the simple piece of MCO with three sharp spines.

## DISCUSSION

The three new *Lamellodiscus* species described here from *Dentex macrophthalmus* all belong to the “ignoratus” group (according to the shape of the lamellodisc and the “lyre”-shaped MCO). Until now, this group has also been characterised by the presence, at the level of the vaginal chamber, of a globular mass, whose nature and role were discussed by Neifar et al. (2004). This mass is also present in *L. toguebayei* and *L. vicinus*, but not in *L. triacies*, in which the vaginal aperture in adult specimens seems to be closed by a small body resembling a small pseudo-spermatophore as recorded in *Diplectanum aequans* (Wagener, 1857) (see Oliver 1987, Silan et al. 1983).

As concluded by Oliver (1987), the variability of sclerotised structures of *Lamellodiscus* species may represent

generic features. Monophyly of *Lamellodiscus* is questioned by Kritsky et al. (2000) and Desdevises (2001). Cladistic data of Domingues and Boeger (2008) failed to identify synapomorphy of *Lamellodiscus* species and these authors retain all species in the genus.

The currently known 55 species of *Lamellodiscus* have a close morphological and anatomical resemblance. However, sclerotised structures allow the distinction of morphological groups based on the morphology of squamodisc and of morphological types based on the morphology of MCO. But morphological groups and morphological types are generally not concordant (except for “ignoratus” group and “lyre” type) and do not permit to propose new taxonomic categories. Extensive cladistic analysis must be performed.

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