

ON *ROTYLENCHUS MAGNUS JAENI* CASTILLO ET AL., 1994 (NEMATATA : HOPLOLAIMIDAE)

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In their recently published monograph of the genus *Rotylenchus* Filip'ev, 1936, Castillo *et al.* (1994) described, illustrated and cited in various places the subspecies *R. magnus jaeni* Castillo, Luc, Vovlas & Gomez Barcina, 1994. The authors give as reference for authorities a further article (Castillo *et al.* "in press").

Such an unusual situation needs some explanation. Castillo and other co-authors submitted, months ago, to *Fundam. appl. Nematol.* a manuscript in which was described a new species very close to *Rotylenchus magnus* Zancada, 1986, differing only by the structure of the cuticle of the lip area and other minor characters. Having some doubts on the validity of that new species, I examined paratype slides of both *R. magnus* and the new species, kindly lent by their authors. In my opinion, the differences observed could only be justified at subspecific level. The authors accepted to follow that opinion, and generously offered me a place among them.

However, during examination I discovered that all the specimens of both the subspecies presented oesophageal glands having seven nuclei instead of the regular number of three. Such a number of seven is unique among the Tylenchida if we except a single aberrant specimen of *Neodolichodorus rostrulatus* (Siddiqi, 1976) Siddiqi, 1977, as reported by Luc *et al.* (1987).

In *R. magnus* the seven oesophageal gland nuclei are about the same size, and are variously distributed, so it is not possible to infer on the means of duplication that led to such a number. It has to be noted that in some cases only six nuclei could be detected as certain, in the same way than in the species of *Hoplolaimus* von Daday, 1905 having six oesophageal nuclei, only five are often clearly seen. But here the regular number is seven.

It could be interesting to carefully reexamine the oesophageal glands of the species close to *R. magnus* in order to ascertain the number of oesophageal glands nuclei.

As the description and illustration of *R. magnus jaeni* given in the monograph (Castillo *et al.*, 1994) is detailed enough to characterize this new taxon, it has to be con-

sidered as the description "princeps", and consequently the further article by Castillo *et al.* ("in press"), should not be retained.

The authorities must be for the two subspecies :

R. magnus magnus Zancada, 1986.

R. magnus jaeni Castillo, Vovlas, Gómez-Barcina & Lamberti, 1994.

Type specimens of *R. magnus jaeni* are distributed as follows :

Holotype, allotype, 22 female and 12 male paratypes deposited in the collection of the Centro de Investigación y Desarrollo Agrario, Granada, Spain; four female and male paratypes deposited at Istituto di Nematologia Agraria, C.N.R., Bari, Italy; two female and one male paratypes deposited in the following collections : Instituto de Edafología y Biología Vegetal (C.S.I.C.), Madrid, Spain; Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Laboratoire de Biologie Parasitaire, Protistologie, Helminthologie, Paris, France; Department of Nematology, Landbouwwuniversiteit, Wageningen, the Netherlands; Instituut voor Dierkunde, Universiteit Gent, Belgium; International Institute of Parasitology, St. Albans, Great Britain.

References

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