

NOTE BREVI - SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

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BASIROLAIMUS SHAMSI, 1979, A JUNIOR SYNONYM
OF HOPLOLAIMUS VON DADAY, 1905 (NEMATODA: TYLENCHIDA)

by
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In the family Hoplolaimidae Filipjev, 1934 genera with unusually large phasmids, called scutella, constitute a group well separated from other genera. These genera are usually considered (Andrássy, 1976) as constituting by themselves the subfamily Hoplolaimidae Filipjev, 1934.

Until recently, this subfamily included only four genera: *Hoplolaimus* von Daday, 1905, *Scutellonema* Andrássy, 1958, *Aorolaimus* Sher, 1963 and *Peltamigratus* Sher, 1963. These four genera are distinguished from each other, mainly by the position of the scutella. In *Scutellonema* both scutella are opposite, or nearly so, and situated on the tail. In *Peltamigratus*, the scutella are both situated between vulva and anus but they are not opposite. In *Hoplolaimus* (with some

exceptions; see below) and *Aorolaimus* one scutellum is located anterior to the vulva and the second between the vulva and anus. *Hoplolaimus* and *Aorolaimus* are mainly separated by the structures of the head region, in *Hoplolaimus* the labial area is prominent, well set-off, with pronounced transverse striation and a more discrete complete or incomplete longitudinal striation, the cephalic framework is heavily sclerotized, the spear is strong, with large knobs showing well developed anterior process(es); in contrast, in *Aorolaimus* the labial area is not so prominent and usually not well set-off, the cephalic framework is less sclerotized, the stylet is weaker with less massive and rounded basal knobs devoid of anterior processes. Although *Hoplolaimus* forms an homogeneous group easily distinguish-

ed from other genera the species in it show variations in some anatomico-morphological characters:

- number of oesophageal gland nuclei: some species have the usual number of three, but five or six are present in the majority of species (the number of five observed in some species may be due

- H. columbus* Sher, 1963
 = *B. columbus* (Sher, 1963) Shamsi 1979
- H. indicus* Sher, 1963
 = *B. indicus* (Sher, 1963) Shamsi, 1979
- H. aegypti* Shafiee et Koura, 1969
 = *B. aegypti* (Shafiee et Koura, 1969) Shamsi, 1979
- H. chambus* Jairajpuri et Baqri, 1973
 = *B. chambus* (Jairajpuri et Baqri, 1973) Shamsi, 1979
- H. clarissimus* Fortuner, 1973
 = *B. clarissimus* (Fortuner, 1973) Shamsi, 1979
- H. cephalus* Mulk et Jairajpuri, 1976
 = *B. cephalus* (Mulk et Jairajpuri, 1973) Shamsi, 1979
- H. dimorphicus* Mulk et Jairajpuri, 1976
 = *B. dimorphicus* (Mulk et Jairajpuri, 1976) Shamsi, 1979
- H. seshadrii* Mulk et Jairajpuri, 1976
 = *B. seshadrii* (Mulk et Jairajpuri, 1976) Shamsi, 1979

Note that the three species *H. puertoricensis* Ramirez, 1964, *H. sheri* Suryawanshi, 1971 and *H. dubius* Chaturvedi, Singh et Khera in Chaturvedi et Khera, 1979, although having five or six nuclei in the oesophageal lobe, have not been taken into consideration by Shamsi (1979).

Hoplolaimus sacchari (Shamsi, 1979) nov. comb. (= *Basirolaimus sacchari* Shamsi, 1979) appears to be a valid species, differing from all the species of the genus except *H. clarissimus* by the combination of six oesophageal nuclei and four lines in the lateral field. From this last species *H. sacchari* differs by a number of characters: lip differently shaped with a few longitudinal striations, spear notably shorter, absence of epiptygma.

L I T E R A T U R E C I T E D

- ANDRÁSSY I., 1976. *Evolution as a basis for the systematization of nematodes*. London, San Francisco and Melbourne; Pitnam Publishing: 288 pp.
- SHAMSI M.A., 1979. *Basirolaimus* gen. n. (Nematoda: Hoplolaimidae) with the description of *Basirolaimus sacchari* n. sp. from India. *Nematol. medit.*, 7: 15-19.

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