

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 anatomo-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 to difficulty in locating the sixth nucleus);
- the number of lateral lines at mid-body may vary from none to four;
- a post-rectal intestine sac may be present or not in the females;
- both the scutella may exceptionnally be located anterior to (*H. puertoricensis* Ramirez, 1964) or posterior to the vulva (*H. californicus* Sher, 1963).

It is evident that the last three of these variations are insignificant and must be regarded only as specific and not generic characters. However, variation in the number of oesophageal gland nuclei requires further consideration.

The genus *Basirolaimus* Shamsi, 1979, with *B. seinhorsti* (Luc, 1958) Shamsi, 1979 as type species, was recently proposed to accommodate species with six (or five?) oesophageal nuclei. The species with three nuclei were left in the genus *Hoplolaimus*. The author also described a new species, *B. sacchari* Shamsi, 1979.

It is difficult to consider as valid a genus established on such a unique character. The presence of six oesophageal gland nuclei is not a primary characteristic as it involves a simple duplication of the original number. Thus it can be considered as an intra-generic variation in the genus *Hoplolaimus*. To increase, rather artificially, the number of genera by reducing each of them to a very restricted number of species which are similar to each other, neither serves the purpose of determination nor is it helpful in understanding relationships at the generic level.

Thus, I believe that *Basirolaimus* Shamsi, 1979 must be considered a junior synonym of *Hoplolaimus* von Daday, 1905. Consequently the species listed in this genus have to be transferred back to *Hoplolaimus* as follows:

Hoplolaimus seinhorsti Luc, 1958

= *Basirolaimus seinhorsti* (Luc, 1958) Shamsi, 1979

- 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

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